

SUMMARY

As the new age of technology dawns, the question is not whether digital and automation platforms and applications will transform the transportation supply chain—but when. While many technologies are still in development or have yet to find commercially viable applications, others are already altering traditional business models, and there is evidence that this seismic shift will continue. Amazon already employs 80,000 robots. Alphabet Inc.'s automated vehicle company, Waymo, already has five times the market capitalization of Chrysler and is testing fully automated vehicles.

The 2018 Fall Member Forum helped members grasp the implications of emerging technologies that extend across the entire economic, political and social ecosystem. These technologies have the potential to generate exponential changes that could have a ripple effect throughout our cultural and personal lives. They will affect who works and where they work. They will also affect assumptions about the role of governments.

Recognizing this, it's time to challenge some of our assumptions and start asking different and difficult questions that will move us toward the significant adaptations necessary to succeed in a digitally-driven economy.

- What are the enterprise-level implications of these emerging technologies?
- How can our governments safeguard public safety and privacy while facilitating prosperity in this new digital economy?
- How can we support labour in the transition to more automated production and logistics processes?

How and when the changes prompted by emerging technologies will occur is still under debate and brings significant uncertainty. Most applications of new technologies have barely begun, so a clear picture of their end results is nowhere in sight. Preparation for what is beginning to unfold must begin with the acceptance that even if change is uncomfortable, it's inevitable. To ensure continued success within this new status quo, it's imperative to question, challenge, learn and engage in discussions that will help shape the implementation of technology within the transportation sector.



Members participate in the Leaders Council.