



WASHINGTON STATE ROAD USAGE CHARGE

RUC Innovation Spotlight



**Washington State
Transportation Commission**

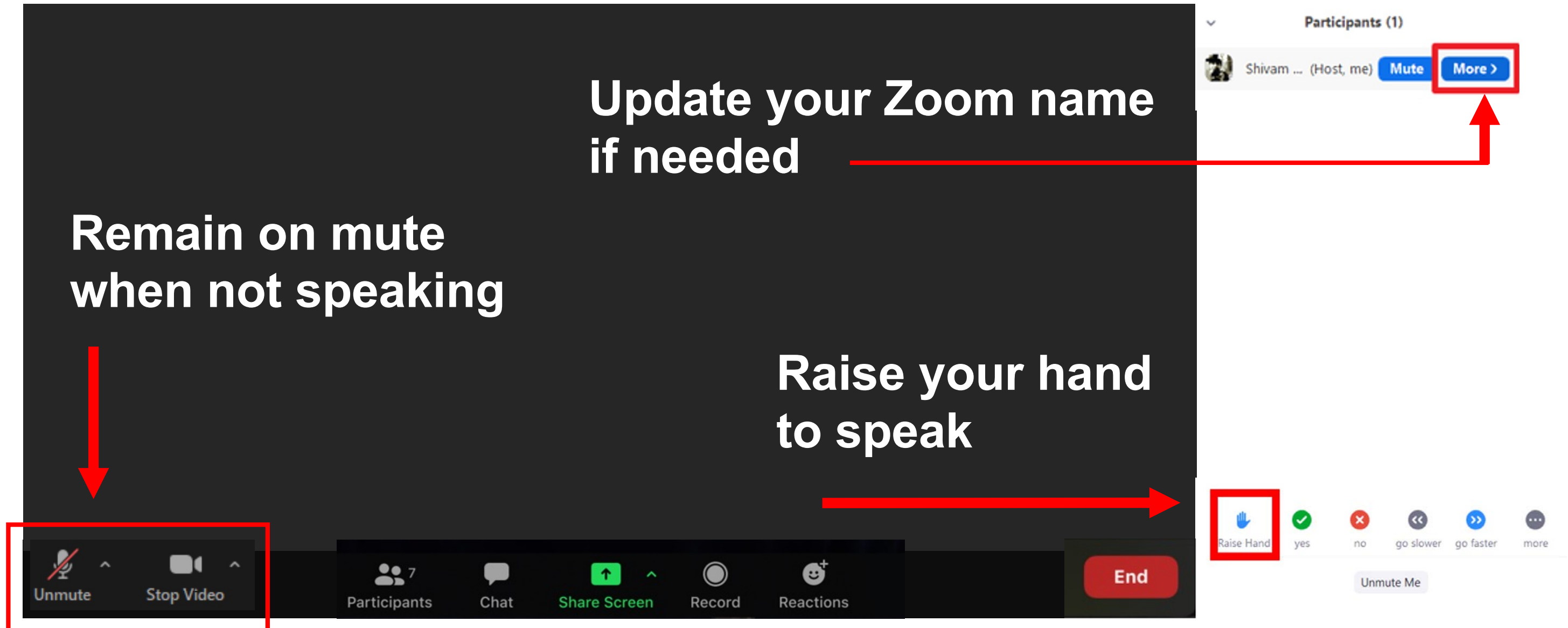
June 1, 2021
Virtual Meeting
Roshini Durand, Travis Dunn, Matthew Dorfman,
Ging Ging Fernandez

Zoom Interface and Controls

Update your Zoom name if needed

Remain on mute when not speaking

Raise your hand to speak



Technical difficulties? Call or text Anneliese Gill, 206-708-9185

Agenda

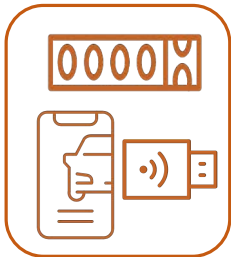
- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Primary goals of RUC innovation research
- 3) Policy drivers & system improvement needs
- 4) Research findings
- 5) Pilot opportunities
- 6) Discussion and Q&A

Mileage Reporting Enhancements Through Research, Industry Outreach, and Design

Incorporate emerging approaches to mileage reporting into Washington's RUC research, such as in-vehicle telematics, improved smartphone apps, use of private businesses to provide odometer verification and mileage reporting services, and more

Updated mileage reporting methods → RUC Innovation

RUC Enhancements Through Research, Industry Outreach, and Design



Build on past efforts



Industry outreach



Explore new opportunities



- Build RUC scenarios, based on
- Equity guidelines (Task 2)
 - Cost reduction guidelines (Task 4)
 - Best practices for a positive customer experience

RUC Innovation Research Goals for Pilot Testing



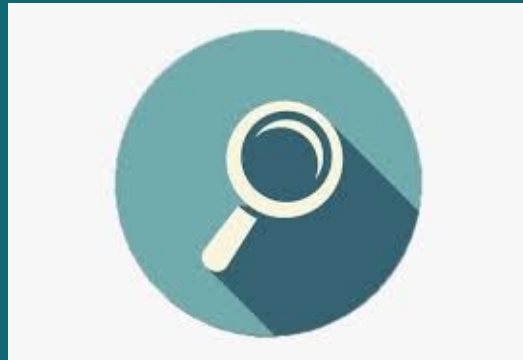
RUC prototype “sub-tests” instead of a single pilot

Conduct tests of new mileage reporting methods, equity policies, RUC for new mobility, and cost reduction techniques

Questions to Think About

- What policy challenges facing RUC can technology address?
- What automotive, consumer, or other business trends do you believe could be useful for enhancing RUC?
- What innovations are most interesting or relevant to test?
- What other ideas for pilot tests do you have?

RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH



POLICY PRIORITIES DRIVE RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH



Equity

User choice

User experience

Cost reduction



POLICY PRIORITIES DRIVE RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH



Equity

User choice

User experience

Cost reduction

Go beyond the notion of horizontal equity "All road users should pay a fair share with a RUC"

POLICY PRIORITIES DRIVE RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH



Equity

User choice

User experience

Cost reduction

Consumer choices should be considered wherever possible

A RUC system provides choices to drivers for not only how they report their miles but also how and when they pay

POLICY PRIORITIES DRIVE RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH



Equity

User choice

User experience

Cost reduction

A RUC system should be simple, convenient, transparent to the user

Compliance should not create an undue burden

POLICY PRIORITIES DRIVE RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH



Equity

User choice

User experience

Cost reduction

The administration of a RUC system should be cost effective and cost efficient

POLICY PRIORITIES DRIVE RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH



Equity

User choice

User experience

Cost reduction

Equity – focus on systems and operational equity

Definitions: What is equity?

