

Rotary Club of Watsonville, CA

Driving Change – Autonomous Vehicles’ Big Impact

National Economic Education Delegation

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September 1, 2021



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.



Who Are We?

- **Honorary Board: 54 members**

- 2 Fed Chairs: Janet Yellen, Ben Bernanke
- 6 Chairs Council of Economic Advisers
 - Furman (D), Rosen (R), Bernanke (R), Yellen (D), Tyson (D), Goolsbee (D)
- 3 Nobel Prize Winners
 - Akerlof, Smith, Maskin

- **Delegates: 600+ 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: 45 Ph.D. Economists**

- Aid in slide deck development



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Available NEED Topics Include:

- **Coronavirus Economics**
- **Climate Change**
- **Economic Inequality**
- **Economic Mobility**
- **US Social Policy**
- **Trade and Globalization**
- **Minimum Wage**
- **The U.S. Economy**
- **Immigration Economics**
- **Housing Policy**
- **Federal Budgets**
- **Federal Debt**
- **Black-White Wealth Gap**
- **Autonomous Vehicles**



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Credits and Disclaimer

- **This slide deck was authored by:**
 - Jon Haveman, NEED
- **This slide deck was reviewed by:**
 - Ronald Fisher, Michigan State University
 - William F. Fox, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- **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).



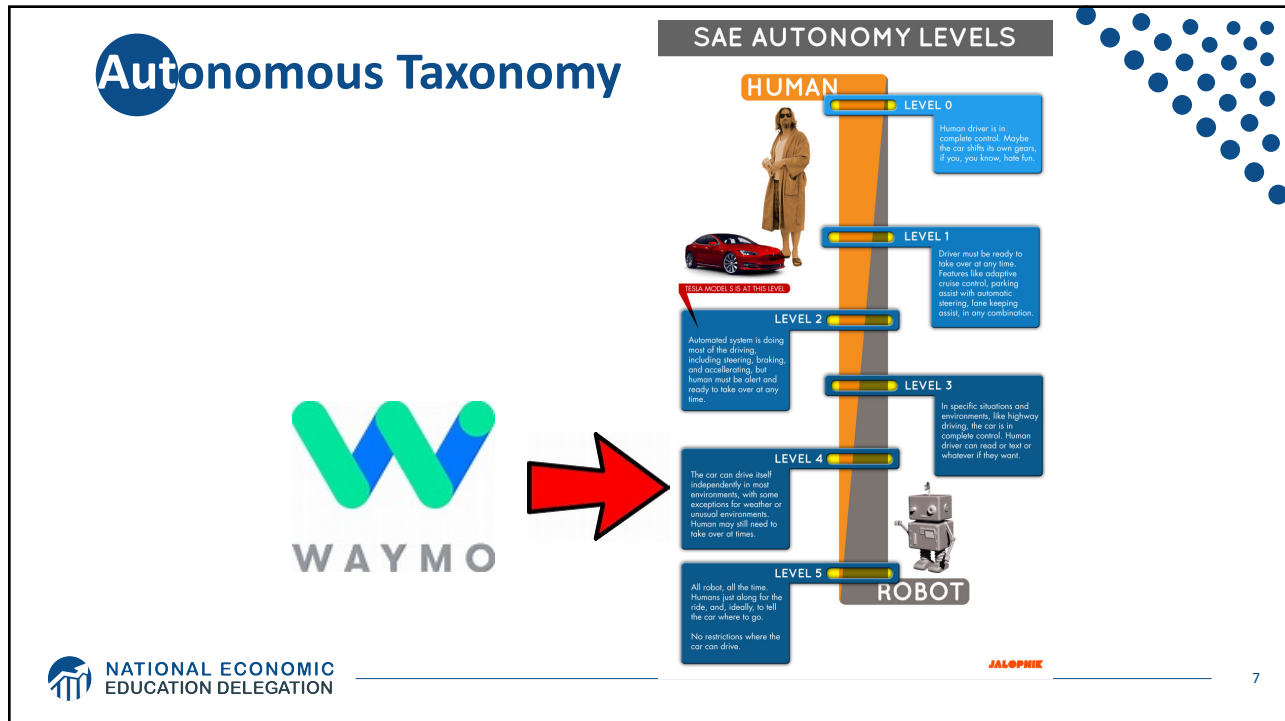
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Outline

