

# **Driving Change – Autonomous Vehicles' Big Impact**

National Economic Education Delegation Jon Haveman, Ph.D.

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#### National Economic Education Delegation



#### Vision

 One day, the public discussion of policy issues will be grounded in an accurate perception of the underlying economic principles and data.

#### Mission

 NEED unites the skills and knowledge of a vast network of professional economists to promote understanding of the economics of policy issues in the United States.

#### NEED Presentations

• Are **nonpartisan** and intended to reflect the consensus of the economics profession.



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#### Who Are We?

- Honorary Board: 54 members
  - 2 Fed Chairs: Janet Yellen, Ben Bernanke
  - 6 Chairs Council of Economic Advisers
    - o Furman (D), Rosen (R), Bernanke (R), Yellen (D), Tyson (D), Goolsbee (D)
  - 3 Nobel Prize Winners
    - o Akerlof, Smith, Maskin
- Delegates: 649+ members
  - At all levels of academia and some in government service
  - All have a Ph.D. in economics
  - Crowdsource slide decks
  - Give presentations
- Global Partners: 48 Ph.D. Economists
  - Aid in slide deck development



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#### **Available NEED Topics Include:**

- Coronavirus Economics The U.S. Economy
- Climate Change
- Economic Inequality
- Economic Mobility
- US Social Policy
- Trade and Globalization
- Minimum Wage

- Immigration Economics
- Housing Policy
- Federal Budgets
- Federal Debt
- Black-White Wealth Gap
- Autonomous Vehicles



### **Credits and Disclaimer**

- This slide deck was authored by:
  - Jon Haveman, NEED
- This slide deck was reviewed by:
  - Ronald Fisher, Michigan State University
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- Disclaimer
  - NEED presentations are designed to be nonpartisan.
  - It is, however, inevitable that the presenter will be asked for and will provide their own views.
  - Such views are those of the presenter and not necessarily those of the National Economic Education Delegation (NEED).



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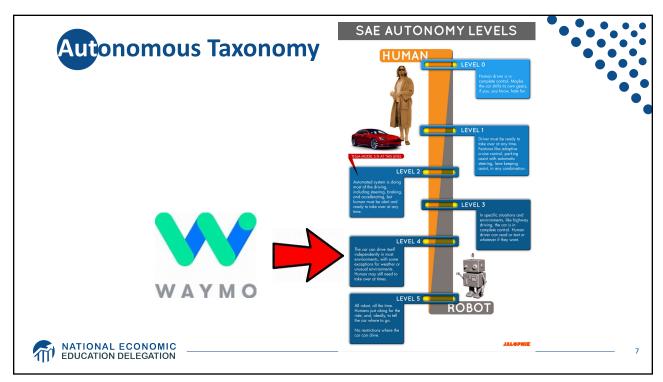
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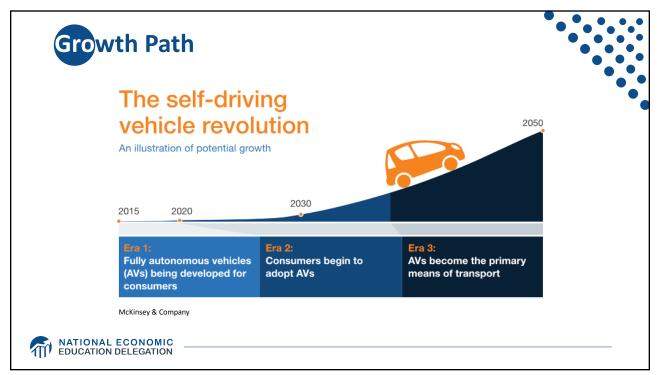


