COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES WORKING GROUP

MEETING MINUTES

July 13th, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Massachusetts State House – Room 428

ATTENDEES:
1. Kate Fichter, Assistant Secretary of Policy Coordination, MassDOT – Present
2. Jonathan Cosco, Sr. Deputy General Counsel, EOHED – Present
3. Doug Levine, Special Counsel, EOPSS – Present
4. Sarah Zaphiris, Chief Administrative Officer, RMV – Present
5. Senator McGee, Transportation Committee Chairman – Present
6. Representative Straus, Transportation Committee Chairman – Present
7. Matthew Mincieli – Present
8. Daniel Griffin, Lieutenant, Traffic Programs Section, MSP – Present
9. Stephanie Pollack, Secretary of Transportation – Absent
10. Daniel Risteen, Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Officer of the Division of Field Services, MSP – Absent
11. Jonathan Gulliver, Acting Highway Administrator, MassDOT – Absent
12. Hans Olson, Assistant Undersecretary For Homeland Security Senior Advisor, Anti-Terrorism And Cyber Security, EOPSS – Absent
13. David Solet, General Counsel, EOPSS – Absent
14. Joseph Sabella – Absent

SUMMARY OF TOPICS COVERED:
1. Introduction and Welcome
   a. Kate Fichter provided an introduction and welcome to the attendees, and noted that this is a unique meeting to hear from legislators about bills filed pertaining to AVs, but that the session was not intended to be formal testimony of or for the bills being discussed.
2. New AV Working Group Designees
   a. Kate Fichter provided an update on some changes to the Working Group’s membership
   b. Lt. Colonel Edward Amodeo has retired from the Massachusetts State Police. Lt. Colonel Daniel Risteen is now the Commanding Officer of the Division of Field Services, and will join Lieutenant Daniel Griffin on the AV Working Group
   c. Highway Administrator Tom Tinlin has retired from MassDOT. Serving in his capacity will be Acting Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver.
   d. Assistant Secretary Katie Stebbins has left the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development for a new opportunity with the University of Massachusetts. Jonathan Cosco, Senior Deputy General Counsel at HED will serve in her place as the designee for Secretary Ash.
   e. Joining for today’s meeting on behalf of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and sitting in for David Solet and Hans Olsen is Doug Levine, Special Counsel for EOPSS.

3. Representative William Straus - H1897

4. Senator Jason Lewis - S1945 (H1829)
   a. Senator Lewis provided a review of some of the goals and opportunities he sees for AVs in Massachusetts. Senator Lewis also discussed several risks to anticipate and manage, including public perception, vehicle-miles traveled and transportation emissions, driverless vehicles, and revenue impacts. Senator Lewis spoke to two bills which were filed in the Senate and House, S1945 and H1829 by Senator Lewis and Representative Farley-Bouvier, noting support in drafting the language from Rafael Mares of the Conservation Law Foundation and Robin Chase, formerly of Zipcar. Senator Lewis shared his goals and an overview of the components of the sponsored legislation. The Senator mentioned an interest in focusing on environmental impacts and the benefits of shared vehicles, and raised the topic of a vehicle-miles traveled (VMT) fee and separate legislation to create a pilot program to study a VMT fee program.

5. Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier - H1829 (S1945)
   a. Representative Farley-Bouvier joined Senator Lewis to discuss the importance of addressing the autonomous vehicles issues in this legislative session, and for “getting it right” soon. Representative Farley-Bouvier discussed some of the impacts that have been realized by the growth of the transportation network company (TNC) industry, and made some comparisons between the TNC industry and the developing AV industry. Rafael Mares of the Conservation Law Foundation provided some background on CLF’s goals and considerations with respect to AVs.

6. Representative Michael Day - H3417
   a. Representative Day spoke to bill H3417, and noted simply that the bill defines what autonomous vehicles are, and requires that AVs be zero-emission vehicles. Representative Day spoke to the need for Massachusetts to catch up to some of the
progress being made in Europe and around the US, particularly concerning shuttle testing and mass-transit opportunities.

7. Representative Peter Durant - H1822
   a. Representative Duran provided thoughts on bill H1822, noting that he has sponsored AV legislation since 2011 to ensure that Massachusetts is not left behind in the industry. Representative Day spoke specifically to the third-party liability release component within the bill, noting the importance of getting the liability issues right.
   b. Sarah Zaphiris asked Representative Durant if he believes the industry's pace has been accelerating recently. Representative Durant responded that he believes there have been changes such as adaptive cruise control and lane centering, the pace of which has been accelerating, and that the next big change will be when drivers can begin to take their hands off the wheel.
   c. Chairman Straus thanked Representative Durant for his continued work on this issue and his consideration for insurance and liability issues.

8. Representative Aaron Michlewitz - H2742
   a. Representative Michlewitz provided brief comments on the bill he sponsored, H2742, noting that with respect to the human element of AVs, there should be a prohibition on the transport of 8+ passengers without a driver in the vehicle, or for the transport of goods for hire.
   b. Lieutenant Griffin asked for clarification on whether the legislation would still require the driver to have the correct license type, including commercial licenses, for 8+ passenger transport or goods for hire, as is currently the case. Representative Michlewitz verified that this is the intended interpretation.

9. Senator Eric Lesser - S1938 (H3422)

10. Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante - H3422 (S1938)
    a. Representative Ferrante provided written comments, which have been posted to the AV Working Group webpage under the July 13 meeting: [http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/AboutUs/Committees/AutomatedVehiclesWorkingGroup.aspx](http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/AboutUs/Committees/AutomatedVehiclesWorkingGroup.aspx)

11. Public Comment
    a. Kevin Leary of PowerHydrant spoke to advocate for the transition to electric vehicles and infrastructure, and noted that there are also transitions taking place in the heavy vehicle industry, with large bus and truck type vehicles moving towards electric power for drivetrain benefits, in addition to environmental benefits.
    b. Leonard Dickens spoke on a few topic areas, including the importance of considering accessibility for the elderly and disabled populations to ensure that they are provided equitable access. He also asked if there was any idea of the revenue that would be generated from a VMT fee. He spoke to the importance of public awareness and outreach, and stated that there should be more emphasis and
outreach for such forums and events across the Commonwealth. He also mentioned the importance of considering vehicle and infrastructure connectivity in these conversations.

c. Matt Mincieli asked for clarification on the Draft Guidance document which was distributed at the May 16 meeting, and whether the guidance document had been updated since that time, and if the Department received any feedback or comments on the document. Kate Fichter replied that there have not been any changes to the draft guidance document, nor has the Department received any specific feedback on the document, but encouraged industry and advocacy stakeholders to provide input and feedback to the Working Group.

d. Jeff Everson addressed the Working Group to speak to a few items, including some data and statistics from a recent RAND report on autonomous vehicles, cybersecurity concerns raised in a letter by Senator Markey, and impending USDOT updates to the AV policy and regulatory framework.

DECISIONS MADE AND/OR ACTIONS TAKEN
1. None

LIST OF DOCUMENTS