WASHINGTON STATE AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE WORK GROUP

MEETING SUMMARY

Washington State AV Work Group – Infrastructure and Systems Subcommittee
December 11th, 2020 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Remote Participation | Meeting Materials available here[1]

Attendees:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Robert	Acevedo	HDR
Ted	Bailey	Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Calvin	Beaton	UrbanLogiq
Gaia	Borgias	University of Washington Mobility Innovation Center
Erica	Bramlet	Washington Senate Transportation Committee Staff
Daniela	Bremmer	WSDOT
Kit	Chiu	WSP USA
Marc	Daily	Thurston Regional Planning Council
Alex	DuVall	HNTB
Mike	Ennis	Association of Washington Businesses (AWB)
Azmeena	Hasham	Verizon
Shelley	Kloba	Washington State House of Representatives
Francesca	Maier	Fair Cape Consulting LLC
Daniel	Malarkey	Sightline Institute
John	Milbrath	AAA Washington
Roger	Millar	WSDOT
Kyle	Miller	WSDOT
Kyle	Murphy	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Jeff	Peterson	First Transit
Ryan	Spiller	Auto innovators
Christopher	Stolberg	City of Lacey

MEETING SUMMARY

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Shannon	Walker	Seattle DOT
Yinhai	Wang	University of Washington
Ian	Wesley	WSDOT
Bryce	Yadon	Futurewise
Joey	Yang	HDR

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, OPENING REMARKS:
Roger Millar & Mike Ennis

- Overview of Agenda

- Go-To-Webinar remote participation process

    o Breaking after each agenda items for questions and comments

    o Use chat/questions box if you have questions

    o Use the "raise your hand" feature to be unmuted for verbal questions/comments

    o Encouraged to show video when you are speaking, after raising your hand

Topic Closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No public comment.

Topic Closed.

REVIEW 2020 ACTION PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Roger Millar, Mike Ennis, Ted Bailey, & Daniela Bremmer

- Overview of the subcommittee structure:

    ▪ 147 participants

    ▪ 77 working members, 58 organizations, and 70 interested parties

    ▪ Open membership has enabled broad participation

- Recap of meetings over course of 2020

    ▪ Quarterly meetings in April, July, September, and December

    ▪ Workshop was held on April 1st

- Three major activities in the 2021 work plan

    o Activity 1: Develop CAT Policy Framework

        ▪ Completed. Other subcommittees have reviewed, and will consider ways to incorporate into their work

    o Activity 2: Develop project selection criteria and identify potential funding sources

        ▪ Completed. Subject to updates as new information on funding sources becomes available

    o Activity 3: Collaboration Discussions with Private Sector Companies Testing in WA

- Completed. Responsibility will be transferred to the Licensing Subcommittee, and subsequent discussions will be conducted jointly

- Activity 1 – CAT Policy Goals
  - The CAT Policy Goals, as adopted by the Executive Committee and WSTC, are largely in line with policy goals across the country
  - The CAT Policy Goals are intended to tie infrastructure to broader policy objectives, including, land use, equity, safety, and the environment
  - Process of developing the CAT Policy Goals was initiated with a national scan of "Best Practices" and discussions that informed the 8 Policy Goal statements adopted
  - Public and private partners were engaged for input and informational ranking
  - The April 1st, 2020 workshop was used to gather input on new or modified strategies and actions to refine the framework
  - Subcommittees, including the Safety and Health and Equity Subcommittees plan to incorporate the goals, illustrative strategies, and actions of the CAT Policy Framework, along with other guidance documents, to inform further actions to take
    - Other subcommittees have a narrower focus on areas that are not covered by the CAT Policy Framework. These subcommittees will need to develop their own goals and respective strategies and actions.

