



# Washington State Transportation Commission

Olympia Meeting Summary  
December 15 & 16, 2020

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## **Day 1: December 15, 2020**

Chair Jerry Litt opened the meeting at 9:00 am with introductions by Commissioners and staff, an overview of the agenda, and virtual meeting protocols.

### **Agenda Item 2:**

#### **I-405 / SR 167 Express Toll Lane Low-Income Tolling Study**

**Gabor Debreczeni, Economic Analysis and Forecasting Manger, WSP USA**

**Catherine Larson, Principal Consultant, Larson Consulting Associates**

Mr. Debreczeni and Ms. Larson presented potential options for a low-income tolling program to be selected for further evaluation. The team has evaluated discounted tolls and other similar programs for low-income drivers on the I-405 and SR 167 Express Toll Lane (ETL) corridors, considering the benefits and detriments of such programs to low-income drivers, other corridors users, other local residents, and the potential implementing agencies of such a program.

### **Presentation:**

[I-405 / SR 167 Express Toll Lanes Low-Income Toll Study](#)

For more detail on agenda item 2, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:05:55, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

**Action:** The Commission approved moving forward with a detailed evaluation of two discount toll options. The final decision will be made in January 2021. It was adopted 6-0-1 absent.

**Follow-Up:** At the January meeting, the project team will present proposed low-income toll program options recommended for further study.

### **Agenda Item 3:**

#### **Road Usage Charge Update - *ACTION***

**Jeff Doyle, Partner, Milestone Solutions, LLP**

**Travis Dunn, Partner, Milestone Solutions, LLP**

Mr. Doyle and Mr. Dunn presented the draft 2020 Washington Road Usage Charge (RUC) Assessment Annual Report which will be submitted to the Legislature in January.

The report provides an overview of the Commission's current RUC research effort, *Forward Drive*, funded by a federal grant secured in July 2020. The research program will cover a number of areas including reviewing prior WA RUC financial models and update them; assess potential impacts RUC may have on under-represented communities and determine possible mitigation approaches; assess emerging technologies that will enable efficient RUC mileage collection; and working with partner states on identifying ways in which the cost of collecting a RUC can be reduced.

#### **Presentation:**

[Road Usage Charge Update](#)

For more detail on agenda item 3, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:16:23, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

**Action:** Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the RUC report to be submitted to the legislature and Commissioner Batra seconded the motion. It was adopted 6 approved, 1 excused.

**Follow-Up:** None at this time.

### **Agenda Item 4:**

#### **Ferry Riders' Opinion Group (FROG)**

**Chelsea Benning, Director of Design and Analysis, Pacific Market Research**

**Bill Young, Owner, Research Assurance**

Ms. Benning and Mr. Young gave an overview on the findings and results of FROG survey conducted in the fall of 2020. The survey focused on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on ferry riders and travel changes. The survey was conducted from October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 26<sup>th</sup> regarding respondents' travel behaviors satisfaction with riding Washington State Ferries in 2020.

#### **Presentation:**

[Ferry Riders' Opinion Group 2020 Special Fall Study Report](#)

For more detail on agenda item 4, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:39:04, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

**Action:** None.

**Follow-Up:** None at this time.

## **Agenda Item 5:**

### **Autonomous Vehicle Work Group Recommendations - *ACTION***

**Jim Restucci Chair, Autonomous Vehicle Work Group**

**Scott Shogan, Vice President, WSP**

**Debi Besser, Traffic Safety Commission**

**Manuela Papadopol, Co-Chair, CEO, Designated Driver**

**Beau Perschbacher, Co-Chair, Director, Policy and Legislative Department of Licensing**

**Drew Wilder, Co-Chair, Compliance Manager, Vicarious Liability Risk Mgmt. LLC**

**Andrew L. Dannenberg, Co-Chair, MD, MPH**

**Ted Bailey, Subcommittee Lead Staff, Cooperative Automated Transportation Program Manager, Washington State Department of Transportation**

**David Forte, Co-Chair, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the Insurance Commissioner**

Commissioner Restucci and Mr. Shogan provided an overview of the work done by the [Autonomous Vehicle \(AVs\) Work Group](#) in 2020 and the [AV Work Group Annual Report](#) to be submitted to the Legislature in January. Representatives from each of the AV Work Group Subcommittees presented on their work accomplished in 2020 and provided recommendations that emerged for the commission's consideration in advancing to the Legislature.