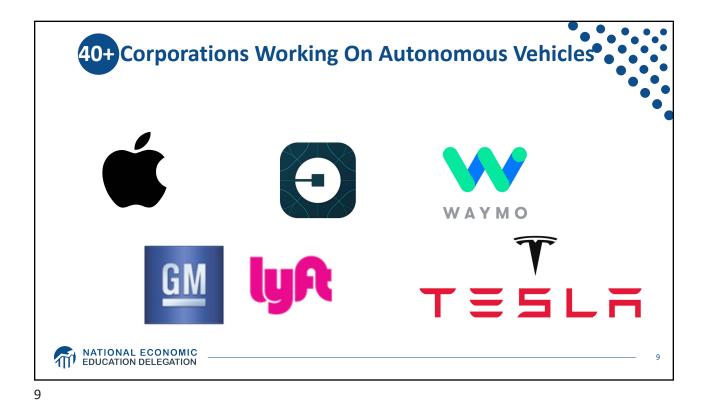


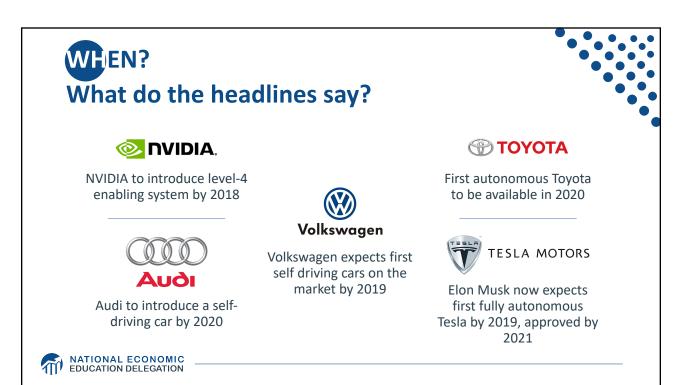
- Where does the AV path lead?
- Transition
- Policy/Planning Issues
- Major Economic/Development Changes













- By 2025 (?)
- Potentially 95% of VMT by 2035.
  - Last 5% may be very difficult to achieve.
- Is this possible?
  - Horses to cars: 10 years early 1900s
  - But adoption of EVs is so slow!
  - Adoption of AVs will be rapid.





## Waymo's self-driving cars are now available on Lyft's app in Phoenix



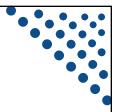
# Singapore's self-driving cars can now be hailed with a smartphone

NuTonomy joins forces with 'the Uber of Southeast Asia'

Cruise to offer free robo-taxi rides in S.F. for the public — without backup drivers



#### Trucking – Highly Fertile Ground

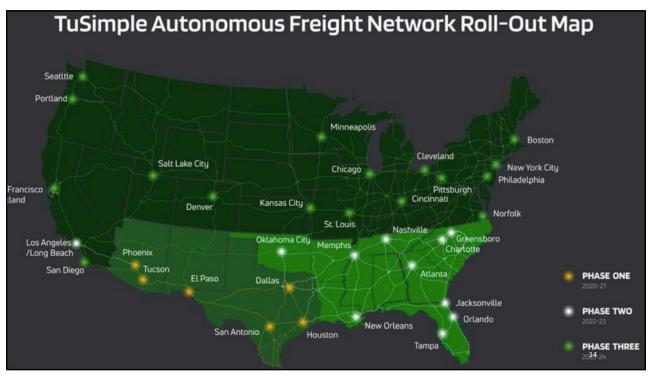


- Long haul trucking is likely the first place we will see it adopted.
  - Reduces costs associated with drivers.
  - End run around limits on hours of driving.
- Where does it stand?
  - Lots of trials underway.
  - TuSimple actively building a long haul network.
  - Waymo focused more on last mile/local delivery.



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### What will the future look like?



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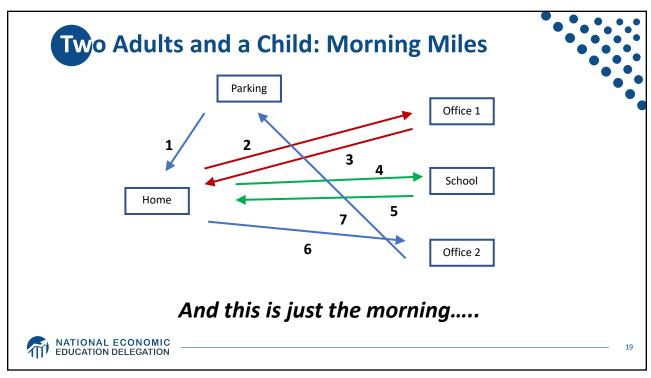




- Primarily individual private car ownership
  - Much as today.
- Internal combustion engines
- Why Hell?
  - Dramatically increased VMT and pollution.
  - Potentially increased congestion.
  - Parking











- Not only autonomous, but:
  - Shared
  - Connected
  - Green
- Far fewer cars in existence.
  - Better resource utilization.
- VMT could go up or down, but more productive than in Hell.
- Congestion effects unclear, but likely reduced.
  - Right-sized vehicles, platooning, sharing, V2V communication
- Minimal need for parking.



