**Grantee:** Northwestern University  
**Center Name:** Tier I University Transportation Center on Telemobility  
**Research Priority:** Improving Mobility of People and Goods  
**Research Project Funding:** $175,000  
**Project End Date:** March 31, 2022

**Project Description:** The *Future of Work Scenario Planning Workshop* will engage experts in transportation, major employers, and real estate and development companies in June 2021. The experts (n=30 to 40) will define a key focal issue around the future of work in response to COVID-19 recovery and the corresponding timeline for the scenarios (e.g., 1 to 3 years, 4 to 6 years). The workshop will identify key driving forces including critical uncertainties, develop plausible scenario worlds, and identify key policy strategies and research recommendations to maximize social and environmental outcomes. University Transportation Center (UTC) researchers will integrate key findings from the Telemobility UTC longitudinal panel survey, which documents work-from-home/telework activities of respondents and their preferences for the future of work in COVID-19 recovery. The workshop will also inform future UTC respondent surveys on work-from-home/telework. The workshop will focus on employers and real estate/development company responses to COVID-19 recovery based on key driving forces, such as state of the virus/vaccine (public health and safety), employee preferences, and economic factors (productivity and revenue). Experts will examine potential impacts on transportation modes such as public transit, shared mobility, and auto ownership/use. The scenarios will also inform regional modeling efforts and policy strategies to maximize the public good.

**Outputs:** Key outputs from the *Future of Work Scenario Planning Workshop* include: 1) development of a focal question and timeline for the scenario planning workshop, 2) identification of key driving forces on work-from-home/telework activities in COVID-19 recovery response, 3) scenarios worlds and descriptions, 4) policy strategies in response to the scenario worlds, and 5) research recommendations. Other outputs could include: 1) key questions to be answered by future UTC surveys and 2) scenario inputs into the regional UTC modeling efforts.

**Outcomes/Impacts:** This research will help to define possible scenario worlds, impacts on transportation modes/services and travel (including travel substitution); policy strategies to maximize the social and environmental good (e.g., public transit response to changes in commute travel); and future research recommendations. The scenario workshop will also inform future UTC surveys and regional scenario-based modeling efforts. Scenario planning efforts can help to prepare key stakeholders for how to respond to maximize the public good, if a scenario world begins to unfold (e.g., how to direct public transit resources, if commuter ridership takes longer to recover or does not return due to work-from-home/telework policies).