



MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Health & Equity Subcommittee
Location: Teleconference
Date: November 17, 2020

Attendees:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Kit	Chiu	WSP USA
Andrew	Dannenberg	University of Washington (Chair)
Michael	Harpool	Whatcom Transportation Authority
Francois	Larrivee	Hopelink
Kyle	Miller	Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Paula	Reeves	Washington Department of Health (DOH), Subcommittee Staff
Anna	Zivarts	Disability Rights Washington

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND QUICK OVERVIEW OF WORK TO DATE

Dr. Andrew Dannenberg, UW School of Public Health

- The meeting began with a brief welcome from Dr. Andrew Dannenberg, and a round of introductions from meeting attendees.

Topic Closed.

DISCUSS OUTCOME OF THE NOVEMBER AV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Andrew Dannenberg, UW School of Public Health

- Dr. Dannenberg provided subcommittee members with an overview of the slides presented during the November Executive Committee meeting.
- One part of the presentation focused on key topics in equity that need to be addressed as AVs are developed, deployed, and adopted. This included topics identified by Health & Equity Subcommittee members during a prior meeting. Dr. Dannenberg asked members to help in clarifying some of the topic areas:
- Regarding the ability for AV detection systems to detect persons of color, Dr. Dannenberg asked whether subcommittee members had knowledge of how big of an issue this is, and whether there is literature to support this point.
 - Subcommittee members noted that this concern is frequently brought up, though it is difficult to know how prevalent this issue is as access to information on detection systems being used is limited.
 - Michael Harpool shared an article with the subcommittee which touches on the equitable predictive performance of machine learning systems:
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1902.11097.pdf>.



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- Regarding the equitable distribution of services, Dr. Dannenberg asked what can be done if members of the public do not ask specifically for AV services.
 - Kit Chiu noted that it is difficult to expect the public to ask for AV services if they are not made aware of the potential opportunities. AV services may or may not be the appropriate solution to address existing transportation needs, but it is up to planners and decision makers to uncover what the actual transport needs are, and to figure out if AV services are the appropriate solution, among many of the other tools available. Part of engaging with the public on AVs will require education and sharing of information on potential opportunities.
 - Michael Harpool noted that during the Executive Committee meeting, there was a recommendation on enhanced line striping to support AV operations. A concern raised in previous meetings was that upgrades to infrastructure in areas where AVs are deployed could potentially increase infrastructure spending in more affluent areas while other areas receive decreased funding.
 - Francois Larrivee added that there is a need to openly discuss infrastructure priorities as there are pressures to invest in vehicle oriented infrastructure, such as the Infrastructure & Systems Subcommittee's recommendation for improved lane striping.
 - It was noted that signing and striping is relatively cost effective, while more expensive infrastructure investments might include AVs having their own lane.
 - Such efforts could be made to support non-vehicular modes as well, such as providing greater levels of separation, but these would need to be more explicitly prioritized.
 - Michael added that while connected infrastructure is not needed to enable AVs at this time, future safety applications could potentially benefit from this, which would be costly.
 - Kit Chiu recommended adding infrastructure to the bullet on Equitable Distribution of Services, as that may determine where services are able to operate.
- Michael Harpool added that in the long term, rent security and housing security may be considered as well to ensure that areas where AV services are prevalent do not displace people.
 - Subcommittee members responded that while this is a consideration for transit infrastructure projects, there has yet to be evidence that AV services would have the same effect.
- Regarding the recommendations put forward by the Health & Equity Subcommittee, Dr. Dannenberg noted that both recommendations from the Health & equity Subcommittee were presented and passed.
 - The first proposal, related to funding for targeted engagement, passed with no opposition.
 - The second proposal, related to the identification of testing locations, passed with some opposition.
 - This proposal was revised from a full location assessment to just provision of zip code and census tract information to decrease the burden on testing entities.
 - However, at least one private sector representative on the Executive Committee suggested that there would be an impact on competitiveness.



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- It was also noted that companies are already required to inform enforcement entities of their testing locations at a higher level, which would create some overlap.
- Paula Reeves mentioned that towards the end of the discussion, a representative from Waymo pointed out that they don't necessarily oppose the proposal, but wanted to highlight that it overlaps with other requirements to report to law enforcement.
- Francois noted that there was pushback from Executive Committee members, but no specific clarification on why this would be an issue. While there could potentially be some challenges around competitiveness, the public and consumers in Washington need to be on-board with this technology, and should have access to this information to gain a fuller understanding.
- Kyle posed a question regarding the mention of WSDOT and DOH using the information, as there was no specific direction on how WSDOT would use the information.
 - Dr. Dannenberg noted that this is intended to be just general information available for future analysis. There is no indication at this time what locations are good or bad, it is all for information.
 - Paula indicated that there has been preliminary discussion on engagement of WSDOT on proposal 2, particularly through a staffing partnership with DOH. DOH has had significant pressure due to the need to support COVID response, and has had difficulty responding to developments in the AV space.
- Francois commented that it wasn't clear from the discussion around the proposal whether the information gathered would help to answer the question of when a company has tested in sufficiently diverse environments to be allowed the ability to test in areas where infrastructure is lacking, particularly in disadvantaged communities as safety would be a concern.
 - Dr. Dannenberg commented that it is unlikely this would be answered through this process, as the information being collected is simply to understand where testing occurs. Determining whether the technology is safe enough for operation in various communities would be subject to future processes.

Topic Closed.

DISCUSS PROPOSALS MADE BY OTHER AV SUBCOMMITTEES TO THE EXEC COMMITTEE

Dr. Andrew Dannenberg, UW School of Public Health

- Dr. Dannenberg provided subcommittee members with an overview of recommendations put forward by other subcommittees to consider potential equity implications.
- Subcommittee members agreed that none of the recommendations seemed to trigger particular equity considerations.



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- Kyle commented that in the future, if subcommittee members participate in the meetings of other subcommittees, it may be easier to flag equity considerations before they become formal recommendations with the Executive Committee.
- Paula noted that not all the subcommittees provided their recommendations in advance, so even if subcommittee members participated in other subcommittees, there would have been little opportunity to provide input. She noted that the best opportunity to comment on submitted proposals is through Dr. Dannenberg, who presented at the Executive Committee meeting and will be presenting to the WSTC meeting.
- Francois noted that it may be helpful to see the calendar for the other subcommittees to ensure crossover, and enable subcommittee members to weigh in on some of the other matters.
 - Kyle noted that the calendar for all the subcommittees is available on the website: <https://avworkgroupwa.org/work-group>.
- Kit commented that in the future, it may be good to have a standing agenda item to allow subcommittee members to report back on updates from other subcommittees.
 - Paula noted that for the past several meetings, members of other subcommittees have been invited to speak on their recent developments.

Topic Closed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS AND NEXT STEPS

Dr. Andrew Dannenberg, UW School of Public Health

- Dr. Dannenberg opened up discussion on potential suggestions for future agendas and next steps for the subcommittee.
- Subcommittee members noted that they would like to keep abreast of what other subcommittees are doing, and to think about what other actions may emerge.
 - Kit noted that there is a matrix of recommended actions that the subcommittee could consider.
 - Paula added that this matrix came from a voting exercise from the Executive Committee, but some of it might be outdated.
- Francois noted that if funding is approved for the engagement recommendation, the Subcommittee may have more work in the future to inform the engagement activities.

Topic Closed.

NEXT TELECONFERENCE MEETING: December 15th, 2020 12pm – 1pm

MEETING ADJOURNED.