



Conference on

THE FUTURE OF ROBO-TAXIS

September 17, 2026

Jay Conference Center Midtown East (DuMont Building),
New York City

Hosted by:

AVAMERICA
NEWS, ANALYSIS & PERSPECTIVE ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Supported by:

Global **Mass Transit**

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BACKGROUND

Robo-taxis are rapidly emerging as one of the most transformative developments in urban mobility. What began as limited autonomous vehicle pilots has evolved into early commercial deployments across major cities, backed by significant investments from technology companies, automotive manufacturers, and mobility operators. As the industry moves toward scale, critical questions are emerging around safety, regulation, infrastructure readiness, operational economics, public trust, and integration with existing transportation systems.

At the same time, transit agencies and city authorities are increasingly evaluating the role robo-taxis could play within broader public mobility networks — particularly for first- and last-mile connectivity, underserved areas, and on-demand transport services. With technological advancements accelerating and policy frameworks continuing to evolve, the industry has reached a pivotal moment that requires deeper collaboration between operators, regulators, investors, transit agencies, and technology providers.

AV America, with the support of **Global Mass Transit**, will be **organizing a conference** on ‘**The Future of Robo-Taxis - Deployment, Regulation, and Adoption**’ on **September 17** at **Jay Conference Center Midtown East (DuMont Building), New York City**.

Mission

The mission of the conference is to provide a high-level platform for industry leaders, policymakers, transit agencies, investors, and technology innovators to discuss the future of robo-taxis and autonomous ride-hailing. The focus will be on understanding deployment realities, enabling supportive regulatory frameworks, assessing commercial viability, and exploring how robo-taxis can integrate into the future transportation networks.

Key topics to be discussed

- Current status of robo-taxi deployments and commercialization strategies
- Safety validation, public trust, and regulatory readiness
- Investment trends and funding opportunities
- AI, sensors, mapping, connectivity, and autonomous driving technologies
- Integration of robo-taxis with public transit and urban mobility planning
- Business models, operational economics, and fleet management challenges
- Infrastructure requirements including charging, curb management, and digital infrastructure
- The role of cities and transit agencies in shaping autonomous mobility adoption
- Lessons learned from pilots and scaling autonomous operations in urban environments

Why attend?

- Federal, state, and city transit agencies
- Public transit authorities and mobility agencies
- Departments of transportation and regulatory bodies
- City and urban mobility planners
- Robo-taxi and autonomous vehicle operators
- Autonomous driving technology companies
- Automotive OEMs and vehicle manufacturers
- Ride-hailing and mobility service providers
- AI, software, mapping, and simulation companies
- Sensor, LiDAR, radar, and camera technology providers
- Connectivity, V2X, and telecommunications companies
- Fleet management and operations technology firms
- EV charging and infrastructure providers
- Data, cloud, and cybersecurity companies
- Investors, venture capital firms, and financial institutions
- Insurance and risk management companies
- Consultants and legal advisors
- Universities, research institutions, and testing centers
- Industry associations and non-profit organizations
- Infrastructure developers and smart city stakeholders

AGENDA

Thursday | September 17, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
08:00–09:00	Registration and Reception	
09:00–09:15	Welcome Remarks	AV America
09:15–09:45	The State of the Robo-Taxi Market - Market evolution and deployment milestones - Key operators and enabling technologies - Investment and partnership activity - Future growth outlook	<i>Presentation and discussion with:</i> Hugh Nguyen, Partner, Deal Advisory & Strategy, KPMG
09:45–10:45	Advancing AV Safety: Research and Deployment - Current research priorities for autonomous vehicle safety - Measuring and comparing AV safety with human driving - Testing, simulation and validation methodologies - Research gaps as autonomous deployment scales	<i>Presentations and Q+A with:</i> - Karen Lightman, Executive Director, Metro21 and Safety21 - USDOT National UTC, Carnegie Mellon University - Bryant Walker Smith, Associate Professor for School of Law, University of South Carolina - Stanley E. Young, P.E., PhD, Chief Engineer - Mobility Innovation, National Laboratory of the Rockies - Sarah Kaufman, Executive Director, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation (moderator)
10:45–11:15	Tea/Coffee and Networking	
11:15–12:00	Autonomous Mobility: The Path to Commercial Scale - Economics of scaling from pilots to commercial operations - Expansion strategies and viability across cities and regions - Capital requirements and investor considerations - Fleet utilization, operating costs and paths to profitability	<i>Discussion amongst and Q+A:</i> - Ethan Goldsmith, Partner, Keyframe Capital - Yaro Kolodyazhnyy, CFO, Avride - Ryan Bricker, Director, KPMG (moderator)
12:00–13:00	Technology Enabling the Future of Robo-Taxis - Technologies supporting safe and reliable commercial operations - Advances in AI and autonomous driving software - Roadside assistance and incident-response systems - Connectivity, edge computing, and V2X	<i>Presentations and Q+A with:</i> - Rafael Oliveira, Senior Solutions Architect, Uber AI Solutions, Uber - Matt Bijur, President, HONK Technologies - Jay Suarez, Associate Director - Vehicles Solutions, Verizon Business - Karla Peralta Paredes, Associate Principal, Cityfi (moderator)
13:00–14:00	Lunch & Networking	

