U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Oregon Department of Transportation

State Transportation Fleet Adoption of Alternative Fuel Vehicles Workshop

Monday April 18, 2016
Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, TX

Hosted by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), this workshop consisted of presentations and breakout sessions intended to identify the barriers DOTs face in transitioning their fleets to alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), and opportunities to overcome these barriers. Attendees included federal, state, and local transportation officials; Clean Cities coalition members; industry and non-profit representatives; automakers; alternative fuel suppliers; alternative fuel infrastructure providers; and local government association members.

KEY WORKSHOP TAKEAWAYS

- Alternative fuels are being used in state DOTs in increasing quantities. AFVs' share of the total fleet is still low in most cases, but several states are making significant investments in AFV fleet vehicles.
- A key barrier to the adoption of AFVs in DOTs is acceptance of the technology by drivers, managers, and maintenance crews at state DOTs.
- The cost to upgrade facilities for natural gas vehicle maintenance and fueling activities can be a significant barrier to compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle adoption.
- The availability of fuel and vehicles that meet DOT fleet duty specifications are limiting factors in AFV adoption. Alternative fuel use patterns vary by region because of feedstock and fuel production availability, fuel performance considerations (e.g., gelling of biodiesel in cold weather), and infrastructure availability.
- Piloting fuels in small test fleets under controlled environments fosters the development of lessons learned and best practices, ultimately lowering the cost of AFV adoption in fleets.
- In emergency response situations (e.g., hurricane and flooding events), state DOTs need fast-fill fueling options or bi-fuel vehicles to ensure critical operations are not impeded.
- Tracking of vehicle drive cycles and daily miles (via telematics) can be an important initial step before deploying AFVs with range restrictions, like all-electric vehicles and CNG vehicles.
- For geographically large states, a key challenge is identifying where in the state and in which vehicle applications to use alternative fuels.

WHAT'S NEXT?

ODOT and FHWA will be sponsoring two more workshops as part of a five workshop series intended to assist state and local transportation agencies interested in promoting the use of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling infrastructure. In support of the workshops, http://altfueltoolkit.org/ will serve as a dynamic and evolving hub for tools, presentations, and other useful resources. Join us as we help facilitate deployment of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling infrastructure in your region and across the country!