## **Economics Drives Transition: Private**



- Adoption dividend for private individuals
  - Eliminate car ownership
    - Ave annual cost of owning a car: \$9,561 (2020)
    - o Cost per mile will fall: \$0.59 to \$0.19

Average Costs Per Mile

- Repurpose your garage
  - \$50,000 from transition to bedroom

Miles per Year	10k	15k	20k
Average Cost	82¢	64¢	55¢

- Time recovery
  - 50% of the King County workforce has a commute in excess of 30 minutes.



#### **Economics Drives Transition: Public**

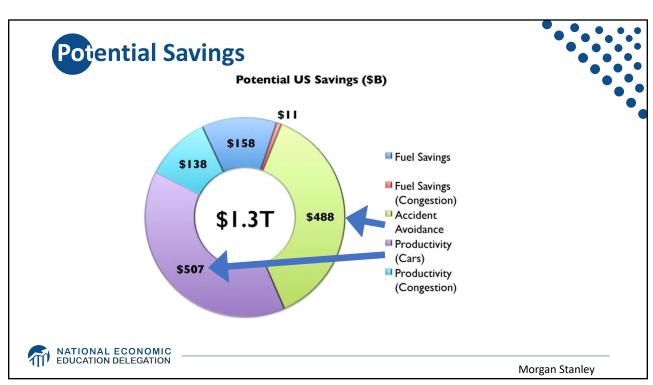
- Economic and social costs associated with human drivers are enormous:
  - ACCIDENTS:
    - o Drive 25% of congestion.
    - o Result in 40,000 deaths.
    - o And 2 million injuries.
    - o 90+% caused by human error.
  - Increased productivity from not driving.
  - Costs of human drivers estimated at up to \$1.3 TRillion each year







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#### **Enc**ourage Change



- Mobility and equity considerations
  - Elderly/disabled/impoverished
- Safety: only way to reduce traffic fatalities is by coordinated effort
- Productivity: reduced congestion
- Environment: speed transition to electric vehicles

These are all societal benefits that come about too slowly if the private market is left to itself.



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# **Environmental Implications Depends: Heaven or Hell**

- Improved resource utilization
- More efficient travel
  - Right sized vehicles
  - Optimized routes
  - Reduced congestion
  - No searching for parking
- Increased VMT

- Cleaner technologies
  - Electric
  - Lighter vehicles
- Energy use of onboard electronics
  - Weight and functional
- Increased urban sprawl

Bottom line: push governments at all levels to embrace and to implement policies deterring private vehicle ownership and zero passenger miles



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## What Changes Will This Bring?

- Disposable income
- Government finances
- Transportation demand
- Infrastructure

- Housing
- Public transportation
- Employment
- Parking

Potentially dramatic improvements in infrastructure planning and maintenance - Data sharing and integration



## **Public Transportation**





- Ambiguous implications for public transportation
- Demand may:
  - Shrink because of low cost of TaaS
  - Grow because last mile problem is solved
- Extensions may be added through contract with TaaS company



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#### **Em**ployment

- Massive job displacement/relocation (Millions!):
  - Drivers of all varieties: truck, taxi, delivery...
  - Car production jobs, car parts production jobs
  - Gas station, vehicle repair, and body
  - Police and fire
  - Health care workers
  - And so on...





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- Greatly reduced demand for parking lots.
- Service providers will own parking lots in strategic places.
- Street parking will largely be a thing of the past.
  - More green space in cities
- Shopping mall and apartment parking?
  - Converted to housing?





#### Freeing Up Urban Space from Parking

- Los Angeles: 14% of incorporated land area
  - 200 Square miles
- San Francisco: 275,450 on-street parking spaces
  - Enough to parallel-park a line of cars 60 miles longer than California's entire 840-mile coastline
- Nationwide: (estimate) 500 million spaces
  - That's larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined.
  - Could be as many as 2 billion (add in Connecticut and Vermont).



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#### Summary of Change

- Massive employment upheaval.
- Local government finances will look very different.
  Housing will be easier to build and more plentiful.
- Parking conversions will be commonplace.
- Demand for transportation infrastructure will likely decline.
  - Transportation infrastructure technology will be a booming business.
- Demand for public transportation may well decline.
- Coming likely sooner rather than later!



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#### **Potential Problems and Concerns**



- Expansion of the electric grid to provide sufficient capacity.
- Mining for rare earth minerals for batteries.
- Hacking of autonomous vehicles for nefarious purposes.
- Competition in service provision in some markets.
- And many more...



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- Parking lots/garages
- Transportation technology
- Certain residential properties
- Apartment complexes



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### **Any Questions?**



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