Some dimensions of equity in relation to taxation and transportation:

- **Horizontal equity:** everyone is taxed the same for the same usage
- **Vertical equity:** considers ability to pay and relative burden
- **Vehicle weight equity:** considers impacts of different vehicles
- **Geographic equity:** considers impacts on urban and rural areas
- **Cross-generational equity:** considers impacts on future generations
- **Systems equity/operational equity:** ability to interact with/comply with system
- **Process equity:** ability to participate in/shape policy

Preliminary list



What features can we offer?

- Mileage reporting methods to choose from
- Clear privacy protections
- Varying choices of payment frequency
- Multiple payment channels
- Non-RUC driver services

How to make it easy to comply?

- Simple
- Accessible
- Convenient
- Low level of effort and time

Help with decision making?

- Best mileage reporting method
- Discount opportunities

POLICY PRIORITIES DRIVE RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH








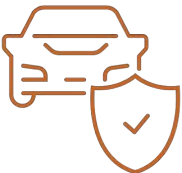
Equity

User choice






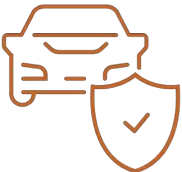
User experience

Cost reduction




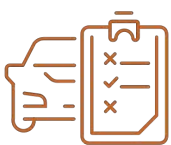

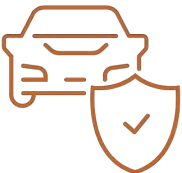
User choice and accessibility – mileage reporting services

				
	Connectivity	No connectivity	3rd party connectivity	Native connectivity
	Level of assistance			
	Assisted (in-person assistance)	No connected phone No vehicle compatibility		
	Self-reporting (manual action required)		Phone with internet connection, smartphone or "compatible" vehicle	
	Fully automated (no action required)			Connected vehicles (in-vehicle-telematics)






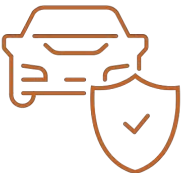
User choice and accessibility – mileage reporting services provided in first pilot

				
	<div>Connectivity</div> <div>Level of assistance</div>	No connectivity	3rd party connectivity	Native connectivity
	Assisted (in-person assistance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vehicle Licensing Offices (using odometer-capture app)		
	Self-reporting (manual action required)		<div>Odometer-image capture</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">smartphone appcamera/web browser	
	Fully automated (no action required)			Not tested in previous pilot

User choice and accessibility – mileage reporting services provided in first pilot

				
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	Fully automated (no action required)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Plug-in device (location and no location)	Not tested in previous pilot

User choice and accessibility – options considered to enhance service offering

				
	<div>Connectivity</div> <div>Level of assistance</div>	No connectivity	3rd party connectivity	Native connectivity
	Assisted (in-person assistance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vehicle Licensing Offices (using odo-capture app)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted installation (technology provider or retail partner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Automaker support
	Self-reporting (manual action required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Camera phone (text)Website portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Odometer-image capture<ul style="list-style-type: none">smartphone app or camera/web browserSmartphone mileage logging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In-vehicle telematics (infotainment systems)?
	Fully automated (no action required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">VIN look-up services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Plug-in device (location and no location)3rd party interface to telematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In-vehicle telematics (infotainment systems)Data aggregator platform

User choice and accessibility – account management services

Account Management

- Notifications (Mail/Email/Text)
- Invoicing (paper or electronic)
- Payment
 - Payment methods
 - Payment timing (prepay or post-pay)
 - Payment frequency
- Technical support

Customer service channels

- Walk-in option
- General website
- Online user portal
- Mobile App
- Mail
- Call-in center: Phone, Email, Texts, Chats

