



FINAL REPORT

**Western Road Usage Charging Consortium
TPF-5(288)**

September 2024



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Executive Summary

RUC America, previously known as the Western Road Usage Charging Consortium (WRUCC), is a leading authority on road usage charging (RUC) in the United States. Since 2013, RUC America has tackled many of the policy, organizational, technical, and operational challenges to advance transportation funding.

The consortium was created by adoption of an organizational Charter that details the Vision; Goals; Guiding Principles; Organizational Structure (including membership and minimum funding requirements); Governance; and Administrative Duties.

To guide the administration and deliberations of the consortium, Operating Procedures were established regarding the management structure and operations of the consortium. These Operating Procedures are required under the Charter.

The consortium has brought 20 states together to lay the groundwork for per-mile road usage charging (RUC) by sharing resources and working jointly in an effort to determine if road usage charging is an appropriate alternative revenue source for their respective state.

The group was formed to grow agency expertise, increase preparedness, and collaborate on projects of mutual interest. RUC America offers participating agencies the opportunity to achieve economies of scale in their RUC projects or research by offering joint testing and evaluation over wide territories. With a wealth of cooperative research, case studies, and best practices, RUC America serves as a central host for the latest information on road usage charging. Further, through interaction and knowledge sharing several states have found a path forward on policy developments and pilot projects.

Members share the Vision: “Through the leadership of the Consortium, member states and provinces will have the research, technical expertise, operational understanding, and member support to be poised to initiate an effective interoperable RUC system investigation, demonstration, or implementation, if and when desired.”

Members are free to determine if or how they wish to implement road usage charging systems – they are not required to adopt or advocate the system(s) used by other Members.

Areas of work include technical research and development, legal and policy issues, research of fiscal and economic issues, standards and certifications, and administrative and operational issues. Additionally, RUC America works on inter-jurisdictional concerns, stakeholder outreach and communications, and platforms and operations for state and regional pilots.

RUC America allows state departments of transportation to pool resources to study outcomes and share best practices. To date, 24 projects related to the feasibility and evaluation of road usage charging have been funded, with more on the way. In addition to the Transportation Pooled Funds (5-288), some of these efforts have been supported by Surface Transportation System Funding Alternative (STSFA) federal grant funds, with five grants awarded to RUC America.

The consortium started in 2013 as the Western Road Usage Charging Consortium (WRUCC) and was limited to state department of transportations who are members of the Western Association of Transportation Officials (WASHTO).

The Consortium Members share the following goals:

- Explore the technical and operational feasibility of a multi-jurisdictional road usage charge system.
- Investigate public and key decision maker criteria for acceptance and share experience and lessons learned to foster positive outcomes.
- Develop standards and protocols for how road use charges could best be collected and remitted among the various jurisdictions.
- Develop preliminary operational concepts for how a multi-jurisdictional road usage charge system could be administered.
- Develop a model for cooperation and interoperability that can be used across North America.
- Engage the automotive manufacturing and technology sector to encourage the ability for mileage reporting to occur in conjunction with other products and services the sector provides in the marketplace.
- Share knowledge to maximize the preparedness for and efficiency of policy and program development for road usage charging among the members.

The WRUCC rebranded in 2016 to RUC West, creating a discernable name, logos, colors, website, brand guide, templates, PowerPoint presentation, etc.

In 2022, the consortium went nationwide and rebranded as RUC America to reflect the true national nature of consortium.

The Board of Directors, comprised of each member's transportation head or designee, meets at least once annually to oversee activities and approve administrative costs.

Each member agency also designates a member to the Steering Committee who meets quarterly to develop the consortium's annual budget, oversee the work plan, and conduct other project management and policy development activities.

