



Washington State Transportation Commission

Olympia Meeting Summary

March 15 & 16, 2022

March 15, 2022

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

Agenda Item 2:

Tolling Performance & Financial Update

Presenter:

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

An overview of the traffic and revenue performance of Washington state toll facilities for July through December 2021 was provided. Although the traffic and revenue performance of each individual facility varied, performance across all tolled facilities continues to reflect COVID-related impacts.

- Traffic was up slightly (1.2%) from the September/November 2021 forecast. However, traffic since the start of COVID (March 2020 – December 2021) remained down substantially (34.1%) from the pre-COVID November 2019 forecast.
- Revenues were down slightly (1.1%) from the September/November 2021 forecast, and revenues since the start of COVID (March 2020 – December 2021) remained down substantially (36.2%) from the pre-COVID November 2019 forecast.

Presentation:

[Toll Facilities - Traffic & Revenue Update](#)

For more detail on agenda item 2, including performance by facility, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:03:33, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 3:

Tacoma Narrows Bridge Toll System Replacement

Presenter:

- Jennifer Charlebois, Deputy Director, Toll Division, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

An update on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge roadside toll collection system replacement project was provided. Planning has progressed well and WSDOT will release a Request for Proposal in Spring of 2022. System replacement is currently on track to completed by the end of 2023.

Presentation:

[TNB Toll Collection System Replacement](#)

For more detail on agenda item 3, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:21:01, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 4:

Update: State Transportation Revenue Forecast

Presenters:

- Doug Vaughn, Chief Financial Officer, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Ed Barry, Director, Toll Division, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Rick Singer, Director, Finance & Administration, Washington State Ferries, Washington State Department of Transportation

An update was provided on the latest quarterly transportation revenue forecast results that were released on February 16, 2022. This forecast continues to reflect the impacts of the pandemic on transportation revenues and usage. The February 2022 Transportation Revenue forecast is \$6.59 billion for the current biennium, which is lower than the last forecast by \$87 million, and substantially lower than the pre-COVID forecast. Forecasted traffic is down for all tolled facilities compared to the November 2021 forecast, as are toll revenues. Similarly, Washington State Ferries estimates less ridership and lower fare revenues than forecasted in the 2021-23 biennium compared to the November 2021 forecast.

Presentation:

[Transportation Revenue Forecast](#)

[Toll Facilities Traffic & Revenue Forecast](#)

[WSF Ridership Fare Trends](#)

For more detail on agenda item 4, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:29:04, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 5: Implementing Virginia’s Road Usage Charge Program

Presenter:

- Scott Cummings, Assistant Commissioner for Finance, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

Virginia has seen an overall reduction in gas tax revenues as more vehicle owners shift to electric vehicles, and drivers are getting better fuel economy with newer gas-fueled vehicles. In 2019, to off-set this reduction in revenues, Virginia implemented a “Highway Use Fee” paid at vehicle registration which is designed to capture the revenues lost from fuel efficient vehicles. Starting in July 2022 Virginia will offer an alternative to the Highway Use Fee when they launch the “Mileage Choice” program. This program will allow car owners to opt for a voluntary mileage-based charge (road usage charge).

Presentation:

[Implementing Virginia RUC](#)

For more detail on agenda item 5, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:21:34, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 6: Safety Program for Partially Automated Vehicles

Presenter:

- Alexander Mueller, PhD, Research Scientist, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

In January the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) announced its ratings program for safeguards used with partially automated vehicles. An overview was provided of the safeguards vehicles ought to contain to help drivers fulfill their roles and understand their responsibilities when supported by the partial automation.

Presentation:

[IIHS Safety Program - AV](#)

For more detail on agenda item 6, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:41:16, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 7: **Learnings from Cruise’s “Origin” AV Shuttle**

Presenter:

- Carter Stern, Senior Manager, Government Affairs Cruise LLC

An overview of the fully autonomous vehicle, the Origin, was provided. The Origin is an electric vehicle designed to shuttle up to six passengers and operate without a human driver. Cruise and General Motors as development partners have petitioned the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for exemptions that will allow them to put the Origin into commercial service.

Presentation:

[Cruise Origin AV Shuttle](#)

For more detail on agenda item 7, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:00:03, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 8: **Strategies to Support Human Services Transportation**

Presenters:

- Brian Lagerberg, Director, Public Transportation Division, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Matthew Kenna, Transportation Planning Specialist, Public Transportation Division, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Monica Ghosh, Transportation Planning specialist, Public Transportation Division, Washington State Department of Transportation

The 2021 Washington Statewide Human Services Transportation Plan provides an assessment of existing services available throughout the state to assist people with special transportation needs. The plan’s assessment was reviewed including a discussion of the strategies and actions recommended to improve mobility options. An overview was provided of existing services, remaining gaps, and key priority areas for improving mobility options in the future - accessibility, safety, and ease of use. This plan is currently available for public comment and is expected to be finalized in April 2022.

