

MEMORANDUM



TO: MAYOR FISCHER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: DANIELLE MAHONEY, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: MARCH 3 FUTURIST WORKSHOP – WHAT TO EXPECT
DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2025

As part of the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee's efforts to shape Novi's future, we have scheduled a Futurist Workshop on March 3. This session will be facilitated by professional futurist Rebecca Ryan and is designed to help us explore long-term trends, uncertainties, and potential scenarios that may impact Novi by 2050.

What to Expect

The workshop will be interactive and engaging, encouraging strategic thinking about the forces shaping our community. Below is a condensed (working draft) overview of the session:

1. **Welcome & Introduction (15 min)**
 - Icebreaker: Reflection on history vs. future-focused thinking.
 - Participants share their name, role, and a personal experience that inspired their civic involvement.
2. **Understanding Cognitive Bias (22 min)**
 - Introduction to "Fast" and "Slow" Thinking and how biases shape decision-making.
 - Small groups identify a cognitive bias, create a bumper sticker to represent it, and discuss how to manage it.
 - Groups present their findings to the larger team.
3. **The Big Sort Strategic Foresight Game (90 min)**
 - Teams analyze and rank emerging trends based on their potential impact and Novi's readiness.
 - The Twist is introduced near the end to challenge assumptions.
 - Results are displayed visually, assessing whether the city is more "Ready" or "Not Ready" for future trends.
4. **Debrief & Next Steps (20 min)**
 - Reflection on key takeaways and how findings inform long-term strategic planning.
 - Participants complete debrief questions and discuss next steps for Novi 2050.

This workshop will challenge traditional thinking, help identify blind spots, and foster a future-ready mindset as the City plans for long-term success.

The following resources are enclosed:

- NEXT Generation Consulting/[Rebecca Ryan bio](#)
- Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, & Political (STEEP) Trend Cards
- Council Agenda