



Washington State Transportation Commission

Olympia Meeting Summary

February 15 & 16, 2022

February 15, 2022

Agenda Item 1:

Welcome

Chair Roy Jennings opened the meeting at 9:00 am with introductions by commission members and staff, an overview of the agenda, and virtual meeting protocols.

Agenda Item 2:

Transportation Trends Emerging from COVID

Presenters:

- Bryan Mistele, CEO INRIX, Inc.
- Bob Pishue, Transportation Analyst, INRIX, Inc.

The Commission was briefed on the pandemic's effects on the state's transportation systems, focusing on the central Puget Sound Region. Using state and local travel data, INRIX has identified a number of key trends that may have significant implications for transportation demand in the future. In particular, the shift toward telecommuting allows people to move out of the core urban areas and into suburban neighborhoods without the need for a daily commute which has a number of implications. Research is showing a stronger demand for more flexible transportation options such as ridesharing and employer shuttles, and investment in innovative mobility options (electrification and autonomous vehicles) is on the rise.

Presentation:

[Transportation Trends Emerging from COVID](#)

For more detail on agenda item 2, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:03:29, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 3: Transitioning to Electric Vehicles

Presenter:

- Matthew Metz, Founder and Co-Executive Director, Coltura

A briefing was provided on a recent Coltura report that takes an in-depth look at “gas superusers” defined as drivers in the top 10% of fossil fuel consumption. This 10% of drivers burn 32% of gasoline consumed in the United States. The report suggests that we can meet our state and federal greenhouse gas emission reduction targets more quickly by focusing incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles on reducing gasoline consumption. Coltura offered recommendations on how to structure a such a gasoline displacement incentive program. According to their study, if the heaviest gasoline users converted to EVs first, 97 million of America’s 253 million light duty vehicles would need to switch to EVs by 2030, or about 11 million per year. However, if all drivers converted to EVs at the same rate regardless of how much gasoline they use, it would take 176 million light duty vehicles switching to EVs by 2030 to hit the emissions goal.

Presentation:

[Transitioning to Electric Vehicles](#)

For more detail on agenda item 3, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:52:56, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 4: Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) Reduction Targets and Strategies

Presenters:

- Kerri Woehler, Multimodal Planning Director, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Celeste Gilman, Deputy Director, Regional Transit Coordination Division, Washington State Department of Transportation

Washington’s recently updated state energy strategy identifies reducing vehicle miles of travel (VMT) as a key strategy to reducing transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions. Effectively reducing VMT will require a blending of strategic land use planning and providing multimodal transportation options. A progress update was provided on fulfilling legislative direction to develop a process for setting local VMT targets, as well as estimated funding and a suite of strategies needed to achieve those targets.

Presentation:

[VMT Report Overview and Status](#)

For more detail on agenda item 4, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:17:48, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 5:

Next Generation Highways – A Reimagined Interstate

Presenter:

- Morgan Putnam, Founder, NGI Consulting

Next Generation Highways are designed to help states meet clean energy, reliability, resiliency, carbon reduction and connectivity goals, using existing infrastructure rights-of-way. The Commission heard about work under way to advance the co-location of power transmission, EV charging capacity and broadband within state highway rights-of-way. NGI reviewed the insights about challenges and policy decisions that are being gathered through pilot efforts in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Georgia, and provided recommendations about suggested policy changes in Washington to support this transition.

Presentation:

[NextGen Highways](#)

For more detail on agenda item 5, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:41:09, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 6:

Transit Services Today & Assessing What the Future Holds

Presenters:

- Brian Lagerberg, Director Public Transportation Division, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Colin Pippin-Timco, Community Engagement Supervisor, Public Transportation Division, Washington State Department of Transportation

The Commission was briefed on two major annual transit reporting efforts, the 2020 Summary of Public Transportation, and the 2021 Public Transportation Mobility Report. At the end of 2020, transit agencies reported that passenger trips had declined 54.1% in the first year of the pandemic and farebox revenues fell by 65.9%. As the pandemic progressed, federal, state, and local support made it possible for transit authorities to pivot from bring people to services to bringing critically needed services to people such as meal delivery and Wi-Fi. “Rethinking Transit and Mobility” workshops have helped create a new vision of how transit and mobility will evolve in a post-pandemic world, including prioritization of human services and equity in public transportation; expansion of public transportation services, and deployment of technology and mobility tools to promote access to services.