AGENDA

Thursday | September 17, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
14:00–15:00	Robo-Taxi Operators: Navigating Policy and Partnerships - Partnerships between operators, regulators, and cities - Federal, state, and city-level AV regulations - Data sharing, transparency, and liability issues - Permitting and approval processes - Building public trust and transparency	<i>Panel discussion amongst:</i> - Frank Renwick, VP, Marketing & Communications, May Mobility - Hannah Steinweg, Public Policy Campaigns Manager, Waymo - Matt Wilson, P.E., Assistant Street Transportation Director, City of Phoenix - Greg Rogers, Founder & Executive Director, The Innovation Majority Institute (<i>moderator</i>)
15:00–16:00	Closing Panel: Integration, Adoption, and the Future of Urban Mobility - Integration with buses, rail, and broader urban transportation networks - Public adoption of robo-taxis and other autonomous services - Shared mobility and on-demand transport models - Accessibility, affordability, and mobility equity - The evolving role of public agencies and private operators	<i>Panel discussion with:</i> - Henry Greenidge, Senior Policy Advisor & Counsel, DoorDash Labs - Melody Drummond Hansen, Chief Strategist, Acute Strategy - Karina Ricks, Partner, Cityfi - Seth Wainer, Director of Planning and Innovation, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey - Rachel Weinberger, Peter W. Herman Chair for Transportation, Regional Plan Association (<i>moderator</i>)
16:00–16:15	Closing Remarks and End of Conference	

SPEAKERS

Speakers at our previous Autonomous Vehicle conferences and webinars have included:

Robo-Taxi Operators, Autonomous Mobility & AV Technology

- Arielle Fleisher, Policy and Development Manager, Waymo
- Toby McGraw, Chief Revenue Officer, Beep
- Taylor Gygi, Senior Business Development Manager, May Mobility
- Christian John, Vice President, Tier IV
- Gregory Crandell, General Manager, HOLON
- Ali Peker, CEO, ADASTEC
- Cemre Kavvasoglu, Product Management Director, North America, ADASTEC
- Daniel Sánchez Clemente, Product Director, TractEasy
- Nick Pilipowskyj, VP of Business Operations, Perrone Robotics
- Ravindra (Ravi) Kondagunta, CEO, Connected Signals
- Fabio Tylim, VP Global Business Development & Sales, Guident
- Ruth Bridger, Marketing Director, Imagry
- Slava Ostrovsky, Regulations Manager, Imagry
- Hugh Roome, AV America
- Omer Yilmaz, Regional Sales Manager, Karsan
- Deniz Çetin, Chief Commercial Officer, Karsan Automotive
- Inder Preet Singh, Deputy Division Chief – Transformational Mobility, Caltrans
- David Man, Division Chief Traffic Operations, Caltrans
- Xavier Delache, National Coordinator, Automated and Connected Road Mobility Strategy, French Ministry for Ecology and Transport
- Paul Steier, Director, Vehicle Programs, American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators
- Joshua Cregger, Technology Policy Analyst, USDOT Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

Government, Policy & Regulatory Leaders

- Miguel Acosta, Chief, Autonomous Vehicles Branch, California Department of Motor Vehicles
- Shao Pat Tsen, Deputy Executive Director – Consumer Policy, Transportation, and Enforcement, California Public Utilities Commission
- Kristin White, Chief Counsel, Federal Highway Administration
- Jarvis Murray, Commercial Rideshare and Mobility Administrator, Los Angeles Department of Transportation
- Michele R. Mueller, Manager – Connected, Automated Vehicles and Electrification, Michigan Department of Transportation
- Nat Ford, CEO, Jacksonville Transportation Authority
- Greer Johnson Gillis, Senior Vice President – Chief Infrastructure & Development Officer, Jacksonville Transportation Authority
- Tim Haile, Executive Director, Contra Costa Transportation Authority
- Seth Wainer, Director of Planning and Innovation, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Joe Iacobucci, Vice President of Transit Innovation, Atlanta Beltline
- Tilly Chang, Executive Director, San Francisco County Transportation Authority
- Rashidi Barnes, Executive Director, Tri Delta Transit
- Bill Churchill, General Manager, County Connection
- Jeffrey Tumlin, Executive Director, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
- Kimberly J. Williams, Chief Innovation Officer, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County
- Dinero Washington, CEO, SporTran
- Jim Derwinski, CEO/Executive Director, Metra
- Ahsan Baig, CIO/CTO, AC Transit
- Danielle Elkins, Deputy Executive Director, Planning, Programs, and Policy, Contra Costa Transportation Authority

- Lindy Johnson, Director of External Affairs, Contra Costa Transportation Authority
- Newell Arnerich, Vice Mayor, Contra Costa Transportation Authority
- Connor Sadro, Transportation Planner, North Central Texas Council of Governments
- Tian Feng, District Architect, Bay Area Rapid Transit

