



Eighth Annual Conference

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

AVs, Public Transit and Movement of People

January 28-29, 2026 | Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel, San Francisco

Hosted by:

AVAMERICA
NEWS, ANALYSIS & PERSPECTIVE ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Supported by:

Global **Mass Transit**

BACKGROUND

AV America and **Global Mass Transit** are organizing the **eighth edition** of the **conference on Autonomous Vehicles and Public Transport** on **January 28-29, 2026** in the **San Francisco Bay Area**.

The previous edition, held on Jan 28-29 at South San Francisco Conference Center, was very successful and attended by 145 participants from 75 organizations. Participating organizations included: Access Services | AC Transit | ADASTEC | AECOM | Amalgamated Transit Union | Automated. Connected. Electric. Shared. (ACES) Mobility Coalition | Beep | Bessac | Blue Sysyems | BOUYGUES Travaux Publics | California Public Utilities Commission | California DMV | CALSTART | Caltrans | Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) | Carnegie Mellon University | Coast Mountain Bus Company | Community Transit | Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) | DAMERA Corp. | Denver RTD | Excellence in Innovation | EXP | Five Star Fabricating | Fremmot-Radical Innovation, Ruter AS | Glydways | GPR | Guident | Holland & Knight | HOLON | Imagry | Itochu | Iwasaki Consulting Services | Jacksonville Transportation Authority | Karsan Automotive | L-Charge | Lea+Elliot | Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe (LVB) GmbH | Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) | May Mobility | Methodica Technologies | Metropolitan Transportation Commission | Mitsubishi Corporation | National Renewable Energy Laboratory/Automated Mobility Services | Next Generation Mobility | NTT docomo | Ohmio | Oxford Technical Solutions | Passengera | Phoenix Motor Inc | Q'Straint | Reason Foundation | RideCo | Sam Schwartz | San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) | San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) | San Francisco County Transportation Authority | Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority | San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency | SENER | Soltare- ihear | Synop | Terranet AB | The PLUM Catalyst and goMARTI | The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey | Tier IV North America | Transdev | Transit Workforce Center | TransLink | Tri Delta Transit | TYLin | University of Iowa | Waymo | WSP | Etc.

The conference will bring together experts from the transit agencies; federal, state, and local governments; metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs); transit operators; AV manufacturers, vehicle technology system suppliers, developers and integrators; bus manufacturers; R&D institutes; academic institutions; and not-for-profits to discuss developments and issues in policy, planning, funding, technology, market development, testing, and deployment of AVs.

Mission

The mission of the 2026 edition AV America and Global Mass Transit are organizing the **eighth edition** of the **conference on Autonomous Vehicles and Public Transport** on **January 28-29, 2026** in **Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel, San Francisco**.

The conference, now in its eighth edition, is continuing its role as the leading executive forum for the integration of autonomy into transit systems. What began as a forward-looking dialogue on future mobility has evolved into a strategic platform for cities, transit agencies, and industry leaders to move from pilots to scalable deployment.

The mission of the 2026 edition is to discuss recent developments, emerging trends, progress in the deployment of autonomous vehicles for public transit, policy framework, best practices to integrate AVs and public transport, potential use cases of AVs in public transport, strategies for the deployment of AVs to support transit operations, infrastructure required to deploy AVs, and labor force transformation. The conference will showcase case studies, pilot projects, and new and existing technologies for AVs.

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Key topics to be discussed

- Policies, guidelines, and regulations driving the development of AVs
- AVs in public transit and the future of mobility
- AVs for shared mobility, first and last-mile connectivity and robotaxis
- Role of transit agencies/operators in the connected autonomous mobility future
- Lessons from early deployments of autonomous shuttles and buses
- Use cases for shared AV services
- Challenges in scaling AV public transit projects
- Transit agency activities for labor force transformation
- Building capacity in USA: Buy American rule and constraints
- Technology developments
- Barriers to Level 4 and Level 5 automation
- Role of insurance
- Digital infrastructure requirements for AVs
- Sensor technology, AI, and machine learning powering AVs
- Fleet management for autonomous shuttles and fixed-route AVs
- Automating bus yards (ABY)
- AVs and Mobility-on-Demand
- Automated commercial vehicles and lessons for public transit
- Automated vehicle data principles and framework
- AVs at airports
- Structuring P3s for AV deployment in transit

Key benefits for participants

- Understand the key concepts of emerging mobility options and evolving consumer behaviour.
- Gain insight about regulatory plans and guidance regarding AVs.
- Interact with experts to discuss the issues in AV procurement and deployment.
- Learn from case studies and share best practices.
- Increase engagement in new technologies and gain leadership.
- Explore new partnerships to reduce risk in testing of new technologies.
- Network with and learn from peers.
- Discuss concerns, share viewpoints and develop new strategies.

