Date: November 12, 2024
Time: 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Agenda Overview

- **Primary Objectives**:

    o Update on data readiness and schedules for the HCAS methodology memo.

    o Review of the Lookback Study findings and their relevance to ongoing work.

    o Discussion of VMT forecasts and their application in upcoming modeling efforts.

- Emphasis on identifying critical areas for further research and improvement in data quality.

Key Updates

Data and Schedule

- Sean Wallace confirmed the timely acquisition of vehicle registration and mileage data from ODOT, with additional collaboration from Allen Molina on forecast inputs.

- **Data Readiness**:

    o The VMT Master dataset will be ready for Roger's analysis within days.

    o Federal Highway Statistics data and HPMS inputs remain pending; contingency plans involve using 2022 data as a backup.

- The team remains on track to meet project milestones, bolstered by strong inter-agency coordination.

Revenue Forecast

- Sean highlighted discrepancies between forecasted and actual revenue streams, particularly in diesel tax projections.

- The ongoing decline in light vehicle miles traveled (VMT) predictions remains controversial, with Tim Morgan questioning the methodology based on historical inaccuracy.

- Proposals included revisiting forecast logic and integrating recent economic and demographic trends to refine projections.

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Discussion Highlights

Lookback Study

- Matthew summarized key findings from the OSU study:

    o The study achieved close alignment (±5%) between projected and actual cost allocations for lightweight and heavyweight vehicles, with outliers noted during the 2019–2021 COVID-19 biennium.

    o Recommendations included more rigorous testing of model limitations and clearer coding of project work types and bridge categories.

- **Actionable Insights**:

    o Better integration of Lookback Study findings into current methodologies.

    o Improved documentation of past decisions regarding revenue and cost allocations to ensure alignment across future studies.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Forecast

- **Process Details** (presented by Allen Molina):

    o Total statewide VMT serves as the anchor, derived from FHWA datasets and disaggregated into light, medium-heavy, and heavy categories.

    o Forecasts rely on fuel consumption trends, using gasoline for light vehicles and diesel for medium-heavy and heavy vehicles.

    o Challenges with medium-heavy VMT include limited odometer data, requiring extrapolation from small sample sizes.

- **Committee Concerns**:

    o Questions were raised about the continued projection of light VMT declines despite historical trends showing otherwise.

    o Suggestions included deeper examination of forecast inputs and consideration of socioeconomic and policy shifts.

Next Steps and Recommendations

- **Research and Refinement**:

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- o Prioritize an integrated review of Lookback Study findings with OSU, focusing on cost and revenue discrepancies.

- o Develop an agenda to revisit foundational HCAS methodologies, particularly legacy decisions made two decades ago.

- **Meeting Schedule**:

  - o December placeholder meetings to review pavement factors and bridge cost allocations with Roger.

  - o Continued discussions on Lookback Study implications in upcoming sessions.

- **Action Items**:

  - o Bob Russell and others to submit written questions on Lookback Study findings for systematic review.

  - o Coordination between ECONW, OSU, and SRT to finalize actionable steps for incorporating study recommendations.