Impact of COVID-19 on Public Transit and Shared Mobility

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Presentation Overview

- COVID-19 Challenges/Opportunities
- Social Equity Considerations
- Public Transportation & Shared Mobility
- Trends & Possible Futures
- Navigating a New Normal
COVID-19 Crisis …

- Economic recession causing devastating impacts on employment & transportation
- Gas tax revenue reductions
  - VMT down: 39% in Detroit, 39% Miami, 44% in Los Angeles, 49% in Dallas, 52% Seattle
- Public transit operators reduce schedules, routes, and operating hours
- Many drivers getting more reckless
- Shared mobility companies redirecting service, closures, and layoffs
- Need to quickly address immediate job and transportation impacts & restore
Social Equity Considerations

• Critical to understand inter-relationships among job and food access, housing, public health, and mobility

• Need to ensure lack of mobility does not exacerbate poverty and homelessness

• Opportunities for public transit operators, cities, and private companies to advance mobility needs and strengthen economic resilience, particularly for most vulnerable populations
COVID-19 Opportunities…

- 6% drop in CO2 emissions predicted in 2020
- VMT and number of car crashes down
- Active transport policies:
  - Milan announces 22 miles of streets to be converted to pedestrian / bicycle space
  - Buenos Aires expanding active transportation infrastructure
- Opportunities for slow streets, telecommuting, shared mobility & public transit options
- Focus on policy, partnerships & people
- Create more equitable, innovative, sustainable & resilient transportation
Public Transit Impacts

• APTA forecasts reduction in farebox revenue of 75% over next 6 months

• Public transit reducing schedules, routes, operating hours; social distancing, free transit/suspended fares

• Some increasing off-peak/low-density service gaps (e.g., Miami Metrobus/Go Nightly)

• Public transit agencies eligible to receive $25B in emergency funding (CARES Act)
TRANSIT APP SURVEY

- Active public transit users skewed toward low-income households
- Food service & healthcare represent greatest percentage of travelers
- Very little mode shift for those still traveling (U.S. and Canada)
- Spanish speakers more likely to continue using public transit (i.e., Los Angeles)
Rebuilding Trust in Public Transportation

PUBLIC TRANSIT DECLINE
- Public transit likely slower to recover as travelers exercise social distancing & fear higher-occupancy modes
- More likely if COVID-19 has multiple waves (e.g., resurgence in infections, new viral strains)

PUBLIC TRANSIT RENAISSANCE
- Ridership increases due to economic hardship and restructured services
- Innovations and bold policy measures (e.g., free transit and subsidies, microtransit options)
Micromobility Impacts Varied

- In NYC, Citi Bike ridership increased 67% compared to March 2019
- Washington, D.C.’s CaBi expanding low-income access to $5 annual memberships
- Notable layoffs (e.g., Bird, Lime, Jump)
- In Mid-April, Lime suspends all service except South Korea
- Number of companies enhancing cleaning procedures (e.g., NanoSeptic handlebars)
Micromobility: Policy Response

Favorable Developments

- Free/discounted memberships/use for *small businesses and/or public* (Kansas City, Memphis)
- Free/discounted memberships for *essential workers* (Boston, Brookline, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Washington DC)
- Shared micromobility service workers deemed *essential* (Baltimore)
- Used for *restaurant deliveries* (Syracuse)

Unfavorable Developments

- *Ban/ceased operations* due to COVID-19 transmission concerns (Miami, Sacramento)
TNCs & Pooling

- Dramatic usage declines
- Partnerships for essential workers and medical appointments
- In mid-March, Lyft and Uber suspend pooled ride options due to COVID-19 transmission concerns
## Trends: Current and Possible Futures

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Macroeconomic Environment</th>
<th>Pandemic Response (6-24 Months)</th>
<th>Recovery (~2-3+ Years)</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
<th>Preparation</th>
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|                           | - Disruptions to supply chains and labor  
                           |                        | - Stronger recovery in public transit and shared mobility service sectors (e.g., TNCs)  
                           |                        | - Auto and mobility sectors increase use of automation in supply chains  
                           |                        | - Monitor infectious diseases |
| Consumer Behavior         | - Shifts away from higher occupancy modes; increases in deliveries and telecommuting  
                           | - Uncertain / depends on length/depth of pandemic and recession; policy levers  
                           | - Consumers continue social distancing and physical travel substitution  
                           | - Consumers prepared for future outbreaks (masks, gloves, social distancing, etc.) |
| Policy Environment        | - Economic stimulus  
                           | - Policies to reduce VMT/GHG emissions (e.g., telecommuting, HOVs, active transport)  
                           | - Transport sector implements practices to prevent infectious disease  
                           | - Transport sector implements practices to respond to infectious disease (e.g., increased cleaning, etc.) |
| Technology                | - Testing AVs for  
                           | - AV adoption delays  
                           | - Industry develops  
                           | - AVs ready for future |

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**Capacity Building**  
**Pre-impact**  
**Disaster Management Cycle**  
**Preparation**  
**Response**  
**Recovery**  
**Restoration**  
**Mitigation**  
**Remobilization**  
**Reconstruction**  
**Reinvestment**
Navigating A New Normal

• Turn crisis into opportunity
• Key role for public policy (e.g., public transit finance, telecommuting, micromobility)
• Focus on people’s needs central to response
• Maximize social & environmental benefits in transportation recovery, particularly social equity
• How can shared mobility help households that are no longer able to afford a personal vehicle?
• Understand impacts/opportunities for taxi /TNC drivers who have invested in
THANK YOU

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