Futures Working Group

Board Transportation Committee
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Background

- The TAC established the Futures Working Group to improve the advice it offers to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on the appropriate application of emerging transportation concepts and technologies
  - Working Group began meeting in summer, 2017
  - Founding principle: collaborate with others, starting with FCDOT
- Goal of Futures Working Group
  - Identify and evaluate opportunities to incorporate emerging transportation concepts into County transportation plans and strategies

Working Group Conclusions

- Economic development provides foundation for near-term efforts
  - Shared interest in Fairfax County being an experimentation test bed; attract firms
- Fairfax County has time to develop its future planning strategy, but…
  - Once-a-decade regional transit survey about to begin: might be last snapshot of a vanishing commuting world
  - Creation of 5G cloud accelerating: cities and localities in competition
  - Companies battling out future of autonomous vehicles in court

Working Group Conclusions (Cont.)

- Futures WG not prepared to recommend policy changes
  - Too many technical and policy moving pieces: autonomous vehicles, telecommuting, demographic projections (to include possible Amazon HQ), etc.
  - And in the air: possible drone delivery services
  - Don't yet know what works: Need to experiment, not just write think pieces
  - March 19 Smart Cities workshop: Fairfax County still at the starting line

Transportation Issue Development Areas

- Assess applicability and readiness of new technologies
    - Must assess torrent of new technologies: university students review for credit?
    - Develop use cases; Pilot projects/experimentation
- Develop adoption strategies for technology and policy opportunities

Technology
- Quick wins: smart infrastructure?
- Connected and autonomous vehicles
- On-line retail: more frequent delivery by trucks and/or delivery by drones
- On demand transportation: solo and shared
- Managing data sources to increase transportation mobility, safety, maintainability

Policy
- Expanded telecommuting
- Zoning implications/opportunities to shape direction of future uses
- Remember connections to other County responsibilities, underserved populations; economic and environmental implications

Recommended Next Steps

1. Fairfax County should offer to collaborate with the Commonwealth of Virginia in its Smart Cities grant-winning effort

   – Five of ten finalists were selected; Fairfax County finished 6th

2. Fairfax County needs a cross-County collaborative staff team to focus on selected Transportation Issue Development Areas

   – These additional activities will require adequate funds to be provided

Recommended Next Steps (Cont.)

3. BOS should use TAC to provide futures planning recommendations

   – Bring knowledge about needs of "average citizens" to futures planning debates

   – At same time, effective participation requires expertise in transportation policy and complex systems analysis

     • Broaden participation by hosting regular dialogs with stakeholder groups and transportation experts, similar to what was done with the TAC Outreach Advisory Group

     • Consider balancing background and expertise of future TAC appointees

Questions?