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Day 1: (8 am to 4:30 pm PT)

Session 1: Opening Keynote Session on AVs, Public Transit and Movement of People / The State of Autonomous Transit in 2026

- AVs in public transit and the future of mobility
- Barriers to Level 4 and Level 5 automation
- Regulatory hurdles, recommendations
- Ensuring industry stability

Session 2: Legislative and Regulatory Landscape - Shaping the Deployment of AVs

- Transit Bus Automation Market Assessment Report
- FTA funding for automated vehicle test activities by transit agencies
- State-level policies and programs for AVs
- Creation of AV Safety Standards
- Safety validation, testing protocols, and compliance frameworks
- Insurance and liability for commercial deployment

Session 3: Keynote Panel Discussion - Transit Agency/Operator Perspective

- Role of transit agencies/operators in the connected autonomous mobility future
- Experience so far, challenges, lessons learned
- Planning and designing autonomous mobility services and integrating them into public transit networks
- Workforce transition and development

Session 4: Technology Showcase

- Vehicles, shuttles
- AI, deep learning, ADAS
- LiDAR, RADAR, cameras, sensors, INS
- Cloud computing for AVs
- Charging of autonomous buses
- Autonomous driving software stacks and sensing
- Etc.

Session 5: Case Studies and New Initiatives

- Use cases for shared AV services including automated BRT, transit buses, shuttles for first/last-mile, paratransit and circulator services
- New initiatives and future plans of transit agencies
- Automating bus yards: funding, benefits, applications and progress so far
- Challenges and successes

Session 6: AI, Autonomy and the Future Transit Workforce

- Role of trained operators with increasing AV technology in buses
- Transit agency activities for labor force transformation
- Workforce training needs
- Resources required

Session 7: Automaker Perspective - Building Capacity in USA

- Building capacity in USA
- Buy American rules, constraints and waivers
- New technology developments
- Market outlook

Session 8: Insurance Perspective

- Role of insurance
- Key risks
- Risk mitigation strategies
- Insurance option

Session 9: Digital Infrastructure Requirements

- Digital infrastructure requirements for AVs
- Communication networks, traffic control devices, roads and digital HD maps
- Adoption of V2I and V2V digital infrastructure
- Edge AI, V2X, 5G/6G readiness
- Digital twins for modeling AV operations

Note: This conference program provides a preliminary outline with draft agenda topics. Please note that session timings and topics are subject to change as we approach the conference date. Your input and thoughts on the agenda are warmly welcomed.

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Day 2: (8 am to 2 pm PT)

Session 10: Scaling AV Public Transport – Lessons from US & Global Leaders

- Operational, institutional, and financial changes when AVs transition from demo projects to core transit service
- User behaviour and communication strategies
- Real-world models that have successfully enabled scaling
- Lessons from leading deployments in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East

Session 11: AVs and On-Demand Mobility

- AVs for shared mobility, first and last-mile connectivity, autonomous shuttles and robotaxis
- Software and hardware requirements to enable AMoD
- Integration with current transport offerings, role of transport authorities/operators
- MOD Sandbox Program

Session 12: Robotaxis and Public Transport

- Role of robotaxis in public transport
- Renewed focus on robotaxis by automotive companies
- Use cases

Session 13: Data and Automated Vehicles

- Automated vehicle data principles and framework
- Voluntary data exchange use cases
- Data protection and privacy
- Developing a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy

Session 14: Automated Commercial Vehicles and Lessons for Public Transit

- Technology advancements
- Automated shared ride passenger vans and SUVs
- Automated pods
- Driverless trucks

Session 15: Airport Use Cases

- Different AV roles – passenger shuttle, crew transport, baggage/cargo towing, perimeter patrol, apron logistics, last-mile connectivity
- Safety, security and operational certification
- Business and deployment models
- Scaling lessons from early deployments

Lunch and Close of the Conference

Note: This conference program provides a preliminary outline with draft agenda topics. Please note that session timings and topics are subject to change as we approach the conference date. Your input and thoughts on the agenda are warmly welcomed.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The event is targeted at executives, managers and decision-makers from:

- Transit agencies
- Transit operators
- Federal, state and local governments
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Vehicle technology system suppliers, developers and integrators
- Bus, shuttle and AV vehicle manufacturers
- Equipment suppliers
- Communication and connectivity providers
- EV charging companies
- Data architecture and IT system firms
- Industry consultants
- Legal advisors
- Research and development organisations
- Technical institutes
- Not-for-Profits

Here is a sample list of participants who attended the previous edition of Autonomous Vehicles and Public Transport in 2025:

