

GLOBAL TRENDS

Implications for Transportation Planning and Investment

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MPO Transport Planning in USA Needs

- fine tuning?
- a few repairs?
- major overhaul?
- demolition and reconstruction?

Technology Expanding

- Computer power - The Singularity is coming
 - Broadband communications everywhere
 - Sensors everywhere - video, RFID, VII
 - Lighter, stronger materials
 - More energy-efficient mobility
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- Implication for MPOs:
Planning for 30+ years out requires intense technology forecasting focus.

Complex, Confusing Interaction of Technology & People

- Longer, healthier, active living
- Time and attention – a new scarce resource
- Online world integrating with the real world
- No surprise: Private, personal transportation is main choice
- Surprise: Value of proximity soaring
- Implication for MPOs:
Human behavior + technology + 10 years =
unknowable exogenous forces

Growing Potential for Surprises

- Technology --> new options, new problems
 - Unintended consequences
 - Global influence via Internet, immigration
 - Terrorism -- bombs and policy/political
 - Bottom line: Very Great Uncertainty
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- Implication for MPOs:
Maintain lower specificity in the far horizons
of plans

How Can Plans Reflect Future Reality?

- People + the Internet = Global Brain and Community Brains
- The New Congestion: World seeks your attention
- Global Brain gives life to good & bad ideas
- Bad: Consensus building before exposing alternative facts & views
- Bad: Confining analysis to project, mode advocacy
- Implication for MPOs:
Encourage fact-based, wide-ranging community dialog and competing analyses

Resource Limits Reinforced

- Limits not overcome
- Taxpayers protect wallets
- NIMBY to become more powerful
- Community brain impedes decision speed
- Decision-making gridlock

- Implication for MPOs:
Have more focus on cost-benefit analysis
and trade off between options

Tolerance for Congestion Needs Cultivation

- Proximity -- > congestion
- Moving freight different than moving people
- Frontal assault is unaffordable
- Technology allows outflanking
- Value increasing of people's journeys

- Implication for MPOs:
Need sophistication about congestion
fixing/coping options/tradeoffs

Summary: Implications for MPOs

- Seek awareness of what's in think tanks, labs, incubators, start ups, overseas, dreamed about
- Provide flexibility for uncertainty in plans for 30+ years out
- Focus beyond Plan A to include contingency Plans B, C, & D and the tradeoffs among them
- Come at traffic congestion from many directions
- When educating the public, be the guide on the side, not the sage on the stage

Thank You!

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