POLICY PRIORITIES DRIVE RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH



Equity

User choice

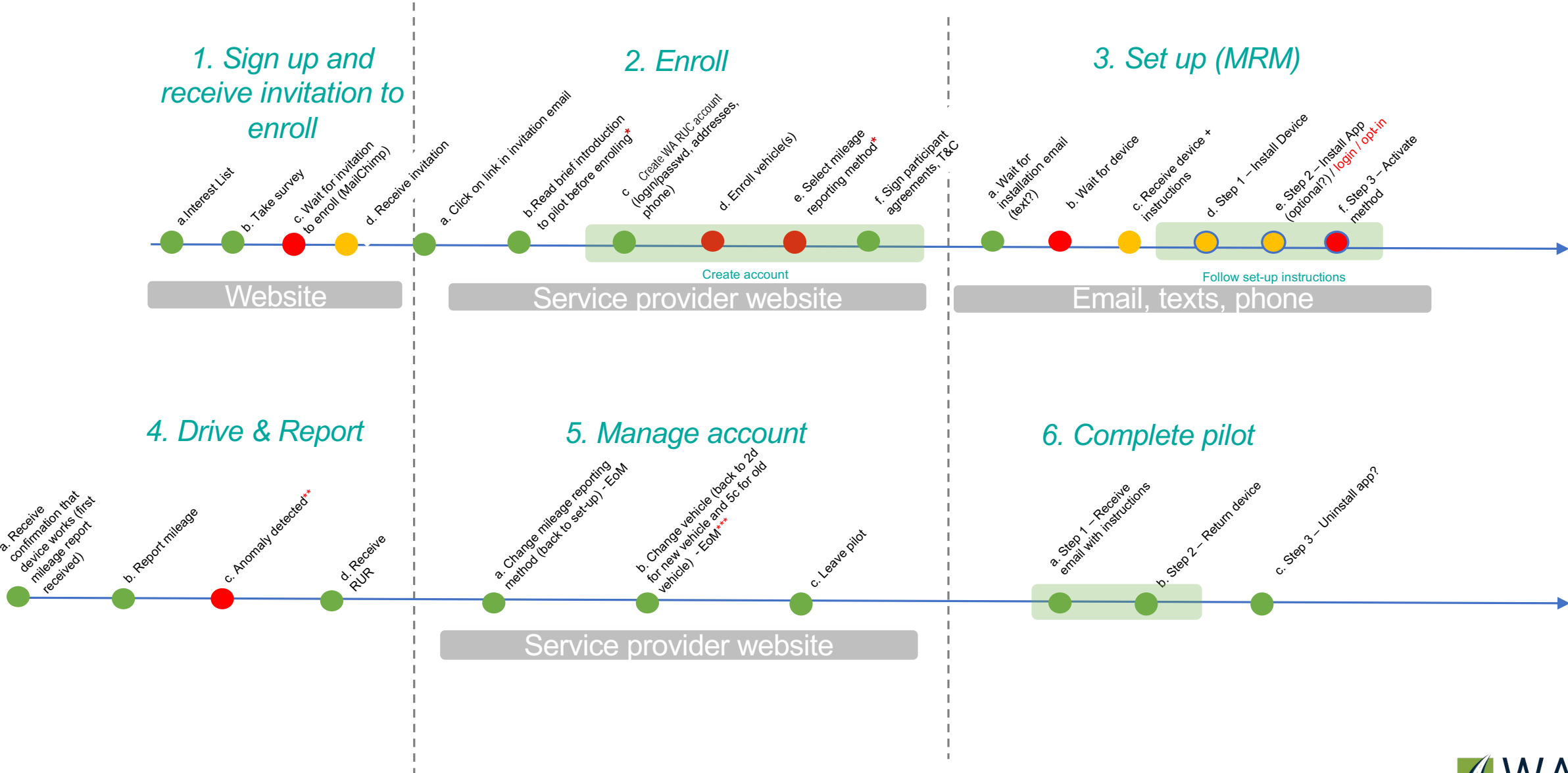
User experience

Cost reduction

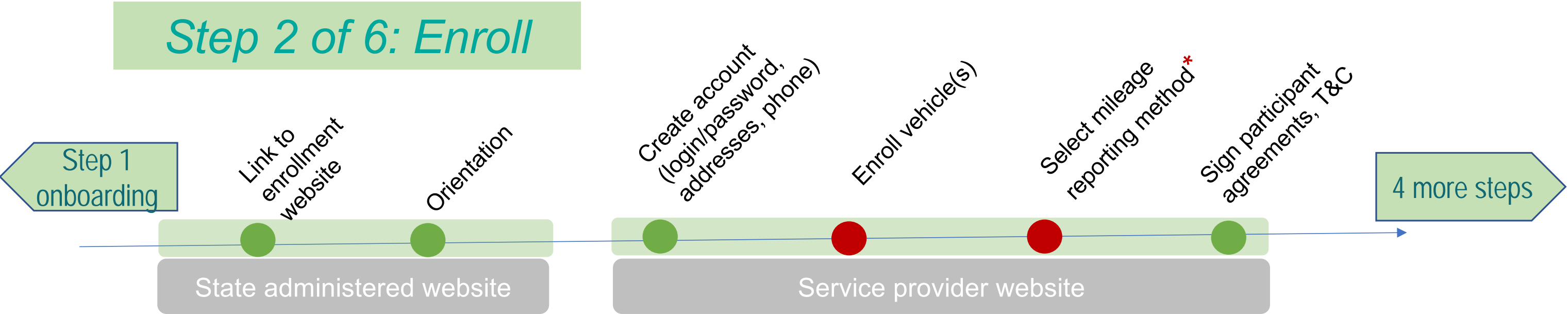
A RUC system should be **simple, convenient, transparent** to the user

Compliance should not create an undue burden

Overall user experience – find opportunities to streamline

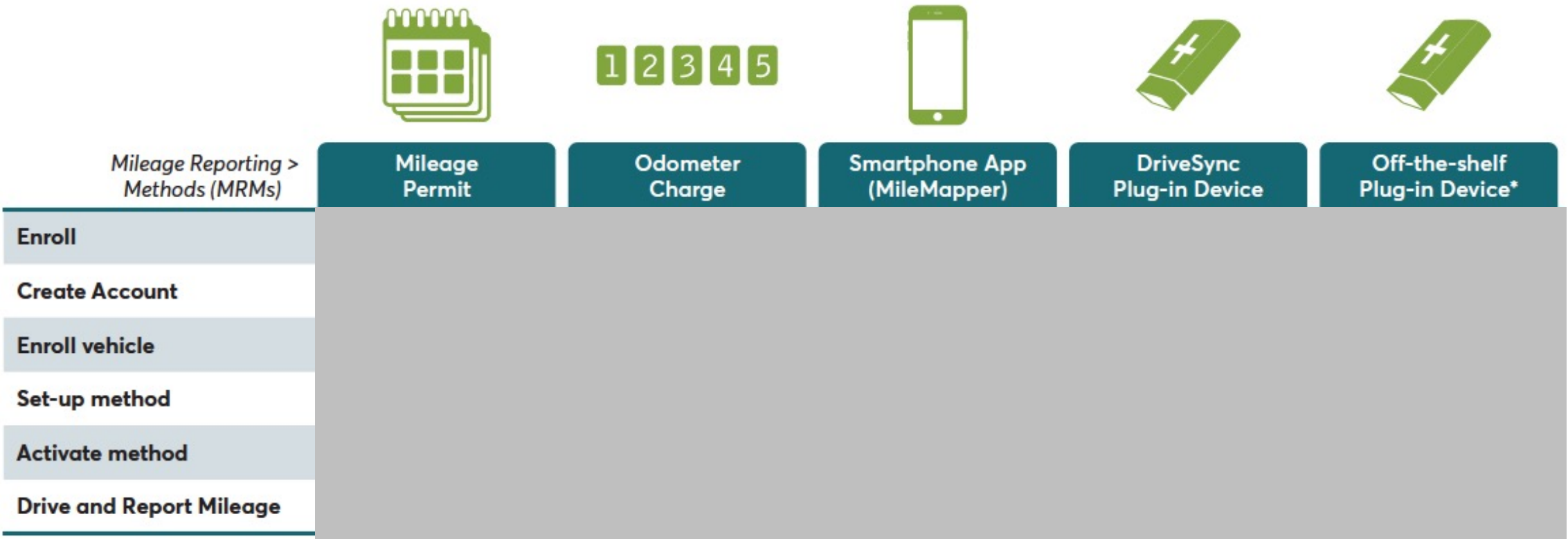


Overall user experience – find opportunities to streamline



User experience – system & process improvement needs

Level of Effort & Time Required to Start Actively Reporting Mileage, by Mileage Reporting Method