Presentation:

[Public Transportation Division Reporting](#)

For more detail on agenda item 6, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:44:34, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 7:

SR 520 Bridge Self-Insurance Evaluation

Presenters:

- Streator Johnson, Administrative Risk Manager, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Jason Siems, State Risk Manager, Department of Enterprise Services

The SR 520 Bridge project's bonding approach requires that the state maintain insurance on the bridge to ensure debt payments will continue in the event tolling revenues are disrupted. The cost of commercial insurance has risen dramatically over the past several years, prompting the state to consider whether self-insurance is a viable alternative. Results were shared from a recent evaluation of the costs, benefits, and associated risks of pursuing a self-insurance option. The study suggests that while self-insurance does appear to offer a lower-cost alternative, additional research is needed to determine risk and how a self-insurance scheme should be structured. Statutory changes will be required as well.

Presentation:

[2021 - SR520 Bridge Self-Insurance](#)

For more detail on agenda item 7, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 03:05:01, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 8:

Washington Maritime Blue and Quiet Sound

Presenters:

- Joshua Berger, President, CEO Washington Maritime Blue
- Rachel Aronson, Program Director, Quiet Sound Washington Maritime Blue

The Commission was briefed on how the public/private collaborative, Washington Maritime Blue, is leading efforts to create a sustainable blue economy in the Puget Sound region. Washington's maritime industry is a significant contributor to the state economy, paying nearly \$4.5 billion in wages in 2015, offering above average wages. This collaborative effort includes industry, workforce and community organizations, government, and education institutions, and is

focused on implementing key projects to advance maritime. Joint innovative projects include such efforts as the design of a zero-emission fast foil ferry, green hydrogen for Tacoma maritime, and a Tacoma Tide Flats 5G network and lab. The organization also supports workforce development, and efforts to prepare youth to enter the maritime industry.

Quiet Sound, a collaborative Maritime Blue program, focuses on protecting southern resident killer whales by cutting underwater noise in the Puget Sound caused by large vessels such as ferries and cargo ships. The team is working with local citizens and organizations to monitor whale movement and notify vessel operators when whales are in their area, and they are working on a variety incentives and operational changes to lessen the impact of vessel movement.

Presentation:

[Washington Maritime blue
Maritime Blue and Quiet Sound](#)

For more detail on agenda item 8, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 03:23:17, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

**Agenda Item 9:
Secretary's Report**

Presenter:

- Amy Scarton, Deputy Secretary, Washington State Department of Transportation

Deputy Secretary Scarton updated the Commission on the Washington State Department of Transportation's activities.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 10, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 04:26:14, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

The meeting recessed at 3:30 pm

February 16, 2022

Chair Roy Jennings opened the meeting at 9:00 am with introductions by commission members and staff, an overview of the agenda, and virtual meeting protocols.

Agenda Item 11:

Move Ahead Washington Overview

Presenters:

- Jill Satran, Senior Policy Analyst, Washington State Transportation Commission
- Carl See, Deputy Director, Washington state Transportation Commission

Move Ahead Washington, a 16-year, new revenue proposal providing funding for transportation needs statewide was recently released. An overview was provided of the \$16 billion of investments included in this proposed package.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 11, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:02:34, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 12:

2021 Washington State Ferries Performance Measures Report

Presenter:

- Donna Thomas, Transportation Planning Specialist, Washington State Ferries, Washington State Department of Transportation

The Commission was briefed on the results of the 2021 Washington State Ferries (WSF) report on performance as measured by a variety of metrics. For the past 10 years, WSF has measured and reported on their progress toward meeting 17 capital, operational, and customer performance goals. While WSF was able to meet or exceed most of its capital effectiveness goals (e.g., percent of terminal projects completed on budget, and percent of vessel contracts completed on budget) they had challenges meeting goals in other areas such as staff safety, operating costs, and some areas of service effectiveness. Future challenges were reviewed with the Commission.

