

# January 2019 Executive Committee Rural Wellbeing Policy Session

## Social Well Being Breakout Report

January 17, 2019

# Key Themes

- **Well being** = Healthy, happy (content), and prosperous; propelling individuals and groups into an optimal steady state
- Many of same problems in cities and rural areas—just more spread out in rural areas (spatial dimension)
- Key issues affecting social well being:
  - Physical health and mental state;
  - Access to services, goods, quality food, education, social interactions; and
  - Economic development/opportunities
- Focus must be on *people* to address rural well being (young to old)
- Potential strategies can range from *people* to *tech* to *policy/funding*

# Potential Actions



- *People Strategies*: Volunteer ride-service options
- *Tech Strategies*:
  - “Dial-A-Doc” vs. need for medical touch
  - Access to goods from Amazon; barriers to adoption (e.g., Internet access); impacts on brick and mortar options in or nearby community
  - Barriers and opportunities for tech (e.g., limited broadband, drone/truck deliveries, trucking damage due to gravel roads)
- *Policy Strategies*: Options for pooled vs. siloed funding for rural transport across seven federal agencies; BCA to understand conditions/criteria when to no longer invest in specific locations (e.g., resilience)