The New Growth Innovation Network (NGIN) is a network of leading economic development practitioners dedicated to inventing the tools, products, and enterprises that will drive a more inclusive, prosperous economy. Members of the NGIN network particularly value connecting with other high-level experts to explore leading-edge challenges and undertake practice innovations to address them. One way to do this is through “Solutions Workshops,” which assemble 10-15 experts to develop solutions to a clearly defined challenge – leading to the creation of a new product or tool. They are high level, focused, interactive working sessions that aim to organically form and progress ideas.

Solutions Workshops have arisen across a wide range of innovation opportunity areas:

- **Inclusive Transportation.** As the geography of the economy is changing, inclusive access to growing job centers can be a challenge, while at the same time new autonomous, shared and other mobility technologies are becoming available that create inclusion opportunities. This group explores new multi-modal transportation solutions that align with next-economy growth, particularly that address the “first mile/last mile” problem.

- **Urban-Rural Economic Development.** The connections and synergies between urban and rural development are increasing, but changing – creating both challenges and new opportunities for inclusive growth. This group identifies which rural archetypes present the best opportunities, explores tailored models for linked urban-rural economic development, and focuses on new tools/processes to best identify the assets and industries that synergistically connect and grow urban and rural economies.

- **Inclusive Clean Economy.** As new opportunities emerge in the clean economy, we default to traditionally used networks and funding structures to grow both companies and supply chains. In a sector that already lacks racial diversity, how can we address inclusion barriers and move forward to develop different models for driving inclusive growth?

- **New – and Bigger – Roles for Universities in Inclusive Economic Development.** Leading universities are dramatically reconceiving their potential roles in economic development – well beyond traditional educational, research and policy activities; and local anchor institution work. Beginning with innovation districts, but now thinking much bigger, this group of university leaders and their economic development partners is thinking through new frameworks, approaches and tools for universities to create and execute unique and far-reaching economic development strategies.

- **Tech-Driven Growth.** The platform economy is defined as “any type of digital platform that uses the internet to connect dispersed networks of individuals to facilitate digital interactions between people” – connecting demand (the customer) to supply (the worker). While platforms have opened up market access, they have not as successfully supported minority entrepreneurs’ access and success in high-growth sectors. This Solutions Workshop explores this question.