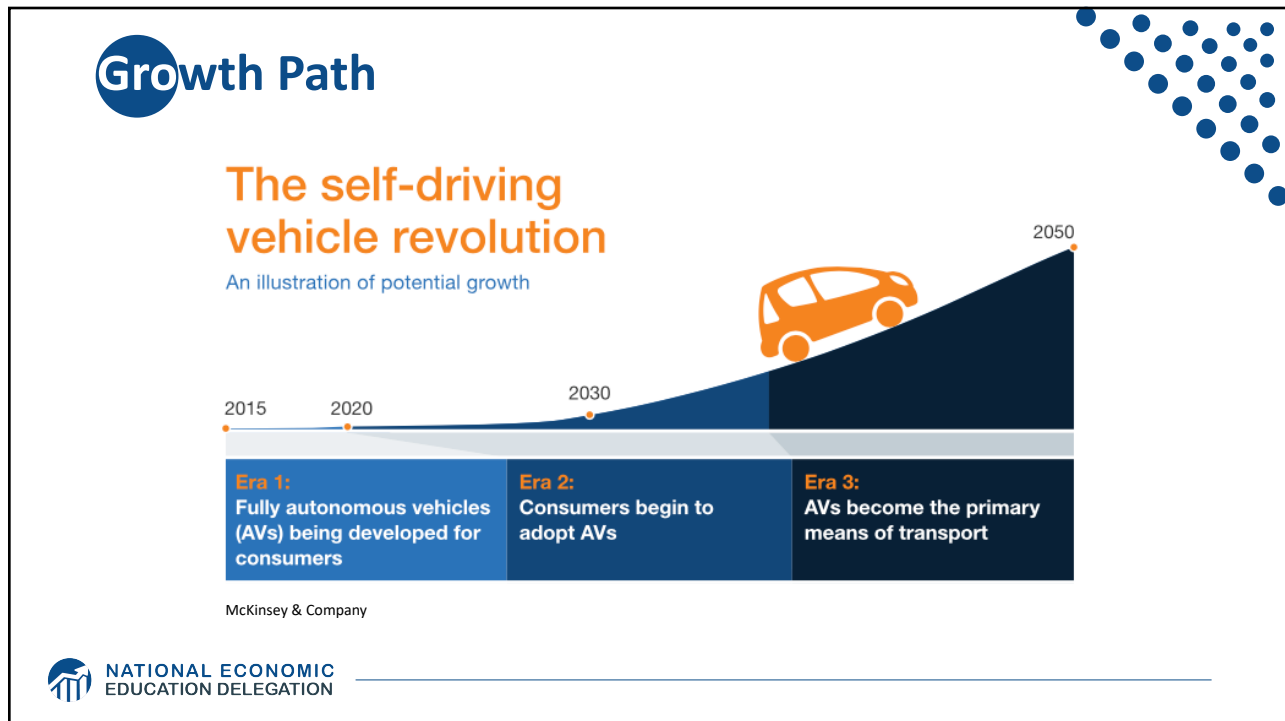
- **Where does the AV path lead?**
- **Transition**
- **Policy/Planning Issues**
- **Major Economic/Development Changes**



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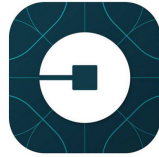


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40+ Corporations Working On Autonomous Vehicles



WAYMO



TESLA



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WHEN?

What is possible?

- **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.



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What will the future look like?



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This:



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But, will it be:



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Hell

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



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Two Adults and a Child: Morning Miles

And this is just the morning.....

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Heaven

- **Vehicle ownership will be very limited**
 - Private ownership for those with specialized vehicle needs.
 - Fleet ownership will serve everybody else.
- **Engines: electric**
- **Not clear when we will get there, but this is the likely model.**
 - 2030 for widespread adoption in many regions.

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Why is this Heaven?

- **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.**



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Economics Drives Transition: Private

- **Adoption dividend for private individuals**
 - Eliminate car ownership
 - Ave annual cost of owning a car: \$9,561 (2020)
 - Cost per mile will fall: \$0.59 to \$0.19
 - Repurpose your garage
 - \$50,000 from transition to bedroom
- **Time recovery**
 - 50% of the Bay Area workforce has a commute in excess of 30 minutes.



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Economics Drives Transition: Public

- **Economic and social costs associated with human drivers are enormous:**

- **ACCIDENTS:**
 - Drive 25% of congestion.
 - Result in 40,000 deaths.
 - And 2 million injuries.
 - 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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Encourage Change

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

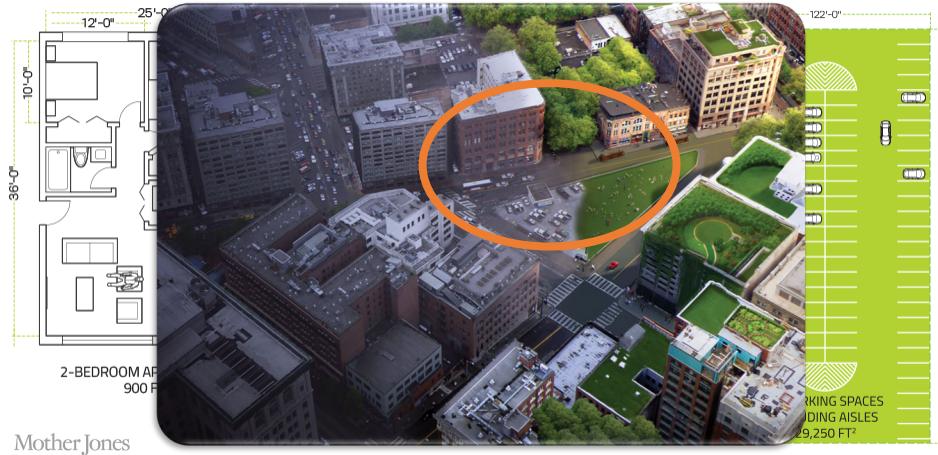
These are all societal benefits that come about too slowly
if the private market is left to itself.



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Environment



What Changes Will This Bring?

- Disposable income
- Government finances
- Transportation demand
- Infrastructure
- Public transportation
- Housing
- Employment
- Parking

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

Employment

- **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 shop
 - Police and fire
 - Health care workers
 - And so on...

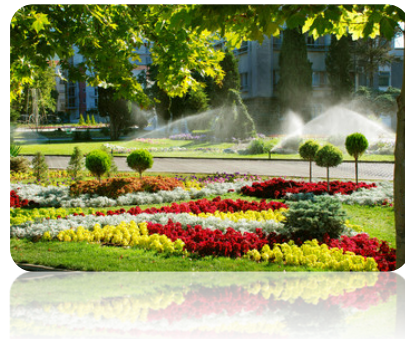


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Parking

- **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?



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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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Thank you!

Any Questions?

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