



ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee
Thursday, April 5th, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
Mogavero Architects, 2012 K Street, Sacramento

Meeting Notes

6:00 p.m. – Welcome, Introductions, Check-Ins, and Changes to Agenda

Attendance: Brian Guerdat (350Sac), Robert Meagher, Guy Hall (Sac EV Society), Jeffery Tardaguila (Dogfite), Ralph Propper (ECOS Pres.), Alex Reagan (ECOS staff), John Deeter (chair).

6:05 p.m. – Self-Driving Cars: Heaven or Hell?

- Guy Hall (Sacramento Electric Vehicle Society)

Deeter: Presents a brief [video](#) of the recent accident in Tempe, AZ, where a bicyclist was killed by an Uber autonomous vehicle. This accident illustrates that more work needs to be done to improve obstacle detection for autonomous vehicles.

Hall: Presents a brief video, "[Our future & self driving cars: hell \[or\] heaven.](#)" It's pretty much assured that most -- and possibly all -- vehicles will be operated autonomously. But how autonomous vehicles will be owned and operated is a major undecided issue. On the one hand, if the current pattern of individually owned vehicles is retained for self-driving cars then vehicle miles traveled (VMT) might increase dramatically because some trips could just reposition cars with zero passengers aboard. The key to avoiding this prospect is to use modern communication tools to achieve ride sharing for a large proportion of trips. The alternative to the chaos of individual ownership of autonomous cars is some sort of rental scheme, which would arrange wide spread sharing of vehicles by people traveling on the same route. This scheme would drastically reduce the overall number of vehicles, the parking space needed to store them, the cost per ride, and the number of accidents involving motorized vehicles.

Hall continues this topic with a slide show, with frequent participation by others. He expects that all self driving cars will be electric vehicles. Uber and Google are already introducing ride sharing schemes using AVs and EVs, and auto manufacturers are gearing up to produce them in large numbers. Economics strongly favor non-ownership and ride-sharing, with a big boon for low income folks who can't afford car ownership.

Discussion: Some skepticism about how rapidly AVs and shared vehicles would be implemented, with some interval required for phase-in and probable resistance by some to give up car ownership. Cheaper travel by automobile may make it more difficult to control sprawl. In particular, the replacement of gasoline powered cars with EVs will improve air quality and thereby remove a major motivation for limiting VMT to control sprawl. Is either SACOG or Caltrans considering

how AVs and shared autos might affect their work? SACOG may be, but Caltrans is institutionally more rigid.

ACTION: Hall proposes setting up an ECOS ad-hoc committee for issues related to autonomous vehicles and shared vehicles. He is urged to circulate a proposal using the TAQCC Google group defining its mission and scope of work for consideration by TAQCC and the ECOS Board as appropriate.

6:50 p.m. -- TAQCC member survey

Deeter: Distributes printed survey and invites attendees to fill it out. Principal goal is to set up TAQCC subcommittees for specific issues, and to get people involved in topics that interest them.

7:10 p.m. -- Updates and reports

- Transit advocacy, transportation coalition & Measure B

Propper: Sierra Club has a grant to bring an organizer from Los Angeles who worked on the successful Measure M up to Sacramento, and is working on the details.

- Regional Transit issues (route optimization, etc)

Deeter: WALK Sacramento report n possible improvements to the Watt/I-80 light rail station was issued today (Apr. 5th), and the cost of the full upgrade is \$27 million with about half for improving the station and half for external improvements to access to the station. [Ed. note: this report will be presented to the RT Board on Monday, Apr. 9th.]

- CapCity freeway & other freeway expansions

Deeter: Caltrans has agreed to make a presentation at the May 3rd TAQCC meeting, and also to meet with a small delegation in advance of the the TAQCC meeting

- ECOS Vision statement and the MTP/SCS

No Report.

- Sacramento County Climate Action Plan

Propper: The County CAP is virtually dead, since the Supervisors are apparently completely indifferent to implementing it. The Cleaner Air Partnership reports that the Sacramento region receives less than its proportionate share of air quality-related Cap & Trade funds, getting only 1-2% compared to 6% of the State population.

- Sacramento Valley Station Master Plan & station design

No Report.

- Repeal of SB1

7:40 p.m. – Other business and announcements / Possible topics for future meetings

Reagan: Scheduled date for the next TAQCC meeting (May 3rd) is also Big Day of Giving, and some regular participants may not be able to attend.

Deeter: Caltrans has already committed to coming to the May meeting, and changing the date may not be feasible. He will poll TAQCC members via the Google group to determine if the conflict with Big DOG will seriously reduce attendance.

7:45 p.m. (approx.) – Adjourn

Next TAQCC meeting: Thurs, May 3rd, 6:00 p.m., Mogavero Architects, 2012 K St.

- CapCity freeway expansion -- Larry Brohman (Caltrans)

Other upcoming events of interest:

April 14, 1 pm -- Sacramento Transit Riders Union, 1714 Broadway

April 22, 11 am -- Sacramento Earth Day Festival, Southside Park, 6th & T Sts.

Printable TAQCC agendas and minutes are available on the ECOS [Web site](#)