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Public comment on the T-2040 update materials from CATES  
2/1/2018

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January 31, 2018  
To Gary Simonson, PSRC

Dear Gary Simonson:

Please enter this email as a public comment on the T-2040 Update Documents.

1. Vehicle automation -- computerization of motor vehicle control instead of human driving -- is an important technological trend and I commend PSRC taking this trend into account in the T-2040 materials which after all is a plan for the future. I commend PSRC for addressing vehicle automation in Appendix N on Technology. The steps listed are sound.

2. On the action item stated in Appendix N as "Facilitate regional discussions to identify opportunities to support private sector projects and partnerships and the deployment of pilot programs," be aware that City of SeaTac's engagement of Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions (CATES) to explore action opportunities that would make the City a "Center of Excellence" in automated vehicle deployment has come to the attention of the Bloomberg Philanthropics "Autonomous Vehicles in Cities" initiative as described at <https://avsincities.bloomberg.org/global-atlas/americas/us/seatac-us>. It was entered in the worldwide inventory of notable AV projects as one of two in Washington State. In the months before the T-2040 update is finalized, this effort and whatever follow-on is decided by the City may be worthy of note in the T-2040 Plan. SeaTac Municipal Public Works Director Will Appleton would have the latest information on where this project stands at any time in the future.

3. On the action item stated in Appendix N as "Continue to enhance regional models to analyze the effect of autonomous and electric vehicles, shared mobility, and new technology on the transportation system and travel behavior," I recommend PSRC staff give serious consideration to conducting a major simulation of central Puget Sound region mobility in a future year under the assumption that autonomous, electric, shared-ride robotic taxicabs (like UberPool without drivers) would be available for surface mobility as a supplement to rail and BRT mass transit as planned. There is a very worthwhile example of such a study, a model of what's possible to educate the public and elected officials, conducted a few years ago by the International Transportation Forum of OECD, documented fully as follows:

Report: [https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/15cpb\\_self-drivingcars.pdf](https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/15cpb_self-drivingcars.pdf) "Urban Mobility System Upgrade: How shared self-driving cars could change city traffic"

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9kK0RHI-LI>

Powerpoint:  
<http://www.citymobil2.eu/en/upload/Presentations/Urban%20mobility%20system%20upgrade-ITF.pdf>

Academic study: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2046043016300442>

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,

John Niles  
Executive Research Director, CATES  
Member, Regional Traffic Operations Committee, PSRC

Contact ID	Name
771751	John Niles
771752	Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions (CATES)