

Summary of Transportation Policy Board Engagement Session September 8, 2016

The following information was recorded during this Engagement Session with the Transportation Policy Board. Formatting varies with these detailed summaries. The topics included:

- ❖ Climate Change
- ❖ Technology

Technology – September 8, 2016 Engagement Session

Key Themes

- There are still **significant needs and gaps in existing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies** across the region. Although the emerging technologies present exciting opportunities, it is critical that we continue to invest in these more established technologies as well.
- The emerging technologies present significant **equity concerns**, both geographic and socio-economic.
 - What role can the public sector play in addressing these concerns?
 - Can we subsidize use in less affluent and developing areas? What types of investments can be made to narrow the gap?
- We need to consider how the emerging technologies will impact and function **differently in urban, suburban, and rural settings**.
- It's important to recognize the different potential applications emerging technologies can have **across different modes of transportation**.
- How can we bridge the gap between advancements in **technology and the regulatory framework**? Issues around **liability and risk** still need to be addressed. There could be better coordination between private sector investments and public sector decision-making.
- There are still significant questions about how these technologies will **impact existing policy goals**, and what conflicts may exist.
 - For example, the proliferation of autonomous vehicles has the potential to **reduce traffic accidents and the need for parking facilities**, but also to **increase Vehicle Miles Traveled and the number of trips taken**.

Additional Points/Questions

Financial

- What financial implications do these new technologies have for households in terms of transportation costs?

- What are public cost implications to support private investments in vehicles/technology?
- There is the potential for a major shift in ownership models of vehicles. What are the implications if this does occur?

Road Capacity

- What do these advancing technologies mean for road capacity in general?
- How will advancing information technology (e.g., Waze) affect travel routes? Could it steer people away from arterials and to roads without sufficient capacity?

Public Investments

- What type of physical infrastructure does the public sector need to invest in to facilitate these technologies? How will jurisdictions with less available funds afford the cost?
- Upgrades to existing ITS facilities can incorporate or support emerging technology modes

Transit

- What implications do these technologies have for transit?
- How can we leverage shared mobility technology to improve first and last mile access to transit?
- Consider convening transit and special needs transportation providers to discuss roles in adopting new technologies

Climate Change

- Technology is critical for advancing air quality and climate changes goals and should be incorporated into the plans addressing these issues.

PSRC's Role

- PSRC's role in advancing emerging, transformative technologies should be to:
 - Research best practices
 - Convene and educate stakeholders
 - Provide supporting data for decision makers
 - Facilitate demonstration/pilot projects to test concepts