- Director of Information Technology, **Access Services**
- CIO/CTO, Department of Innovation and Technology, **AC Transit**
- CEO, **ADASTEC Corporation**
- AVP Automation and Data Systems, **AECOM**
- Associate General Counsel, **Amalgamated Transit Union**
- Executive Director, **Automated. Connected. Electric. Shared. (ACES) Mobility Coalition**
- Marketing Manager, **Beep**
- Engineer, **Bessac**
- Head of Growth, North America, **Blue Systems**
- Project Manager, **BOUYGUES Travaux Publics**
- Deputy Executive Director- Consumer Policy, Transportation, and Enforcement, **California Public Utilities Commission**
- Chief, Autonomous Vehicles Branch, **California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)**
- Project Manager, **CALSTART**
- Division Chief of Traffic Operations, **Caltrans**
- Assistant Professor, **Carnegie Mellon University**
- Manager, Bus Services, **Coast Mountain Bus Company**
- Chief Operating Officer, **Community Transit**
- CEO & Founder, **Connected Signals**
- Mayor, Town of Danville and Chair, **Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA)**
- General Manager, **County Connection**
- Vehicle Engineering Manager, **Denver RTD**
- CEO/ Founder, **Excellence in Innovation**
- Senior Program Manager, **EXP**
- Business Development, **Five Star Fabricating**
- Head of Safety and Operations, Fremmot-Radical Innovation, **Ruter AS**
- SVP, Head of Government Affairs, **Glydways**
- Senior Director of Business Development, **GPR**
- VP Global Business Development & Sales, **Guident**
- Senior Policy Advisor, **Holland & Knight**
- General Manager, **HOLON**
- Marketing Director, **Imagry**
- President & CEO, **Iwasaki Consulting Services**
- CEO, **Jacksonville Transportation Authority**
- Chief Commercial Officer, **Karsan Automotive**
- Senior Associate, **Lea + Elliott**
- Technology Advisor Automated Driving & Project Manager, **Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe (LVB) GmbH**
- Commercial Rideshare and Mobility Administrator, **Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT)**
- Senior Business Development Manager, **May Mobility**
- CEO, **Methodica Technologies**
- Transportation Engineer/Project Manager, **Metropolitan Transportation Commission**
- Ondemand Solution Team, Next Generation Mobility Business Department, **Mitsubishi Corporation**
- Consultant / Principal, **National Renewable Energy Laboratory / Automated Mobility Services**
- Executive Director, **Next Generation Mobility**
- Manager, **NTT docomo**
- Marketing Executive, **Oxford Technical Solutions**
- CEO, **Passengera**
- Western Regional Manager, **Q'Straint**
- Senior Transportation Policy Analyst, **Reason Foundation**
- Regional Director, **RideCo**
- Principal, New Mobility Practice Leader, **Sam Schwartz**
- Director of Transit and Rail Programs, **San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA)**
- District Architect, **San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)**
- Executive Director, **San Francisco County Transportation Authority**
- Senior Manager, Automated Driving Policy, **San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency**
- Technical Project Manager, **Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority**
- Chief Technical Engineer, **SENER**
- President, **Soltare- ihear**
- Director of Sales, **Synop**
- Chief Commercial Officer, **Terranet AB**
- President & Chief Catalyst and Project Manager, **The PLUM Catalyst and goMARTI**
- Program Director Innovation, **The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey**
- CFO/US Growth Strategy, **Tier IV North America**
- Head of Strategy and Innovation - Autonomous Division, **Transdev**
- Senior Workforce Development Advisor, **Transit Workforce Center**
- Senior Manager, Innovation Management & New Mobility, **TransLink**
- CEO, **Tri Delta Transit**
- Vice President + Sustainability Lead, **TYLin**
- Deputy Director, **Driving Safety Research Institute, University of Iowa**
- Head of Sustainability & Environment, **Waymo**
- Assistant Vice President, Sustainable Fleets, **WSP**
- Etc.

SPONSORSHIP (limited and available on a first-come-first-served basis)

The conference will provide an excellent opportunity for organisations to showcase their products and services.