Presentation:

[WSF - FY21 WSF Annual Performance Report](#)

For more detail on agenda item 12, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:30:44, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 13:

Puget Sound Regional Council – Regional Transportation Plan

Presenter:

- Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, Puget Sound Regional Council
- Josh Brown, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council

The Commission was briefed on the Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) draft Regional Transportation Plan. This plan responds to priorities set in the PSRC's Vision 2050 and lays out a long-range strategy for delivering the wide array of investments, services and climate commitments that make up the region's transportation system. The plan represents a \$300 billion investment over the next 28 year, 84% of which is funded with forecasted current law revenues. The Commission and PSRC staff discussed underlying assumptions of their financial plan and the need for future flexible funding sources. For example, the plan calls for a road usage charge set at a level beyond what the state is working toward. There will be a need to validate assumptions and harmonize state and regional policies as they develop over time.

Presentation:

[Regional Transportation Plan](#)

For more detail on agenda item 13, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:06:17, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 14:

Washington's Maritime Industry

Presenters:

- Eric ffitch, Senior Government Relations Manager, Port of Seattle & Board Member, Washington Maritime Federation
- Charlie Costanzo, Executive Director, Puget Sound Pilots & Board Member, Washington Maritime Federation

Washington Maritime Federation discussed the challenges and opportunities facing Washington's maritime industry and their priorities in the areas of maritime infrastructure, the need for career and technical education to address workforce shortages and addressing supply chain congestion. In addition to commercial maritime concerns, the Maritime Federation is working to ensure funding for the state's ferry system, using Climate Commitment Act funding to decarbonize the transportation sector, and promoting a sustainable commercial fishing industry in the state, among their many priorities.

Presentation:

[Washington Maritime Industry](#)

For more detail on agenda item 14, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:56:54, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 15: Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 15, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:44:50, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 16: Commission Business

Presenters:

- Reema Griffith, Executive Director, Washington state Transportation Commission
- Carl See, Deputy Director, Washington State Transportation Commission
- Aaron Halbert, Fiscal Analyst, Washington State Transportation Commission

Commission Discussion:

Reflections and Recommendation

- It was very interesting to hear about electrification and the carbon-neutral economy. In particular, it was interesting to hear about both very specific proposals (such as the need to address fuel superusers) and big-picture, forward-thinking perspectives (such as next generation highways.) Both are necessary.
- Vehicle miles traveled reduction analysis is very intriguing. We need to focus both on electrification and traffic demand management. The co-benefits of managing vehicle miles traveled (safety, health, water quality, etc.) reinforce that we need to continue to focus on that as much as we do electrification.
- We continue to require forward thinking and sound planning, but it is also important that we take time to look back at our efforts to see if they are making the impacts that were intended.
- The maritime sector is important to Washington's economy, and it was helpful to hear about the different efforts to support maritime industries and to develop a future maritime workforce.

- The Move Ahead Washington package offers critical funding for transportation and is well supported by the Commission. The package supports new ferry vessels, but it is also important to keep in mind that the long-range plan calls for 16 new vessels over 20 years (13 of those vessels are 60+ years old.)

January Meeting Summary – No modification or adjustments were made to the January meeting summary. The summary can be considered final and published.

Upcoming meeting in Union Gap – The Commission discussed plans to meet in Union Gap for the April meeting. COVID protocols for the tour and meeting were reviewed. Five of seven Commissioners plan to attend the two-day meeting in person. Two plan to participate remotely. This can be revisited depending on COVID restrictions.

Legislative Update – A brief update of the Legislative session was provided.

Presentation: There were no associated presentations.

For more detail on agenda item 16, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:45:07, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

The Commission adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Next meeting: March 15 & 16, 2022