

Wrap-up My Takeaways

Lily Elefteriadou, Ph.D.

Director, UFTI

Professor of Civil Engineering

1. Financial issues and ridership decline

- Experiencing the triple threat: COVID-19, economy, equity and racial justice
- COVID-19 has accelerated the changes in transit that were already underway
- Very important to stabilize transit financially, otherwise the existing systems will be irrevocably broken
- Transit should be financed by multiple diverse revenue streams
- The public generally supports funding for transit

2. Inequality and racial injustice

- We must distinguish between equality (sameness) vs. equity (fairness)
- Transit provides a critical public service
- Communities can be strengthened through transit, which provides access to jobs, healthcare, and other essential activities
- We should shift the transit performance measurement framework from mobility to access

3. Interconnections of transit with other issues

- There are complex and interactive relationships between transit and housing
- Vehicle-related policies (for example, taxi, parking) significantly affect transit; we should consider these simultaneously
- Availability of data, sensors, open source software, etc., can facilitate decision-making for transit
- Other issues that affect transit include the rapid development of advanced technologies, electrification, shared mobility, micromobility

4. Uncertainty for the future

- COVID-19
- Economy implications
- Shared mobility and other advanced transportation technology solutions
- Future of telework and demand trends
- New administration and new federal policies and funding
- Chicago's scenario planning examines alternative futures

My Recommendations

- Change the **performance measures** used by transit systems to evaluate access
- Change the planning process to **engage communities** from the initial stages in transit planning
- Transit agencies should explore **funding diversification**, particularly from local businesses
- **Collaborations (and alignment) across agencies and sectors** is essential for public transportation, which need to consider other policies (vehicles, housing)
- **Pilot studies** are crucial for evaluating solutions, real-world situations are very complex (for example, urban vs. rural issues, access vs. mobility solutions)
- **Scenario planning** can help agencies strategize based on alternative futures

Closing

- Please fill out the survey
- Thank you for your attendance