Vehicle Mileage Fees:
Texas Exploratory Study

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VMT Exploratory Study

1. Focus Groups
2. Stakeholder Interviews
3. Technology Panel
4. State DOT Peer Group
1. Set a policy foundation for a pilot

2. Gauge interest, preferences, understanding

3. Get feedback: deployment options
• “This will be a nightmare!”
• “Government doesn’t belong in my car!”

Yoakum, TX
Pop. 5,632
“Ignorance is bliss for me. I wouldn't travel as much if I had to pay for all of that mileage.”

“I am very old-fashioned, and older drivers will be offended simply because it has computers.”
Laredo, TX
Pop. 236,091

“Except for the Big Brother thing, this is the best option.”
“The police might like this because they could track you.”

“The concern for me is how long and reliable these things are. If it breaks will your car get disabled?”
“Texans do not like their privacy invaded... it’s a cultural thing.”
• Public does not understand transportation finance or needs
• 4 roots of opposition (privacy, cost, bureaucracy, enforcement)
• Texas public: simple model, target EVs first, address “fair share”
Stakeholder Opinions

- Vision for future
- State of funding
- VM fee concept
- Barriers
- Outreach strategy
3. Technology Panel

- Distance-Based Insurance
- Tolling solutions
- Data mgmt. services
- GPS-based solutions
- Mapping Services
Questions for Panel:

- Technology options?
- Value-added services available?
- Solving implementation issues?

Panel conclusion: public concerns can be addressed through policy and technology
4. State DOT Peer Group

Peer DOT members

I-95 Coalition members
Findings

What TTI Heard

+ “Fix current system first!”
+ “What gas tax?”
+ “Funding problem?”
+ “VM fees won’t work!”
+ Public distrust of gov’t
+ “Fair share, privacy, cost”

= NO VM fees in Texas
(...at least not now)
Recommendations

1. EV-based pilot that would address public concerns
2. Supplement the gas tax
3. Establish baseline admin. costs
4. Address enforcement – collecting fees from out-of-state drivers
December 2010
- TTI presents study findings to TX Trans. Comm.
- Commission requests future update on other states and examples of pilots

March 2010
- HB 1669 filed in TX House

April 2011
- TTI updates Comm. on state & national activities
- Battelle highlights its Road Fee Test project with MnDOT
HB 1669 (Introduced)

1. DMV would establish a VM fee pilot for registered EVs in 2011, requested recommendations by 10/1/2012, end program in 2013.

2. Pilot must provide two options: odometer model or an installed unit

3. DMV rule would establish technology to be used, fee amount, fee collection, & participation incentives

4. DMV pilot would consider issues of efficiency, revenue generation/stability, fairness, and privacy
HB 1669 (Substitute)

1. TxDOT, DMV, DPS, Comptroller would set VM fee admin. framework & participation incentives

2. Pilot is limited to EVs & hybrids in D/FW area. Pilot lasts from 1/1/2012 to 7/15/2012

3. Optional participation available to first 1,000 persons eligible

4. Mileage determined by odometer reading

Status: Pending in Committee
What’s ahead: Keep going!

1. Establish an administrative framework for a potential VM fee implementation
2. Continue monitoring activities in other states
3. Continue DOT peer group discussions
Simple.
Simplicity

- Remember: for whose sake is the simplicity of the model designed?

- “Easy for us” does not equal “easy for the customer.”