

## Alternative Transportation Fuels Coalition

### Meeting Notes

May 21, 2026

In attendance: Skip Hires, Rendall Farley, Christian Bigger, Steven Polunsky, Logan Callen, Rick Giddings, Glenn Wagemann, Michael Redlinger, Eve McMenemy, Jason Lien

- Agenda Item 1 – Announcements & Coordination
  - Jason reviewed a few items:
    - Coming up on June 4 is an Eastern WA Ride & Drive event hosted at Avista Utilities Headquarters—1411 E Mission Ave, Spokane. Sponsored by the WAZIP program, the event is targeted at fleet and facility managers. [Registration for the event](#) is highly encouraged.
    - WAZIP – [WA Zero-Emission Incentive Program](#)—Led by WSDOT, it is a point-of-sale discount program for purchase of med/heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles. Program launched in April and has seen robust response in the first month.
    - Grant opportunity available for the [Charge Where You Are](#) program through WA Dept of Ecology. Funding available for Level 2 and DCFC charging installations. Applications opened 5/5/26 and due by 7/9/26.
    - Grant opportunity for the [Zero-emission School Bus and Fleet Transition](#) program through WA Dept of Ecology. Funding available for zero-emission replacement buses, charging infrastructure, or training. New application deadline extended to 6/4/26.
    - The [WE-Bike](#) e-bike rebate program is active through WSDOT. Rebates for e-bike purchases may be sought through application on the program website. Rebate amount is dependent upon personal income.
    - WSDOT is working on the round 2 solicitation for the federal [NEVI](#) program. This is targeted for projects that install EV charging equipment along select alternative fuel corridors across the state. The round 2 RFP process is expected to open at the end of June/early July.
    - WA state is hosting [EV Ride and Drive events](#) this spring/summer. There will be the opportunity to drive state fleet EVs locally in Airway Heights on July 21-22, 2026.
- Agenda Item 2 – Guest Presentation – Skip Hires, Avista Clean Energy Solutions
  - Skip is the Product Manager for Clean Energy Solutions at Avista
  - Avista is an active partner in supporting the present and future of electric transportation.

- The economic case for electric transportation is strong, with an operating cost equivalent of \$1/gallon. It also fosters energy independence, efficiency, and improved air quality.
- We are still in the early stages of EV adoption and face some headwinds in public perception and broader market penetration. The economic benefit of EVs is something that can take hold as the market evolves.
- Avista offers charging programs for workplace, fleet, multi-family, and public use cases. Avista may pay a significant portion of up-front infrastructure costs. As an example, Avista will invest in charging infrastructure at small businesses, either covering 75% of infrastructure costs up to \$5000 and Avista will own and maintain the equipment or Avista will cover 100% where the customer owns and maintains the equipment.
- Avista is also looking to invest in Level 2 charging stations along secondary travel corridors in the rural areas of its service territory. Goal is to secure 10 sites this year and schedule construction.
- The Avista DC Fast Charge Make Ready program will cover the cost of the transformer and additional \$20,000 in line extension where needed to serve publicly accessible sites such as a commercial establishment. In addition, Avista has programs in support of school bus charging and fleet services consultation.
- Any person or business interested in pursuing electrification should reach out to Skip Hires – [skip.hires@avistacorp.com](mailto:skip.hires@avistacorp.com)
- Coming up on June 4 is an Eastern WA Ride & Drive event hosted at Avista Utilities Headquarters—1411 E Mission Ave, Spokane. Sponsored by the WAZIP program, the event is targeted at fleet and facility managers with EVs onsite representing working vehicles from Isuzu, Mack, Harbinger, Workhorse, Volvo, Kenworth, Bobcat, and others. [Registration for the event](#) is highly encouraged.
- Agenda Item 3 – Next Meeting
  - There will be a break for summer—the next meeting will be set for September followed by a November meeting to close out the year.
  - The meeting ended at 4pm.