- Activity 2 – Grant Programs
  - Focused on developing project selection criteria, and identifying potential funding sources and grant opportunities to enable agencies to access funds to enable near-term pilot deployment proposals and projects.
  - Included a review of approaches from other states. This information has been sent out to the subcommittee, and links to this information can be found in the Infrastructure & Systems Subcommittee General Subcommittee Resources tab.
    - This review provided good indication of relative performance across states
    - Not many grants specifically structured towards AVs, but many programs are flexible enough to include it
    - Michigan DOT is very active in embracing automotive innovations and technologies, with grant programs focused on expediting technological progression
    - California and Florida similarly have grants oriented towards advancing AVs
    - Relative to other states, Washington is not at the bleeding edge, but also not far behind

- Activity 3 – Partnerships and Collaboration Discussions with Private Sector Companies Certified for Testing in WA

- o Involved connecting with companies that have self-certified for AV deployment in Washington to understand their experience and identify where support is needed

- o Discussions with companies involved open dialogue, following a survey template

- o Survey results, along with the survey template, are available on the AV Work Group website

- o Responsibility over this activity will be shifted to the Licensing Subcommittee moving forward as they manage the self-certification program

- o Joint webinars will be held with the Licensing Subcommittee in the future to explore what other companies, those that are not currently part of the self-certification process, are looking to accomplish, and also what policies, regulations, opportunities, and barriers should be evaluated to create a more supportive environment

- o Subcommittee members are encouraged to look at the survey results

- o The pandemic has changed the AV industry:

  - § Some companies have consolidated with larger more successful ones

  - § Some companies have reset and taken more strategic positions

  - § The industry remains actively engaged, but economic limitations have made it challenging

- Two subcommittee recommendations were considered and voted on

  - o Recommendation 1 – [Pavement Markings](#)

  - o Recommendation 2 – [Real Time Work Zone Data](#)

- Recommendation 1 – Pavement Markings

  - o Subcommittee received presentations on the value of improved pavement markings

  - o Investment in updated pavement markings would not only support improved AV operations, but also improve visibility and safety for human drivers

  - o The Executive Committee voted unanimously to support the recommendation with two abstain votes. One abstained vote came from WSDOT as this recommendation has direct implications on the department's budget

  - o Question:

    - § Is there an infrastructure condition inventory, such as for pavement markings? And is part of this recommendation where funding can be requested for this?

      - • WSDOT has an existing asset management system that is rapidly evolving, but it hasn't evolved to the point of dedicated tracking for pavement markings

- Recommendation 2 – Real Time Work Zone Data

  - o The Subcommittee received a report from WSDOT experts on the topic

- o WDOT is already on the path towards developing real time work zone data. The recommendation is intended to provide WDOT with support to accelerate this work

  - o The Executive Committee supported this recommendation with one vote against

- Relating to the recommendations from this subcommittee, comments were generally positive. One concern raised was that the proposals focus mainly on state funds for state roads. A representative from the City of Auburn wanted to seek funding for local roads and construction, which the currently do not have access to.

Topic Closed.

Moving Forward: 2021 Work Plan Development
Roger Millar, Mike Ennis, Ted Bailey, & Daniela Bremmer

- The Subcommittee had reviewed the Future Path results received from the Executive Committee, generated from a polling exercise that produced results and recommendations

- Given the direction from the Executive Committee, the Subcommittee is looking to consider how it can add to the work done to date

- Based on input received from the Executive Committee, as well as similar efforts being developed elsewhere in the country, staff developed a proposed work plan outline for 2021, which includes a total of 7 actions, including possible updates to the activities completed in 2020

- Activity 1 – Develop CAT Policy Framework

  - o No further actions expected for 2021

- Activity 2 – Identify potential funding Options

  - o Subcommittee could update the inventory of planned opportunities, and provide it to members as new information becomes available

- Activity 3 – Collaborative discussions with private sector companies

  - o Subcommittee to transition this responsibility to the Department of Licensing and the Licensing Subcommittee

  - o Will also be looking to develop an outreach plan to see what other companies (currently not self-certified in Washington) are looking for, and understand why they are not testing in Washington

- Activity 4 – Identify use cases and associated infrastructure investments that are most conducive to supporting or enabling near-term testing and/or commercial deployment of Advanced Driver Assistive Systems (ADAS) or Automated Driving Systems (ADS)

  - o The Subcommittee is not intending on doing AV scenario planning, but will build on their existing inventory to figure out organic opportunities and use cases that are needed, such as ride for hire uses

