MPO LRTP Scenario Planning Discussion #1 – Autonomous Transportation Technologies and Regulations

Autonomous technology is coming and will directly influence how transportation investments will be made for the foreseeable future. This discussion will ask participants to consider how autonomous vehicles/smart cities would look in the future and what role the government can play in its implementation. This activity asks participants to think about 20 years from now to:

1. Describe what our region looks like for each potential scenario;
2. Describe what role the MPO will have in each scenario; and,
3. Report out on each group’s future scenarios.

10 – 15 min  Potential Regional Scenarios

On the chart provided to you there will be a figure broken out into four squares labeled Scenarios #1-4 which represents four potential different futures that our region could have for various levels of autonomous technology adoption and government regulations.

Each quadrant represents an extreme to which our region could fall into. Each group will take time and discuss what the region would reasonably look like given the conditions presented. A facilitator will be present to help discussion.

5 - 10 min  The MPO’s Role

Now that each group has discussed what scenarios will look like, begin discussing what role the MPO would play in each scenario. For example, what kinds of projects would likely receive funding? What would be the organization’s priorities? Should the MPO support or try to change the conditions present in each scenario?

5 - 10 min  Reporting

Each group facilitator will report on what was discussed to that point.

Time will also be given for participants to indicate their preferred scenario.
Potential Futures of our Region Chart

Scenario #1
Examples
- Massive investments from private industry
- Empty cars circling city streets

Scenario #2
Examples
- Curb management policies for pickup and drop off
- Slower technology adoption

Scenario #3
Examples
- Push for sector-wide industry standards
- Limited technology adoption

Scenario #4
Examples
- Reduced need for public technology investment
- Reactive rather than proactive