Option 1 – USD 5,500

- A 15-minute speaking slot followed by Q&A with the attendees
- Table space at the venue
- Company logo will be displayed on the event website and the registration page
- Company logo will be displayed in the opening and closing slides
- Special mailer to our database announcing your participation
- Sponsor company and logo mentioned in each promotional mailer
- Mentions in social media posts including a post on the speaker from your company
- Mention in opening and closing remarks
- 2 delegate registrations (excluding the speaker)

- Special mailer to our database announcing your participation
- Sponsor company and logo mentioned in each promotional mailer
- Mentions in social media posts including a post on the speaker from your company
- Mention in opening and closing remarks
- 5 delegate registrations (excluding the speaker)

Coffee sponsor – USD 4,000

- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Social media posts
- 1 delegate registration

Option 2 - USD 10,000

- A 15-minute speaking slot followed by Q&A with the attendees
- Moderating a panel discussion
- Table space at the venue
- Company logo will be displayed on the event website and the registration page
- Company logo will be displayed in the opening and closing slides

Lanyard sponsor – USD 6,000

- Named lanyard sponsor
- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Social media posts
- 2 delegate registrations

PARTICIPANTS

The last edition of the conference on Autonomous Vehicles and Public Transport was held at the South San Francisco Conference Center. AV experts representing nearly 75 organizations and states including Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington, D.C. attended the event. The participating organizations included: Access Services | AC Transit | ADASTEC | AECOM | Amalgamated Transit Union | Automated. Connected. Electric. Shared. (ACES) Mobility Coalition | Beep | Bessac | Blue Sysyems | BOUYGUES Travaux Publics | California Public Utilities Commission | California DMV | CALSTART | Caltrans | Carnegie Mellon University | Coast Mountain Bus Company | Community Transit | Connected Signals | Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) | Denver RTD | Excellence in Innovation | EXP | Federal Transit Administration, USDOT | Five Star Fabricating | Fremmot- Radical Innovation, Ruter AS | Glydways | GPR | Guident | Holland & Knight | HOLON | Imagry | Iwasaki Consulting Services | Jacksonville Transportation Authority | Karsan Automotive | Lea+Elliot | Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe (LVB) GmbH | Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) | May Mobility | Methodica Technologies | Metropolitan Transportation Commission | Mitsubishi Corporation | National Renewable Energy Laboratory/Automated Mobility Services | Next Generation Mobility | NTT docomo | Oxford Technical Solutions | Passengera | Q'Straint | Reason Foundation | RideCo | Sam Schwartz | San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) | San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) | San Francisco County Transportation Authority | Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority | San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency | SENER | Solitare- ihear Synop Terranet AB | The PLUM Catalyst and goMARTI | The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey | Tier IV North America | Transdev | Transit Workforce Center | TransLink | Tri Delta Transit | University of Iowa | Waymo | WSP | Etc.

ORGANISERS

The mission of **AV America** is to connect people interested in autonomous vehicles with information and analysis on the autonomous vehicle industry. The portal provides links to news, technology features, policies, reports, presentations, regulations, perspectives, interviews, webinars, videos, and podcasts on autonomous vehicles.

Global Mass Transit is a leading provider of information and analysis on the global mass transit industry. It publishes newsletters, conducts research studies, and organizes conferences.

FEES

Delegates	Price before December 12, 2025	Price before January 14, 2026	Standard Fee
One Delegate	USD 1,050	USD 1,275	USD 1,500
Two Delegates	USD 1,680	USD 2,040	USD 2,400
Three Delegates	USD 2,310	USD 2,805	USD 3,300
Four Delegates	USD 2,940	USD 3,570	USD 4,200
Special Category*	USD 350	USD 425	USD 500

**There is a special low fee for transit agencies, operators, government authorities, academia, research institutions and nonprofit organizations*

REGISTRATION FORM

☐ I would like to register for the conference

☐ Please send me more information

NAME/DESIGNATION COMPANY

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE MOBILE

FAX EMAIL.....

PAYMENT OPTIONS

1. Credit Card: To make payments by credit card, please visit: <https://shorturl.at/8SxuW>

All credit card payments will be subject to standard credit card charges

2. Wire Transfer:

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Cancellations

- Cancellation requests received in writing 30 days before the date of the conference will be eligible for a full refund, minus a service charge/administration fee of USD150. We regret that no refunds will be made for any cancellation requests received less than 30 days prior to the conference.
- Substitutions/Name changes are welcome at no extra charge. Please send these in writing at least two days prior to the conference.

Information Collected

- We collect the information you provide to us when you complete the registration form. The information includes name, company, and email address. By registering for this conference, you agree to be contacted by us with regard to other similar events or services of ours that may be of interest to you, and by the sponsor(s) of the conference for which you have registered

Disclaimer

- Global Mass Transit shall assume no liability whatsoever in case the conference is postponed or cancelled due to a fortuitous event or unforeseen occurrence that renders its organization impractical, illegal or impossible. For purpose of this clause, a fortuitous event shall include, but not be limited to: war, fire, labor strike, extreme weather or other emergency. Global Mass Transit's responsibility is limited to the return of registration fees only, and not any travel and accommodation costs.
- Please note that it may become necessary for reasons beyond the control of the organizers to make alterations to the content and timing of the program or speakers.

CONTACT US

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To register, email us to: registration@globalmasstransit.net
or visit us at www.globalmasstransit.net