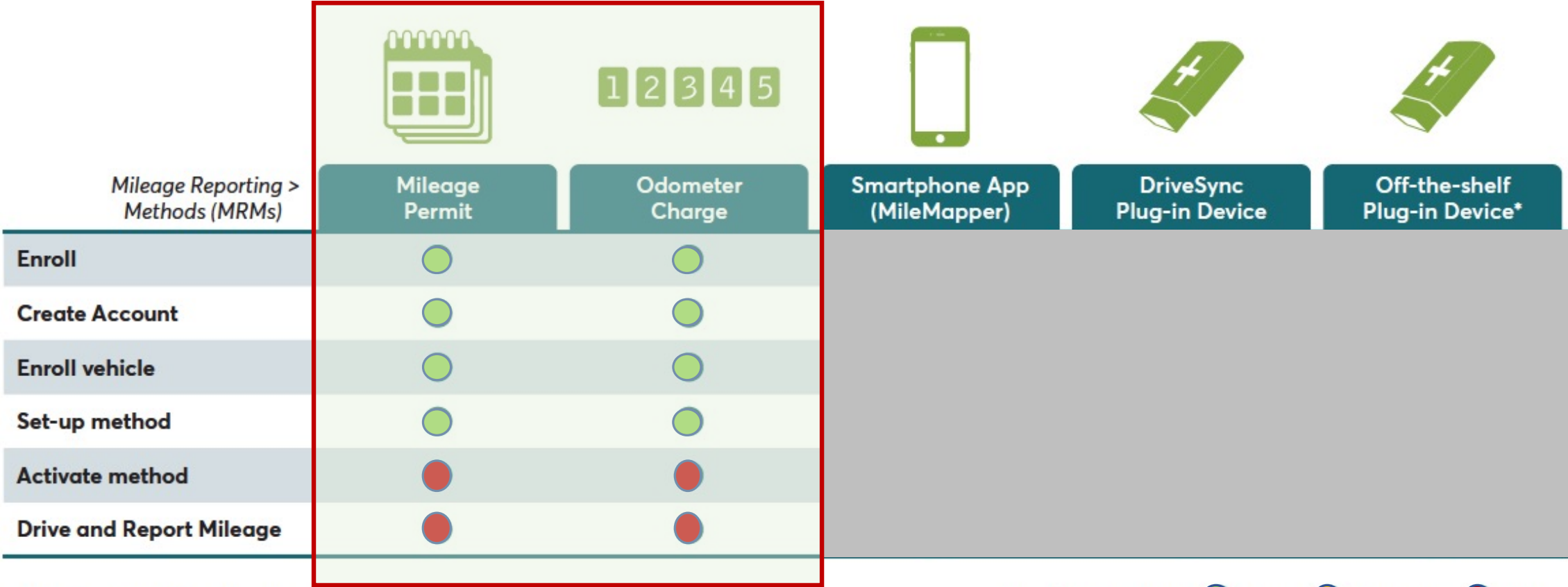


*Automatic™ brand commercial off-the-shelf plug-in device.

Effort/time required: ● Low ● Medium ● High

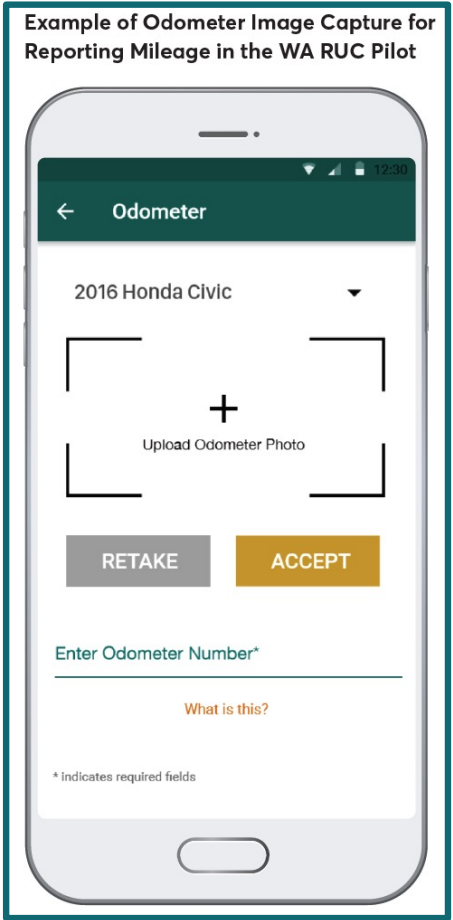
User experience – system & process improvement needs

Level of Effort & Time Required to Start Actively Reporting Mileage, by Mileage Reporting Method



