

Good afternoon!

We're more than half way through TCLA! How are you feeling? Is there anything I can do for you to have an even better experience? Feel free to send me your suggestions.

Recap

- Our third session was all about **Better Transportation Through Technology**. The presentations focus on how new technologies , incentives and creative solutions emerge, how can we capitalize and make the best use of them.
- **Steve Bland**, the CEO of WeGo Public Transit and RTA talked about WeGO Public Transit and how they are working on modernizing their transit system. He mentioned the following:
 - WeGo's focus is on technology as a tool to solve problems, not just a shiny new toy.
 - The goals of WeGo's Technology projects are to
 - Make taking transit easier to use
 - Give customers better information in real time
 - Improve service reliability
 - Make better, more informed decisions
 - Some of WeGo's recent initiatives include fare collection upgrade, transit signal priority ,real time vehicle tracking and helping passengers plan their trips easily.
 - The fare collection system will have reloadable cards, mobile ticketing, online account management, new retail partners, support for credit/debitcards , will work on all services (bus, train,&Access paratransit), and will even interoperable with other modes (parking, TNC's, bikeshare, etc.) and institutions.
 - He also talked about the restriping down on Murfreesboro Pike and how they've installed lights that allow the bus to jump the queue.
 - WeGo is looking for Beta Testers for their fare collection system so if anyone is interested in doing that, please let me know.
- **George Gunter** from Vanderbilt University presented his research on Autonomous Vehicles and the potential impact and challenges they present. He also mentioned the following:
 - Autonomous vehicles are still cars and they won't fix the congestion problem after all if you're in traffic even if you're not the one driving.
 - Completely autonomous vehicles are still pretty far off and require a lot more work. (He went over this in the 6 levels of automation slide).
 - A level 2 or even 3 of automation exists but it is simply partial automation or conditional automation. There still needs a lot more work to be done.
 - George does see some promise for truck fleet on the interstate because the elements are a bit more controlled. are becoming a lot more popular, but there is still some room for growth.
 - CAVs at moderate penetration rates can help smooth flow – experimentally demonstrated.
 - Current autonomous vehicle systems have widely varying qualities, from a traffic perspective.
- **Stanton Higgs** from the [TMA Group](#) talked about what they do. He particularly talked about Franklin Transit, the [vanpool service](#) called Van Star they have and the [cmuter program](#) they have more recently been working on. I
- **Mark Cleveland**, the Co-founder and CEO of [Hytch Rewards](#) talked about his company and the incentives employers use to for changing behavior. I recommend downloading the app since we will be testing it out on our excursion to Mt. Juliet on November 13th.
- All presentations are posted on our [TCLA portal](#).

Session 4 Teaser

- Our fourth class is this upcoming Wednesday, November 6th and the theme for the session is [Growth and Transit in Middle TN](#). We will explore the region's economic outlook and ways we

can sustain growth while enriching our quality of life. We will start off with a panel and then end with two presentations.

- The Panelist are:
 - Ralph Schilz, President and CEO of the [Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce](#)
 - Ken Moore, Mayor of [Franklin](#)
 - Howard Bradley, VP of Business Development for [F&M Bank](#) and Former Mayor of Robertson County

- The Presenters are:
 - Michelle Lacewell, Deputy Director of the Greater Nashville Regional Council (MPO) who will be talking about the importance of regional planning on the conversation of growth and transit in the Middle TN region.
 - Eric Hoke, Design Director of the Nashville Civic Design Center will be talking on the important livability piece.

Things to remember

- Please make sure to arrive on time so we can begin promptly at 4pm