



Illinois Commerce Commission

NEWS

**For Immediate Release
September 19, 2018**

ICC CONTACT: Victoria Crawford
Office: (217) 557-5819
Victoria.Crawford@Illinois.gov

Marianne Manko
Office: (217) 782-5793
Mobile: (217) 993-1000
Marianne.Manko@Illinois.gov

ICC Policy Session Explores Transportation Electrification

Chicago, IL....On Tuesday, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), led by Acting Commissioner Anastasia Palivos, held a policy session to discuss the developments in the electrification of commercial fleets and public buses, and explore the benefits and barriers of transitioning to more electric vehicles in the transportation industry.

This policy session is the second held by Palivos on the topic of electric vehicles (EVs). The first session, held on April 4, 2018, examined the impact increased electric vehicles could have on the Illinois' economy and electric grid.

“According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the transportation sector alone produces almost a third of the total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. There is a great opportunity to significantly reduce carbon emissions by further developing electric transportation,” said Acting Commissioner Palivos.

The first panel, *Where Technology is Driving Us: Service, Delivery & Infrastructure of the Future*, highlighted the new technologies available, and the infrastructure needed to support the growing demand to adopt electric trucks and buses in urban settings. Tanya Gutierrez of the ICC moderated the panel. The expert panelists included David Peterson, Director of Fleet Solutions (*ChargPoint*), Austin Hausmann, VP of Engineering (*Chanje*), Kevin Vincent, VP of Government, Regulatory and Safety Affairs (*Workhorse*), Jon Walker, Transportation Policy Manager (*Lyft*), and Heather Flanagan, North American Marketing Manager, EV Infrastructure (*ABB*).

Panelists told the Commission that the total cost of ownership of electric vehicles is becoming more attractive to commercial users due to lower fuel and maintenance costs, an improved driving range, higher diesel price volatility and a reduced environmental impact. The panelists agreed that government

support is paramount to bringing more EVs into the market and collaborative planning, connectivity and utility involvement will be needed to handle the demand.

"Scaling charging infrastructure to meet the coming EV demand requires true partnerships among those who create charging technology, those who will operate it, and the utilities who will have to deliver power while managing the grid; these are all symbiotic relationships," said Heather Flanagan, Marketing Manager of ABB's EV Infrastructure business.

The second panel, *Public Transportation: City Buses and Infrastructure*, moderated by Emily Brumit of the ICC, focused on the challenges and opportunities of an electrified city transit fleet. The panelists included Roland Cordero, Director of Maintenance and Vehicle Technology (*Foothill Transit*), Kent Leacock, Sr. Director, Government Relations and Public Policy (*Proterra*), Kate Tomford, Senior Analyst (*Chicago Transit Authority*), Lisa Jerram, Director, Bus, Paratransit & Surface Transit (*American Public Transportation Association*), and Andrew Barbeau, President (*The Accelerate Group*).

Transportation agencies are looking to EVs as an opportunity to lower fuel and maintenance costs, and to reduce air pollution. The upfront cost of the buses, planning and building of the fueling infrastructure, understanding real world ranges for the vehicles, selecting appropriate routes for the technology and pairing the bus operations with the right infrastructure are all challenges facing agencies looking to adopt EV fleets. The challenges increase as agencies scale up to larger fleets.

There was consensus among this panel that engagement with the utility industry in the planning and design stages will help minimize costs, and collaboration is needed with other transit-related institutions and businesses about the potential for sharing charging infrastructure.

The final panel, *Legal and Policy: Legal and policy considerations for the future of transportation electrification* focused on the current legal and regulatory landscape surrounding transportation electrification in Illinois and how it compares with other states in the country. Ritta Merza of the ICC served as moderator. The panelists included Beth Trombold, Commissioner (*Public Utilities Commission of Ohio*), Rob Kelter, Senior Attorney (*Environmental Law and Policy Center*), Matt Stanberry, VP, Market Development (*Advanced Energy Economy*), and Tom Brotherton, Regional Director (*CALSTART*).

Experts on this panel agreed that electric vehicle adoption in Illinois should operate in a competitive marketplace, that everyone should have access to charging stations that are paid for with public dollars, and there needs to be programs available benefiting low income customers.

"The development of the electric vehicle market has the potential to reduce auto pollution and lower electric rates, if we set policies that encourage customers to charge EVs utilizing Illinois' abundant wind energy at night. The Commission has a critical role to play in order to ensure Illinois residents get the maximum benefits, and ELPC appreciates the Commission's leadership in the process," said Rob Kelter, Senior Attorney at the Environmental Law & Policy Center.

"The Commission should be congratulated for shining a spotlight on medium and heavy-duty fleet electrification. This sector represents low-hanging fruit in transportation electrification since fleet buyers

recognize the operational cost advantages of EVs and buy vehicles in large volumes. But fleet owners face some utility regulatory challenges that differ from other portions of the EV market,” said Matt Stanberry, VP, Market Development for Advanced Energy Economy.

Panelists also noted that the ICC is one of the first, if not the first, commissions in the country to address some of the challenges facing transportation electrification.

“It is important that as catalysts of change in this industry we continue to think about ways to create a more stable and reliable electric grid, and how can we encourage and incentivize clean air and energy efficiency – we need to consider increased transportation electrification as a part of the puzzle,” Palivos concluded.

Presentations from the policy session’s expert panelists are available for public viewing by clicking [here](#).

####

About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission’s Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

Follow the Illinois Commerce Commission on Twitter @ILCommerceComm