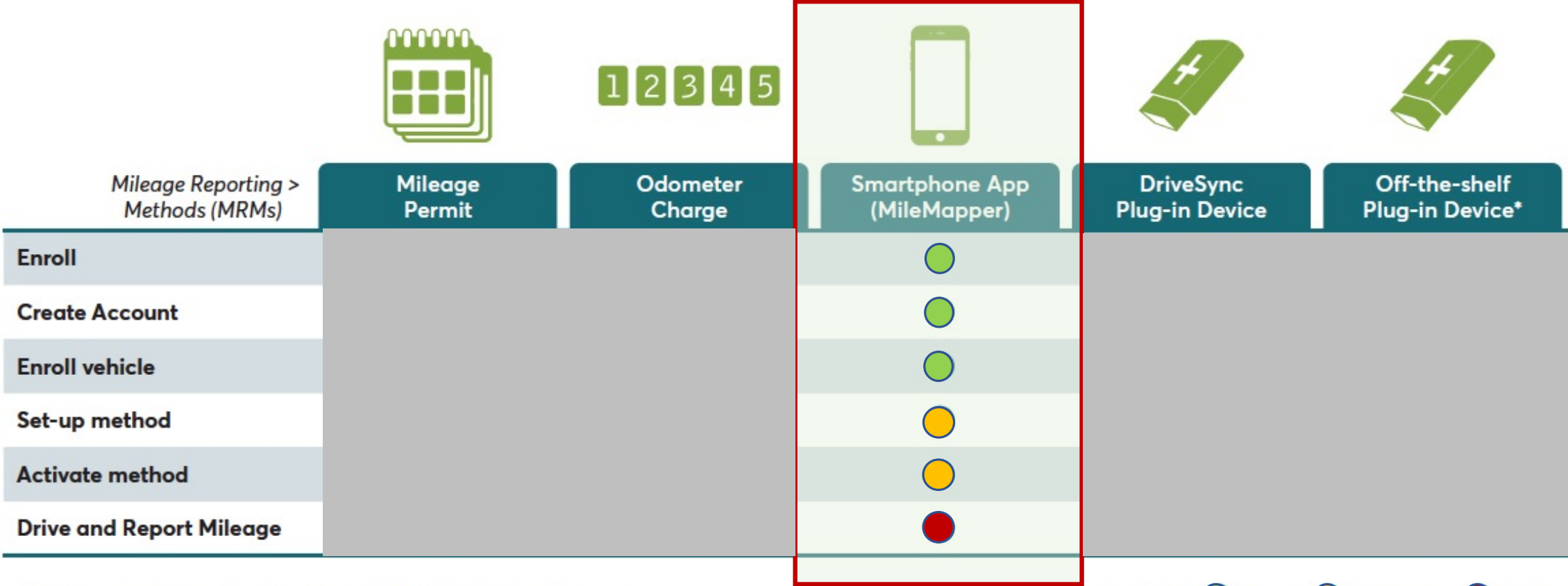
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Effort/time required: ● Low ● Medium ● High



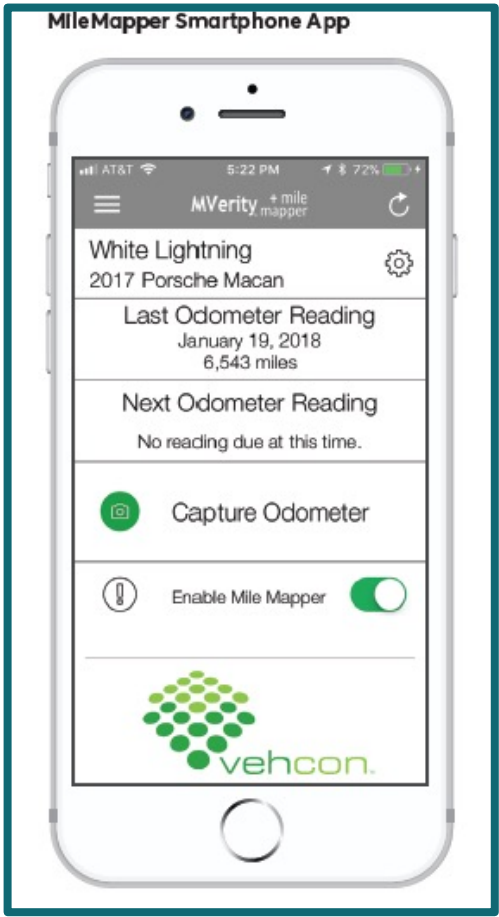
User experience – system & process improvement needs

Level of Effort & Time Required to Start Actively Reporting Mileage, by Mileage Reporting Method






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Effort/time required: ● Low ● Medium ● High



User experience – system & process improvement needs

Level of Effort & Time Required to Start Actively Reporting Mileage, by Mileage Reporting Method



Mileage Reporting > Methods (MRMs)	Mileage Permit	Odometer Charge	Smartphone App (MileMapper)	DriveSync Plug-in Device	Off-the-shelf Plug-in Device*
Enroll				●	●
Create Account				●	●
Enroll vehicle				●	●
Set-up method				●	●
Activate method				●	●
Drive and Report Mileage				●	●