#### **Presentations:**

[Overview of AV Work Group's 2020 Annual Report](#)

[Safety Subcommittee Report & Recommendations](#)

[Licensing Subcommittee Report & Recommendations](#)

[Health & Equity Subcommittee Report & Recommendations](#)

[2020 Infrastructure Systems Subcommittee Report & Recommendations](#)

[Liability Subcommittee Update](#)

[System Technology & Data Security Subcommittee Update](#)

For more detail on agenda item 5, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:39:25, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

#### **Action:**

Annual Report: Commissioner Restucci made a motion to accept the AV Work Group 2020 Report. Commissioner Batra seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.

#### **Subcommittee Recommendations:**

##### Safety Subcommittee

- Commissioner Restucci made a motion that the portion of RCW 46.37.480 related to TV screens be repealed. Commissioner Batra seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.
- Commissioner Restucci made a motion to establish a definition of AV's in RCW. Commissioner Batra Seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.
- Commissioner Restucci made a motion to establish a guide for interaction between law enforcement/first responders and AVs without a safety driver. Commissioner Batra seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.

### Licensing Subcommittee

- Commissioner Restucci made a motion to amend RCW 46.92.010 to address self-certification needs of the Dept. of Licensing. Commissioner Batra seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.
- Commissioner Restucci made a motion to amend RCW 46.37.480 to allow for the use of television viewers in vehicles. Commissioner Batra seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.

### Health & Equity Subcommittee

- Commissioner Restucci made a motion to approve the outreach plan. Commissioner Batra seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.
- Commissioner Restucci made a motion to amend RCW 46.30 to address identification of testing locations. Commissioner Batra seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.

### 2020 Infrastructure & Systems Subcommittee

- Commissioner Restucci made a motion to increase investments in pavement markings. Commissioner Batra second the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.
- Commissioner Restucci made a motion to increase utilization of WSDOT's real time work zone data. Commissioner Batra seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 6-0-1 excused.

**Follow-Up:** Staff will finalize the report with the approved subcommittee recommendations.

## **Agenda Item 6:**

### **Tolling Traffic & Revenue Report – FY 2021 Q1**

**Ed Barry, Director, Toll Division, Washington State Department of Transportation**

Mr. Barry provided an overview of the traffic and revenue performance of Washington State toll facilities for July through September 2020.

Most of the assumptions for the November 2020 forecast stay the same as those used in the September forecast: Tacoma Narrows Bridge continues to have the fastest recovery; SR 520 recovery is slower than what was previously forecasted; ETL facilities, while slowly recovering in traffic volumes, continue to have lower average toll rates than Pre-COVID-19; with multiple alternative routes, the SR 99 tunnel continues to experience the slowest recovery among the toll facilities.

### **Presentation:**

[Toll Facilities Traffic & Revenue Performance](#)

For more detail on agenda item 6, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 04:22:09, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

**Action:** None.

**Follow-Up:** None at this time.

## **Agenda Item 7:**

### **State Transportation Revenue Forecast**

**Doug Vaughn, Chief Finance Officer, Washington State Department of Transportation**

**Ed Barry, Director, Toll Division, Washington State Department of Transportation**

**Ray Deardorf, Senior Planning Manager, Washington State Ferries Division, Washington State Department of Transportation**

The panel gave an overview of the November Revenue Forecast including an update on tolling traffic volumes and revenue, and ferry ridership volumes and revenues.

Presentations:

[November 2020 Transportation Revenue Forecast Overview](#)

[November 2020 Toll Facilities Forecast Summary](#)

[WSF November 2020 Ridership & Fare Revenue Forecasts](#)

For more detail on agenda item 7, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#) , starting at 04:37:26, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

**Action:** None.

**Follow-Up:** None at this time.

## **Agenda Item 8:**

### **Secretary's Report**

**Roger Millar, Secretary, Washington State Department of Transportation**

Mr. Millar provided an update on the latest efforts and activities at the WSDOT.

For more detail on agenda item 8, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 05:28:27, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

**Action:** None.

**Follow-Up:** None at this time.

## **Day 2: December 16, 2020**

Chair Litt opened the meeting at 9:00 am with introductions by Commissioners.

