

Transportation Task Group Meeting – 5.23.22

Present: Jane Lazorchak, Jared Duval (EAN), Andrea Wright (AOT), Michele Boomhower (AOT), Karen Blakelock (AOT), Johanna Miller (VNRC), Collin Smythe (DEC), Greta Hasler (VNRC), Sebby Wu (VPIRG), Philip Picotte (PSD), Megan O’Toole (DEC), Deirdra Ritzer (DEC), Dale Azaria (CLF)

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Presentation from Michele Boomhower, AOT**
 - AOT Climate Initiatives currently underway by AOT:
 - VMT Study (\$150k) – how do smart growth strategies reduce VMT to meet emissions reduction goals, and quantify co-benefits; report by first quarter of next year.; led by VHB subcontract to RSG
 - EVSE Deployment Plan – With NEVI funding, plans to submit for VT by mid-June, for approval by 9/30/22 for allocation of funding to come afterwards
 - EV Incentives – working with CSE for all (i.e. Replace Your Ride, E-Bike incentives, etc.) except MileageSmart, which is administered by Capstone
 - Anticipated activities:
 - Incentives optimization (\$85k) – adjusting EV incentive program to meet emission reduction and equity objectives; report with recommendations by 12/15/22
 - Resilience Plan – IIJA PROTECT program incentivizing plan prep by reducing non-federal match to 10% (from 20%); more guidance to come
 - Carbon Reduction Strategy (Capital Program GHG Accounting Methodology & Baseline) – CRP funding to develop a methodology to quantify effect on GHG emissions for investments in a Capital Program
 - Finalize Carbon Reduction Strategy – build from GHG accounting baseline and complete IIJA CRP requirements by 11/15/23
 - Will inform Sustainable Transportation Plan required by CAP
 - Overview of Phase I, Phase II of Transportation Technical Analysis for GHG reductions, including analysis of existing and potential VTrans programs, alignment with CAP
 - Remaining considerations:
 - Transportation Task Group Technical Analysis RFP – investigate how to fill in TCI-P gap with other approaches, build off existing data, and define emissions reductions VT is on track to achieve
 - VTrans committed \$50k via planning dollars
 - ANR was seeking a grant from Climate Alliance for another \$50-70k, but Climate Alliance can only commit \$21k – suggested IIJA CRP funding to conduct analysis
 - This analysis will inform Task Group’s policy recommendation required by mid Fall 2022
 - Jared: perspective on where we stand, needed priorities
 - Don’t see the gap we’re trying to address as gap for expected TCI revenue, but rather missing policy framework for emissions reduction needed in transportation sector
 - Recommendation to Council deadline in Nov., investing \$150k in emissions reduction benefits of VMT but can’t do policy analysis for most basic responsibility in CAP that we’re not on track to meet

- First step must be sector-wide policy framework before program specific analysis within AOT
 - Michele: Concerned about effectiveness of VMT analysis, reality of emissions reduction stemming from that study but that ship has sailed.
 - If we want to meet CRP requirements, have to start now with carbon reduction strategy (within AOT programs); potential to find funding for sector-wide analysis down the line
 - Would need leadership engagement/sign-off from Sec. Moore & Sec. Flynn, Gov's office to make those investments
 - Welcome a smaller meeting once more details are available to determine what to communicate with leadership about in more specifics
 - Jane: we do have RFP fully drafted with those goals/questions; Sec. Moore already provided thoughts/edits but not a guaranteed green light with ANR
 - Johanna: anticipated AOT budget shortfall?
 - Michelle: analysis related to T-fund revenues, compiled Nov. '21, shows reduction in fuel tax revenues, motor vehicle purchase and use tax, registrations
 - Huge uptick in program funds – both formula and grant funds – gap over the next 3-4 years of anywhere from \$60-80M in T-fund revenues
 - Thinking about budget package/recommendations for next session; lots of general fund investments for climate this session, continued concern about whether the T-fund is the best source of climate transportation funding going forward
- **Public Engagement**
 - Webinars/Public engagement
 - Johanna: Great work thus far on webinars around transportation solutions
 - Sebbi: Just Transition Subcommittee moving forward with public engagement, 3 buckets – accessibility, broad-based public engagement, and longer-term public engagement
 - Jane: We're discussing broad-based engagement now with Task group; considering listening sessions on advancing prioritization this fall with the Council
 - Rulemaking for ACT/ACCII
 - Megan: Send out package of materials last Monday, happy to answer questions.
 - Series of public rule-making hearings in areas disproportionately impacted by climate change; meet min. ADA compliance (background info, comment opportunity, respond before rule-making takes place)
 - Some conversation about taking advantage of these events for public engagement around emissions reduction more broadly
 - Proposed rule filing on 7/15, earliest we can have a hearing is 8/19 but may wait until early September for roadshow of hearings
 - Johanna: Question of what this rule-making means for general public, given onus is largely on the manufacturers and therefore this may also be an opportunity to communicate emissions reduction more broadly
 - Megan: communication of emissions reduction benefit of these rules; open to brainstorming what that may look like
 - Add this as an agenda item for an upcoming meeting of this Task Group; brainstorm partners, format, frequency of these rule-making hearings
- **Technical Analysis Update/Next Steps**

- Jane: No way to have someone under contract for RFP by end of summer. Not saying we shouldn't collaborate and figure this out, but very tight timeline with moving target of how to fund this.
- Jared: leaning toward a recommendation in Nov. to begin advancing multiple policy options via the legislature because of greater degree of confidence, premature to take anything off the table – would need to include cap & invest, clean fuel, etc.
- Johanna: helpful to have a co-meeting with Just Transitions to compare what we're working on?
 - Sebbi: Just Transitions onboarding new members, hopefully will have more capacity. Appreciated presentation of options from Jared/Sec. Moore, want to revisit whether we're considering those options, or waiting for analysis. Want to be sure we're being thoughtful about outcome/purpose of that co-meeting.
- **Public Comment**
 - None