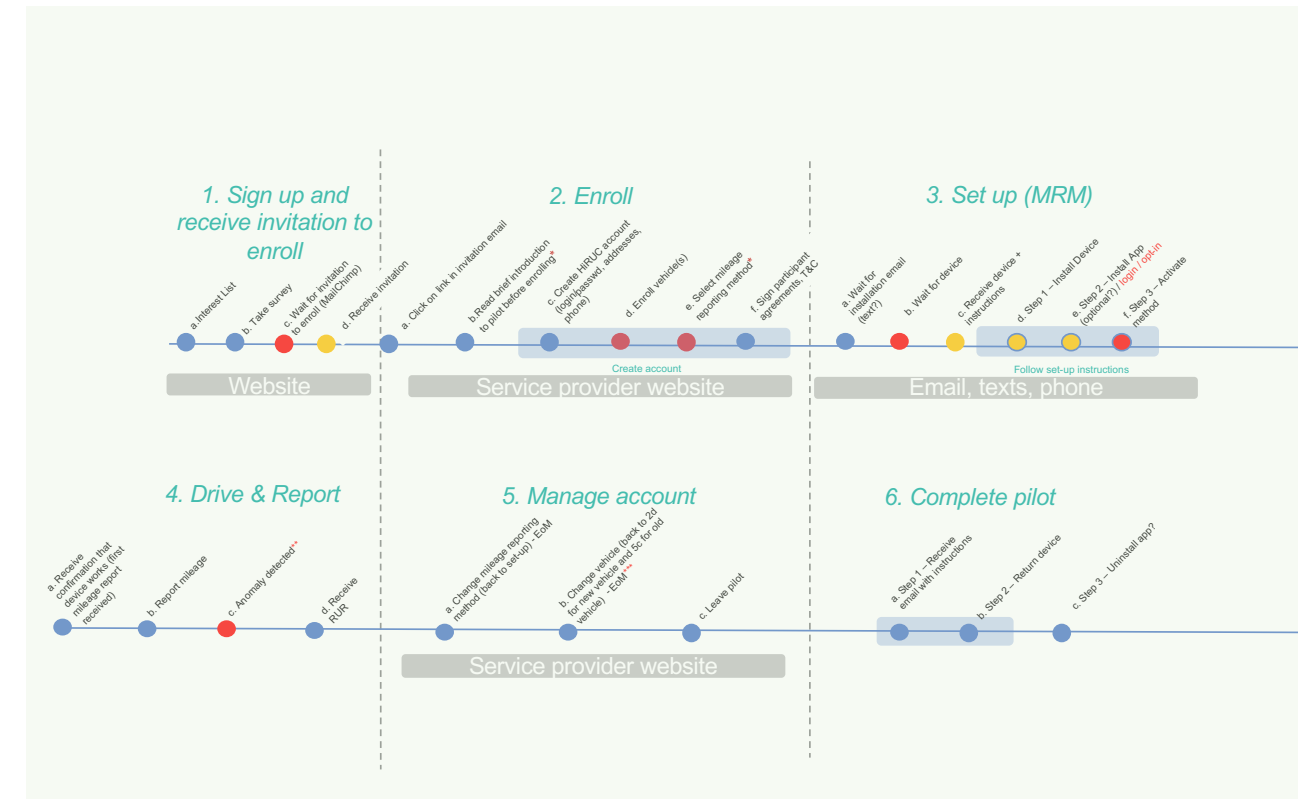


*Automatic™ brand commercial off-the-shelf plug-in device.

Effort/time required: ● Low ● Medium ● High

User experience – preliminary guidelines

- Provide context, clarity and simplicity so users can
 - Understand choices available
 - Make the best choices
 - Easily comply with reporting requirements
- Be transparent
 - Experience makes it clear what is happening, and why, and next steps expected
 - User understands how their RUC is calculated
- Support a personal experience
 - Use relevant personal data so users understand impact of RUC
- System inspires trust
 - Respects privacy rights and protects privacy
 - Meets standards for data security