### **Agenda Item 10:**

#### **The Future of Transportation: Post-COVID**

##### **American Planning Association (APA)**

**Yorik Stevens-Wadja, President-Elect, APA Washington**

**Patrick Lynch, Principal, Director of Transportation Planning Services, Transpo Group**

**Michael Hintze, Director of Planning, Seattle, Toole Design**

**Chris Comeau, Transportation Planner, City of Bellingham**

Mr. Stevens-Wadja gave an overview on how major disruptions can lead to opportunities for change and improvements by shifting the view of what is normal and what people are willing to try.

Mr. Lynch gave an overview on post COVID-19 trends that have had a dramatic impact on travel trends, across various modes. Planners are working to figure out what of what we are experiencing during the pandemic will continue longer-term post-pandemic. Work-from-home post-COVID is projected to remain quadrupled from pre-pandemic level. Mr. Lynch identified five key long-term considerations: telework and e-commerce; land-use and real estate; parking and curbside pickup; transit; and social equity.

Mr. Hintze gave an overview regarding transportation systems that support resilient communities during a pandemic and beyond. He stated that design and engineering is important to set-up our streets to safely accommodate various uses of public space, multiple modes of transportation, and the move people and freight. Mr. Hintze provided examples of how technology can be used to increase equitable streets and move more people than in “just” cars. Engineering design and the use of technology can be used together to make our streets more flexible and adaptative.

Mr. Comeau gave an overview regarding Transportation and Land Use changes that are emerging during the pandemic:

- Technology untethered office workers from physical employment centers
- Residential development in high demand; Housing prices soaring
- Commercial development in low demand; Downtowns imploding
- Grocery Stores essential, but experienced, but experienced supply chain issues

### **Shared-Ride Services**

**Caleb Weaver, Public Policy, US West, Uber Technologies**

**Chris Thomas, Senior Director, Public Policy, Lyft**

Mr. Weaver gave an overview of the efforts Uber has undertaken to advance an inclusive transportation system for a sustainable future. Multiple modes of transportation are needed to meet consumer needs, including ride-share. Uber has committed significant resources to helping many drivers make the move to driving electric vehicles.

Mr. Thomas gave an overview on Lyft's efforts to advance a sustainable future. Lyft's mission is to improve people's lives with the world's best transportation. As part of its efforts, Lyft partnered with 27 community organizations to provide over \$400,000 worth of free ride credits for COVID-19 essential travel. They are also committed to achieving a 100% electric vehicle fleet by 2030.

## **Waymo – Technology Advancements**

**Annabel Chang, Head of State Policy & Government Affairs, Waymo**

Ms. Chang provided an overview on how Waymo is addressing technology advancements in the COVID-era, as they move towards a new future in transportation. Safety is Waymo's number one priority. Waymo has published two technical whitepapers that provide further insight into their safety practices that govern the development, testing, deployment, and operations of its autonomous driving technology.

### **Presentations:**

[Transportation-Land Use COVID-19 Changes and Emerging Trends](#)

[Transportation Systems that Support Resilient Communities During a Pandemic and Beyond](#)

[Inclusive Transport for a Sustainable Future](#)

[Lyft's Mission](#)

For more detail on agenda item 10, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:03:26, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

**Action:** None.

**Follow-Up:** None at this time.

## **Agenda Item 11:**

### **Commission Business**

#### **Reflections and Recommendations**

- We have identified a need with the low-income tolling study, and we look forward to the continued discussion regarding this item in the new year
- RUC is looking more like a strong possible candidate to serve as a long-term solution for replacing the gas tax and funding transportation in our state
- Appreciate hearing about the recent FROG survey and the rider's input.
- Autonomous topics were good and shaping up to be a reality in the future
- Advancement in technology will help us in making changes in the future

### **November Meeting Summary**

There were no revisions requested for the November meeting summary.

### **2021 West Coast Commission Meeting**

Staff reviewed the West Coast Commission Meeting agenda topics and themes.

- Commissioner Batra made a motion to delegate the finalization of the WSTC's Annual Report to the Chair and Vice-Chair. Commissioner Restucci seconded the motion. It was adopted 5-0-2 excused.
- Commissioner Batra made a motion to delegate the finalization of the WSTC's annual tolling report to the Tolling Subcommittee. Commissioner Restucci seconded the motion. It was adopted 5-0-2 excused.

**Action:** None at this time.

**Follow-Up:** None at this time.

For more detail on agenda item 11, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:43:31, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

**Next meeting: January 19 & 20, 2020**