- o They are looking for a tangible approaches that will lead to more testing in Washington State

- Activity 5 – Review recommendations from other subcommittees

    - o There is interest in having subcommittee members attend other subcommittee meetings to create better channels of communication

- Activity 6 - Review / discuss / comment on Automated Vehicle (AV) / Advanced Driver Assistive Systems (ADAS) / Automated Driving Systems (ADS) related policies, statutes and regulations

    - o The Subcommittee could review policies, statutes, and regulations proposed at the state and federal level, such as NHTSA proposed rulemaking on safety, security and privacy of ADS

- Activity 7 - Automated Vehicle (AV) / Advanced Driver Assistive Systems (ADAS) / Automated Driving Systems (ADS)/ Cooperative Automated Transportation (CAT) Education and Information Sharing

    - o There are recognized difficulties in keeping track of developments in the AV, ADAS, ADS and CAT space

    - o Subcommittee members previously noted that there is a desire for new ways to share resources and information

    - o Action to figure out how to connect subcommittee members to available information, and to provide a rich inventory of potential topics and speakers

- Questions/Discussions:

    - o Comment raised on the potential value of updating the survey with testing companies

        - ▪ There is an opportunity to do this, but companies are being asked questions of this nature a lot by many different parties

        - ▪ There may be other ways to get this information and different derivations of the survey could be done

    - o Would you repeat the deadline for comments on the NHTSA notice of proposed rulemaking?

        - ▪ February 1, 2021

Topic Closed.

OPEN DISCUSSION ABOUT MEETING FREQUENCY FOR 2021
Roger Millar/ Mike Ennis

- The Subcommittee has typically engaged in quarterly meetings

- In 2021, the first quarter coincides with the legislative session, during which many members need to engage with decision makers

- If the first meeting of 2021 is paused for the legislative session, upcoming meetings for this subcommittee would be in June, September, and December of 2021

- The Subcommittee would still reserve the right to call a meeting in case of emergencies

- Subcommittee members concluded that they would pause and defer the next meeting to June

- Staff were directed to organize the meetings around to the Executive Committee meeting schedule

- Meetings are expected to be virtual at least through to July

Topic Closed.

OTHER TOPICS/ ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Roger Millar/ Mike Ennis

- At the Federal level there is a new title on Cooperative Transportation and Mobility on Demand
    - Subcommittee members are encouraged to look into this
    - ITS, AASHTO, and ITE are following this closely, as are other industry groups
    - There are major discussions around funding, policy, data, equity, and labor
    - Developments at the Federal level will inform what can be done at the state level, and also impact the public private relationship within the automotive space

- Relating to meetings for 2021—fine with us not meeting again until June. However, with activity 1, quarterly meetings were helpful in its progress. Wondering if we will finalize the work plan in June? If we don't finalize it ahead of then, nothing will get done next year.
    - Staff indicated that the work plan will be confirmed digitally, and will be subject to the availability and commitment level from volunteers on the subcommittee
    - Once feedback is received from the subcommittee, staff intend on finalizing the work plan in January or February 2021

- Any thoughts on FCC Ruling on opening up the 5.9 GHz spectrum and impact to DSRC deployment and how this changes State policy
    - The spectrum was intended to provide for transportation safety and opening it up would limit the spectrum for transportation safety. If interested, further resources could be sent out to the subcommittee

- A request was made for the outcomes of the Activity 3- open dialogue -survey
    - Link to the surveys provide [here][2]

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[2] Survey Results: https://oohwstcavworkgroup.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/documents/infrastructure-systems/Meeting_6/20190909_Activity3_Update.pdf

- Infraday's December 15 Virtual Event may be of interest to some subcommittee members: "Future of Infrastructure, mobility & transportation in the PNW"
  - Link to the event provided [here](#)[3]

Topic Closed.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 2021, Date TBD
- September 2021, Date TBD
- December 2021, Date TBD

Resources: WA State AV Work Group website: https://avworkgroupwa.org/

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[3] Infraday Event: https://www.infraday.com/virtual