POLICY PRIORITIES DRIVE RUC INNOVATION RESEARCH



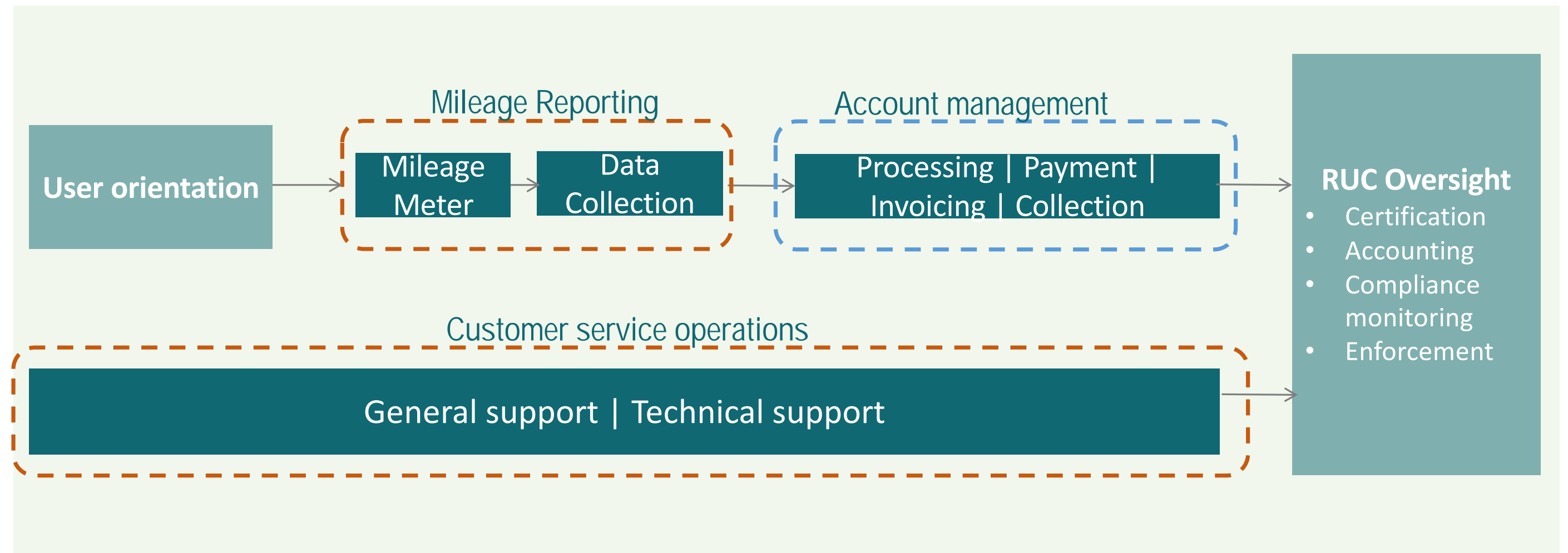
Equity

User choice

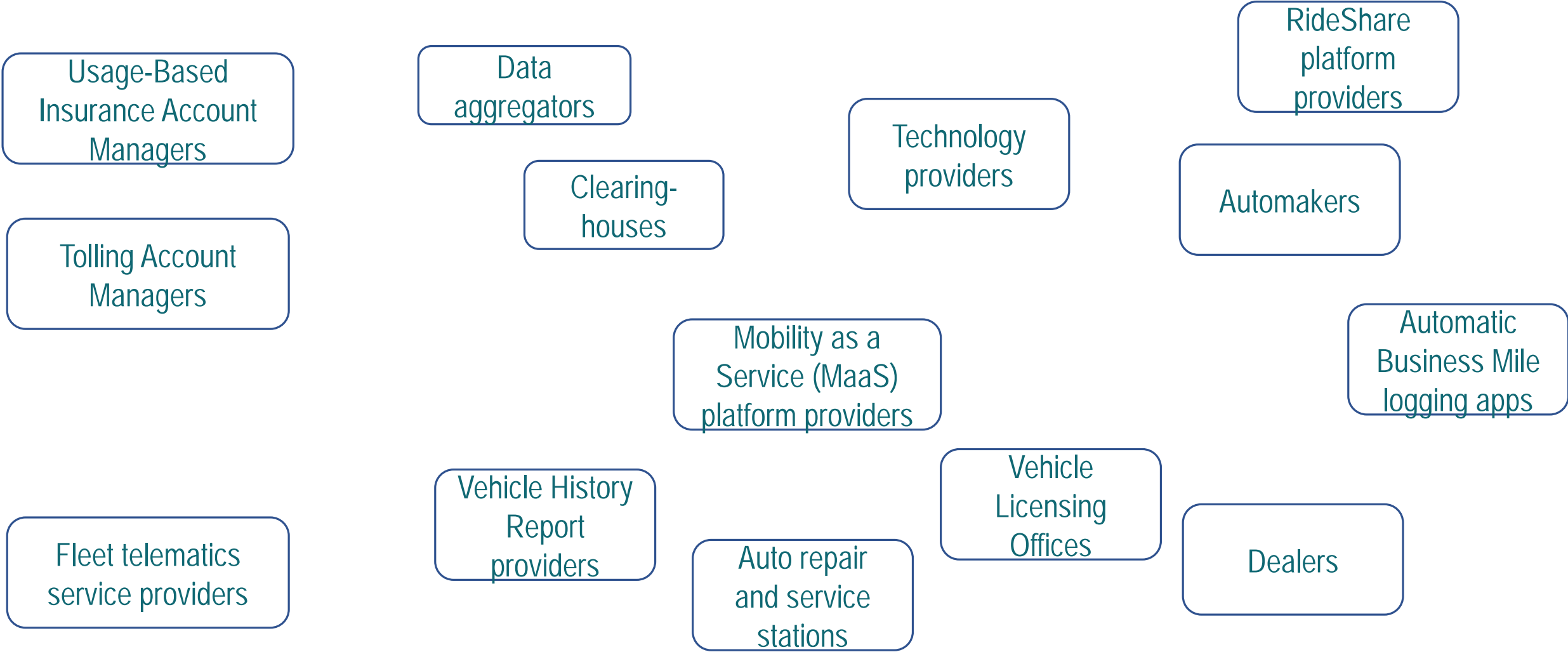
User experience

Cost reduction

Cost reduction – identifying cost drivers



Cost reduction – identifying business models that can support RUC efficiently

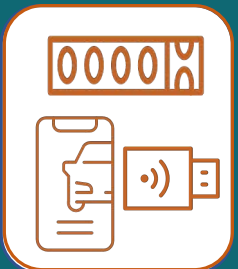


RESEARCH FINDINGS: UPDATES FROM THE INDUSTRY



Explore new opportunities.

- Identify emerging technologies



Build on past efforts.

- Identify opportunities to enhance Mileage Reporting Methods

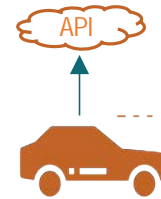
In-vehicle telematics services



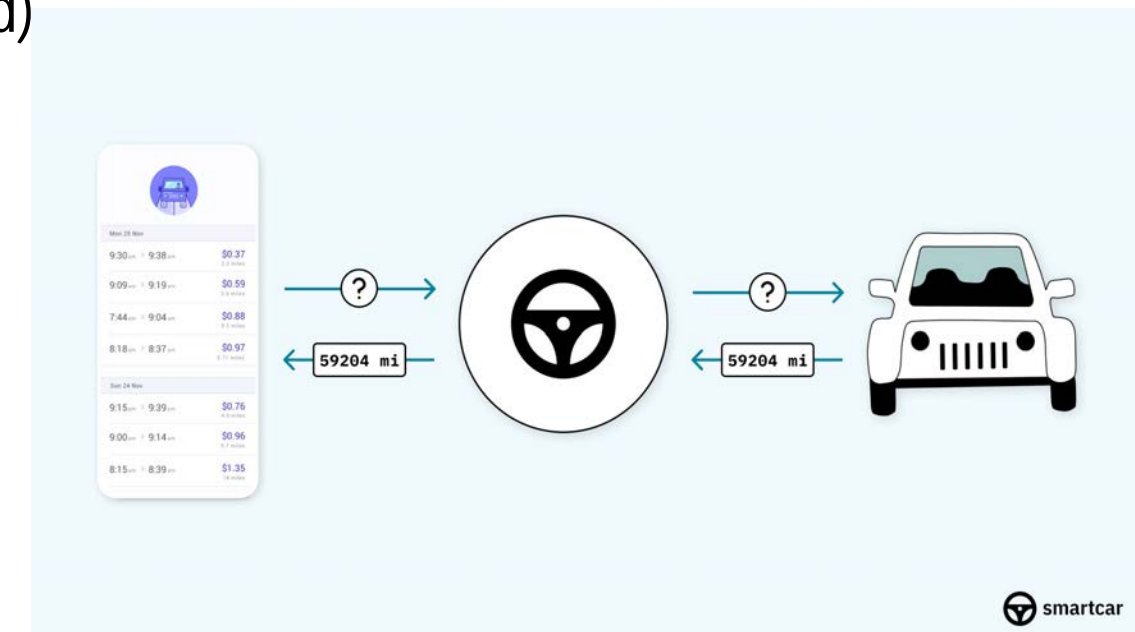
- Background
 - No hardware required
 - Data directly from vehicle
 - Increasing number of connected vehicles
 - Retail payment partners
- Current challenges:
 - Lack of automaker support
 - Proprietary technology
 - Audit and certification
- Latest developments:
 - One automaker has publicly discussed supporting RUC
 - Two automakers have in-vehicle tolling hardware



Third party telematics services



- Background
 - No hardware required
 - Data “pulled” from vehicle telematics by third party
 - Compatible with an increasing number of car brands
 - Compatible with some vehicles since MY2012 (varies by brand)
- Current challenges:
 - Lack of precise location data
 - Battery drain when vehicle is off
 - Need to share vehicle platform password
- Latest developments:
 - How to identify out-of-state travel without sharing continuous location data?
 - Can a pull API be initiated by the user?



Smartphone with Bluetooth beacon



- Background
 - Bluetooth beacon (stick inside car)
 - No car interface
 - Battery and accelerometer to capture miles when smartphone not in vehicle, powered on
 - Appear to be 95% accurate
 - Can detect attempts to remove from vehicle
- Current challenges:
 - Beta version to be further tested
 - Previous attempts had poor user interface
 - User interface will need to be polished for RUC
- Latest developments:
 - Deployment for usage-based insurance



VIN Lookup service

- Background
 - Odometer readings required by federal law (TIMA)
 - Odometers collected at vehicle service, title transfers,
 - Private firms (CARFAX, AutoCheck, and smaller players), access and consolidate this data into a single source
- Current challenges
 - Data not collected for users who do not use car mechanics or service vehicles regularly
- Enhanced User Experience
 - RUC Account Manager could integrate with VIN lookup service and uses odometer readings
 - User "passively reports" odometer readings and has the option to make more frequent payments
 - Potentially use CARFAX or AutoCheck services as Account Manager, and smartphone app interface to add RUC reminders and summaries.



