

MEETING 4. FUTURES WEBINAR SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

September 22, 2015.

UNIVERSAL ACTION COMMENTS

- Just to verify, the universal actions apply across all futures?
 - *Correct.*
- Since some degree of climate change is a background force, and therefore included in all the Future Forces, there should be some universal action that considers this.
- Some potential universal actions to also consider: modernize transportation infrastructure, invest in a multimodal transportation system, implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and universal pre-kindergarten.
- Resiliency should be a universal action (climate change mitigation requires global scale action, while adaptation is a local action). Strategy should include regional resilience and adaption planning, along with developing alternative energy and micro-grids.

ENDURING URBANISM COMMENTS

- Industrial jobs may shift to the suburbs, reducing fiscal distress concerns.
- Gentrification is increasing in the inner cities (not regionally).
- Suburban fiscal distress is already happening in the first generation, inner suburbs. The report may want to focus on further out, lower density suburban areas where fiscal distress is not yet a major concern.
- In each of the forces there may be regional winners and losers, may want to spell that out more clearly.
- Current focus seems to be on expanding transit service area. Focus should instead be on increasing service frequency within the existing footprint.

FREE AGENT ECONOMY COMMENTS

- Consider how bureaucracy and burdensome regulations will make people less likely to want to be free agents.

TRANSPORTATION ON DEMAND COMMENTS

- If we recommend legalizing rideshare, how do we balance it with taxi regulations?
 - *The report recommends that ride sourcing drivers to have commercial insurance, undergo background checks, and remit applicable local, state, and federal taxes.*

U.S. ENERGY BOOM COMMENTS

- Is there an implicit assumption in this scenario that there is no significant further change in the climate?
 - *The report notes that worsening climate change, and/or future regulations related to them could make the region economically vulnerable by being tied to this industry; and that the region's brand would take a hit from not being sensitive enough to the environment*
- DVRPC proposes to move the text about fracking wastewater causing earthquakes and seismic activity—since it is more a national, rather than a regional risk—and put it into the section on reasons why it may not happen.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Where did the top investment priorities and lowest investment priorities come from? It seems like they are the same set of investments every time, and the exercise should identify different investment priorities for different futures.
 - *These investment priorities came out of the Futures Group, Regional Technical Committee, EJ Working Group, Healthy Communities Task Force, and Goods Movement Task Force Futures meetings. More than 130 people participated in this voting. However, there is a good deal of overlap between this and some of the recommendations. DVRPC suggests putting the voting text and results into an appendix and incorporating the key investment recommendations into the action steps, based on the voting results.*