Presentation:

[2021 Washington Statewide Human Services Transportation Plan](#)

For more detail on agenda item 8, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:42:57, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 9: Tolling System Performance Audit

Presenter:

- Erin Catterlin, Senior Performance Auditor, Washington State Auditor's Office

An update on the scoping and planning stage of the State Auditor's performance audit of the state's electronic toll collection system replacement project was provided. The audit will include an evaluation of the Washington State Department of Transportation's project planning, vendor procurement, contract management, and project oversight. The audit is expected to be complete in December 2022.

Presentation:

[Tolling System Performance Audit](#)

For more detail on agenda item 9, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:06:04, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 10: Washington State Ferries Diesel Fuel Hedging Program

Presenters:

- Seth Steinhoff, Operating Program Budget Analyst, Washington State Ferries, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Matt Hanbey, Operating Program Budget Manager, Washington State Ferries, Washington State Department of Transportation

An overview of the FY 2021 Diesel Fuel Price Hedging Report was provided. The report describes the Washington State Ferries (WSF) diesel fuel price hedging system, and the "swaps" completed in FY 2021. The program reports that, based on industry standards, their activities during the reporting period have been effective at controlling WSF's diesel fuel costs. Additional updates provided on FY 2022 swaps and market outlook.

Presentation:

[FY21 - Annual Fuel Hedging](#)

For more detail on agenda item 10, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:20:46, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

DAY 2: March 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 12: Secretary's Report

Presenter:

- Roger Millar, Secretary, Washington State Department of Transportation

Secretary Millar provided an update on Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) activities and a brief review of the legislative session.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 12, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:02:49, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 13: Reconnecting Communities Divided by Highway Infrastructure

Presenters:

- Regan Patterson, PhD, Environmental Justice Consultant, Regan Patterson Consulting
- Coté Soerens, Community Initiatives & Equitable Development Cultivate South Park
- Sandy Williams, Executive Director, Carl Maxey Center
- Betsy Wilkerson, Spokane City Council Member, Carl Maxey Center Board President

Decisions of the past have left many established neighborhoods impacted by the highways that were built through them, cutting deep trenches in what were previously vibrant communities. Efforts are now under way to begin to rectify the damage caused by such decisions. An overview of the historical context and the impact of these actions was provided. The panel highlighted two community projects currently under way that are designed to repair these impacts.

- **Reconnect South Park** is working to reunite a community in South Seattle that was severed when Highway 99 was constructed. This project would remove the portion of Highway 99 that cuts through South Park to free up land for local housing and community development.
- **Spokane's 5th Avenue Initiative** is designed to reconnect the neighborhood separated from the rest of East Central Spokane by Interstate 90. Residents are developing a plan to reconnect portions of the neighborhood by creating a center for commercial activity, community gathering, and local services.

Presentation:

[Reconnecting Communities](#)

[Reconnect South Park](#)

[5th Avenue Community Strategy](#)

For more detail on agenda item 13, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:18:26, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 14: Climate & Environmental Justice in Transportation – Community Perspectives

Presenter:

- Paulo Nunes-Ueno, Transportation & Land Use, Policy Lead, Front and Centered

A briefing was provided on the findings of a series of listening sessions with members of underrepresented communities to understand perspectives on pressing transportation issues such as climate change, green transportation, and mobility equity. Respondents were reported to overwhelmingly support efforts to reduce dependency on automobiles by investing in walking, biking, and transit.

Presentation:

[Just Transition in Transportation](#)

For more detail on agenda item 14, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:24:12, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 15: Moovit Mobility App Demonstration

Presenter:

- Perry Barnett, Partnerships Manager, Moovit

A demonstration of the Moovit mobility app was provided. Moovit uses both crowdsourced and official public transit data to assist users with route planning across transit modes. The demonstration highlighted how the Moovit technology is being leveraged to assist people with disabilities in navigating their communities with confidence.

Presentation:

[Moovit Mobility App](#)

For more detail on agenda item 15, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:54:05, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 16: Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 16, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:16:18, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 17: Commission Business

Presenters:

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

Commission Discussion:

- **Reflections and Recommendations**
 - The Reconnecting Communities presentations were very thought-provoking. While there has been discussion about these issues at a policy level, the specifics provided in this presentation help to understand these issues in a more concrete way.
 - Several of this month's presentations highlight the need for transportation planning efforts to incorporate equity and environmental justice considerations.
 - The February revenue forecast contains some positive news, but there are still significant challenges ahead.
 - A lot of new programs funded in Move Ahead Washington are urban-focused, which tends to be one-size-fits-all. We need to maintain a statewide view of the state's transportation system.
 - The IIHS AV safety rating information was interesting. It is good to see that safety considerations are being addressed, and it was helpful to hear how AV law enforcement plans are being implemented.
- **February Meeting Summary** – No modification or adjustments were made to the February meeting summary. The summary can be considered final and published.
- **Overview of 2022 Legislative Session** – A brief wrap up of the 2022 legislative session was provided, including a high-level overview of the Move Ahead Washington transportation package. An in-depth review of transportation-related policy bills, supplemental budget and 16-year revenue package will be provided at the May Commission meeting.

- **Update on Union Gap meeting** – Logistics for the April Union Gap Commission meeting were provided.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 17, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:16:31, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Chair Jennings adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held in person at Union Gap on April 19 & 20, 2022