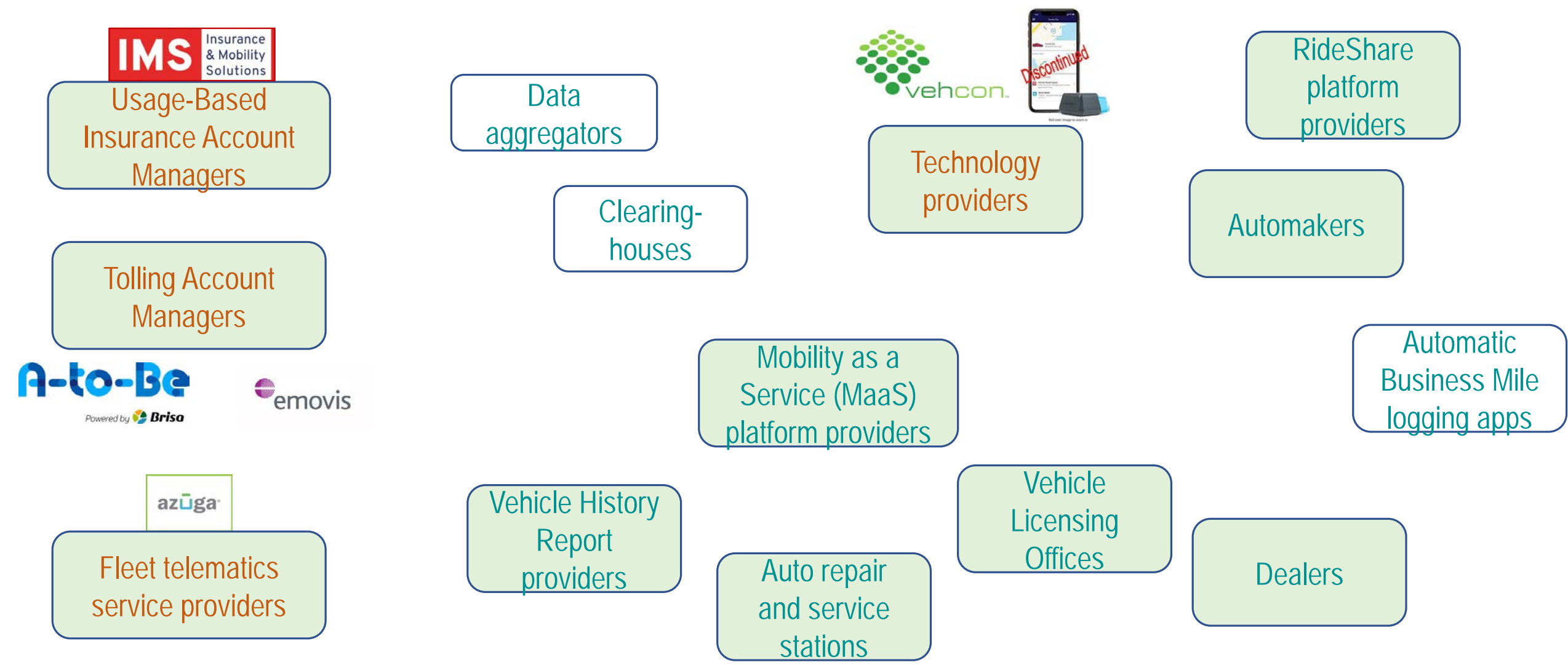
PRELIMINARY PILOT OPPORTUNITIES



Build RUC scenarios

- Select technologies evaluated during research phase to design RUC scenarios that address policy priorities
- Identify business models that can efficiently support RUC

Identifying business models that can support RUC efficiently



Automaker-RUC opportunity









Equity



Cost of collection



User Experience

			
Feasibility Services	No connectivity	3rd party connectivity	Native connectivity
 Assisted (in-person assistance)			X
 Self-reporting (manual action required)			X
 Fully automated (no action required)			X

Research areas informed:

- Equity
 - Can automakers address potential connectivity issues in rural areas?
- Cost of collection
 - What is the lowest cost of RUC collection Automakers can achieve?
- User experience
 - Can automakers address user needs and concerns and provide a positive RUC experience?
 - Could automakers assess a RUC service provider fee for their value added services?



Opportunity to use Mobility-as-a-Service platform






Equity






Cost of collection



User Experience



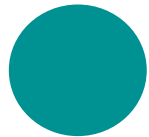
Feasibility Services	 No connectivity	 3rd party connectivity	 Native connectivity
Assisted (in-person assistance)			
Self-reporting (manual action required)	X	X	X
Fully automated (no action required)	X	X	X

Research areas informed:

- Equity
 - Support a variety of mileage reporting options
 - Help with decision making
 - Flexible payments, low transaction fees
 - Rely more on incentives than enforcement for compliance
- Cost of collection
 - Built-in incentives could help increase compliance rate, lowering enforcement costs for the state
- User Experience
 - Well designed MaaS app
 - Help with compliance
 - Gamification for a positive user experience



Opportunity to use retail partners









Equity



Cost of collection



User Experience

			
Feasibility Services	No connectivity	3rd party connectivity	Native connectivity
 Assisted (in-person assistance)	X	X	X
 Self-reporting (manual action required)			
 Fully automated (no action required)			

Research areas informed:

- Equity
 - Provide flexible set-up, reporting and payment options
 - Providing in-person support for diverse needs through retail partners (accessibility, in-person assistance, cash)
- Cost effectiveness:
 - Encourage compliance through convenience
 - Leverage existing retail outlets and processes
- User experience
 - Customer familiarity with existing relationships and outlets
 - Accept cash



Cash payment option at local retailers

Add cash at over 175+ 7-Eleven, Walgreens, CVS and other stores in the Puget Sound area.

[Learn more](#)





Questions & Discussion

Questions to Think About

- What policy challenges facing RUC can technology address?
- What automotive, consumer, or other business trends do you believe could be useful for enhancing RUC?
- What innovations are most interesting or relevant to test?
- What other ideas for pilot tests do you have?



Upcoming Spotlight Sessions

- June 4, 1:30 pm - Cost Reduction

Next Steering Committee Meeting

- July 28, 9:30am-Noon via Zoom