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Comments after 1st meeting of Study Advisory Committee

In a two-hour meeting with a lot of material and many participants, there's never enough time to share all one's thoughts. Here are a few things that I hope can be considered as the study progresses.

Overall Objectives

Thinking about the kinds of learnings or outcomes will make this a successful study, it seems to me that:

- A) We don't really need to study what we should build now. Our existing TSPs, some due to be updated in the next year or two, already tell us that.
- B) A long-range study can help inform us about what we should be preparing for in the future. This would put the focus on trends and long-term policy objectives, not individual projects, though there's always room to consider projects that define stretch goals.

Study Suggestions

In order to get a good read on what's coming at us, and what we want to do to take best advantage of opportunities ahead of us, the study could:

- Focus on "vision" ideas and concerns, ask as many people as possible for their vision
- Study and identify trends (driverless cars, smart roads, ride sharing, on-demand vehicles, circulators such as Grovelink and streetcar)
- Consider informed projections and predictions from transportation trend researchers
- Search for ideas and implementations elsewhere (including outside the USA)
- Consider how different cities in the county may develop and react differently

Example Questions

Far from exhaustive, here are a few questions that come to mind as I consider how to get a handle on the 40-50 year timeframe of the study:

- Do we believe a greater percentage of an increasingly diverse population will embrace and insist on walking?
- Do we believe a greater percentage will need and insist on more comprehensive transit service?
- Fifty years from now, will all arterials and collectors have a sidewalk and some kind of bikeway?
- Do we believe "traffic" growth will be linear, and proportional to population growth?

- What average speeds will be acceptable 50 years from now?
- What percentage of people will be able to afford a private vehicle 50 years from now?
- How can we keep transportation from killing people?
- How can we make the transportation system enjoyable?
- How will continuing city evolution affect choices about commute lengths and means?
- If new technologies make individual vehicles “smarter”, can overall traffic system efficiency increase to the point where wider roads and larger intersections are not needed?
- Nothing in today’s TSPs has to remain in future TSPs!