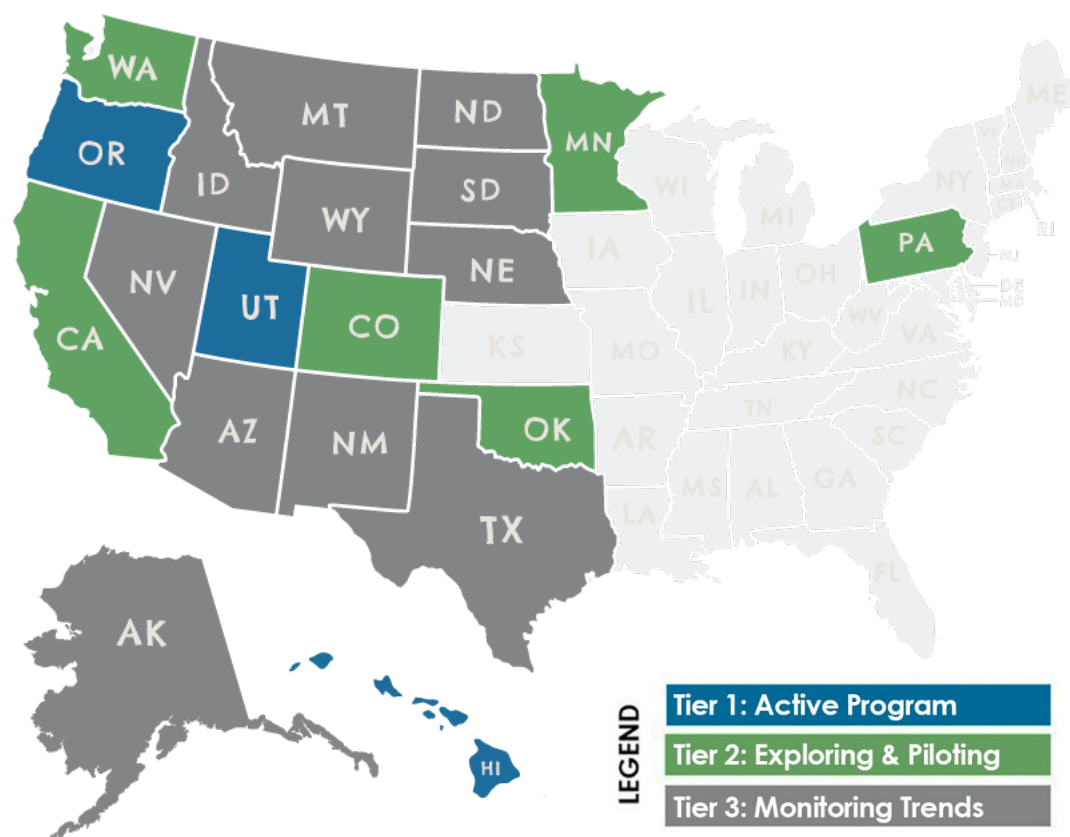
The Steering Committee appoints an Executive Committee with the principal responsibilities of establishing meeting dates, locations, proposed agendas, and prepare/review materials and work products to be distributed to the Steering Committee.

Strategic communications efforts include a communications protocol; brand guide; fact sheet, general RUC PowerPoint presentation; branding templates; and the creation of five folios addressing the issues of rural drivers, data privacy, interstate interoperability, fuel efficient and electric vehicles, and the future of transportation funding.

Through joint research and information sharing, some member states have found a path forward for piloting or implementing RUC programs.

Tier 1 members actively promote road usage charging as an equitable road-funding solution by implementing a program in their state. Tier 2 members conduct research pilot projects for a RUC. Finally, Tier 3 members monitor transportation trends, evaluating the road usage charge environment.

Figure 1: RUC America Members



With a wealth of cooperative research, case studies and best practices, RUC America serves as central host for the latest information on road usage charging.

Visit rucamerica.org for project news and more details.

This document provides as appendages the RUC research, pilots, and strategic communications conducted by RUC America.

Final reports of the research and pilots conducted are attached as appendixes.

TPF-5(288) Project

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