Infrastructure, Consulting, Strategy & Industry Advisors

- Suzanne Murtha, Vice President, Advanced Mobility, Payments Systems and Automation, AECOM
- Randell Iwasaki, President & CEO, Iwasaki Consulting Services
- Scott Belcher, President & CEO, SFB Consulting
- Joshua Schank, Partner, Infrastrategies
- Timothy Papandreou, Founder, ETA Advisors
- Selika Talbott, Founder & CEO, Autonomous Vehicle Consulting
- Tammy Meehan Russell, President & Chief Catalyst, The PLUM Catalyst
- Rani Narula Woods, Chief Executive Officer, Excellence in Innovation
- Steve Miller, Managing Partner / Innovation Lead, IOA
- Heikki Laine, Director, Fleet Automation, WSP
- Naomi Armenta, Principal Planner, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting
- Jeff Farrah, CEO, Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association
- Casey Lenfest, Lead Project Manager, CALSTART

Airports, Fleet & Advanced Mobility Deployment

- Beth Larkcom, Director of Strategic Innovation for Advanced Mobility, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport
- Daan Boot, Strategy & Innovation Advisor, Royal Schiphol Group
- Rosina Kotey, Innovation Lead, Royal Schiphol Group
- Sarah Demory, COO, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport
- David Fernandez, Head of Fleet, Swissport International

- Gerald McDowell, Executive Director, ATL Airport Community Improvement Districts
- Mika Lammi, Project Manager, City of Vantaa; CEO, DBE Core Oy
- Camille Lubon, Accessibility & Mobility Expert, Brussels Airport Company

Research, Universities, Accessibility & Non-Profit Organizations

- Stanley E. Young, Chief Engineer for Innovative Mobility, National Laboratory of the Rockies
- Andrew Duvall, Senior Research Scientist, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Judd Herzer, Mobility Research and Innovation Director, Michigan State University
- Sara Catz, Researcher/Lecturer, University of California Irvine
- Mollie Cohen D'Agostino, Executive Director, MoSAIC UC Davis
- Douglas Brauer, Dean of Engineering & Industry, Florida State College at Jacksonville
- Omar Ahmad, Deputy Director, Driving Safety Research Institute
- Sarah Birdwell, Engagement Strategist and Accessibility SME, The PLUM Catalyst
- Victor Pineda, Executive Director, Center for Independent Living of Berkeley
- Katelyn Magney-Miller, Communications Director, Partners for Automated Vehicle Education
- Gabrielle Pierre, Director for Strategy and Partnerships, Georgia Network for Electric Mobility
- Allanté V. Whitmore, Ph.D., Director of Research and Social Impact, The PLUM Catalyst
- John Lyons, Director of Joint Industry Councils and Collective Bargaining, Amalgamated Transit Union

PARTICIPANTS

Here is a sample list of participants who attended our Eighth Annual Conference on Autonomous Vehicles and Public Transport, which was held on January 28-29 at Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel, San Francisco:

- Director of Information Technology, **Access Services**
- Product Management Director, North America, **Adastec**
- CFO and Chief Business Development Officer, **Aeye, Inc.**
- Executive Director, **ATL Airport Community Improvement Districts**
- Vice President of Transit Innovation, **Atlanta Beltline**
- Health & safety director, **ATU International**
- Chief Revenue Officer, **Beep Inc.**
- Head of Growth, **Blue Systems**
- Chief, Autonomous Vehicles Branch, **California Department of Motor Vehicles**
- Senior Utilities Engineer, **California Public Utilities Commission**
- Engineering Project Manager, **Caltrans**
- PhD Student, **Carnegie Mellon University**
- Executive Director, **Center for Independent Living (CIL) of Berkeley**
- CEO, **Clermont**
- Chief Operating Officer, **Community Transit**
- CEO, **Connected Signals**
- Executive Director, **Contra Costa Transportation Authority**
- Executive Director, **Cumberland Community Improvement District**
- Vice President, North American Sales, **Damera**
- Senior Manager, Transportation Strategy & Innovation, **Deloitte**
- Executive Director, **Emeryville TMA**
- Chief Executive Officer, **Excellence in Innovation**
- CEO, **Flexigo**
- Dean of Engineering & Industry, **Florida State College at Jacksonville**
- Assistant Manager, **Furukawa Electric.,ltd**
- Editor-in-Chief, **Georgia Network for Electric Mobility (GNEM)**
- SVP Growth, Americas, **Glydways**
- Founder, Kinetic Logic, **Grembek Safety Consulting**
- VP Global Business Development & Sales, **Guident Corp.**
- Marketing Director, **Imagry**
- Partner, **Infrastrategies**
- Senior Workforce Development Advisor, **ITLC-TWC**
- President & CEO, **Iwasaki Consulting Services, Inc.**
- Senior Vice President – Chief Infrastructure & Development Officer, **Jacksonville Transportation Authority**
- Marketing and Communications, **Karsan**
- Innovation Manager, **K2 - The Swedish Knowledge Center for Public Transport**
- Project Engineer, **Lea+ Elliott, Inc.**
- Board Advisor, **Line Mobility**
- Head of Business Development, **Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office**
- CEO/Executive Director, **Metra**
- Manager Connected, Automated and Electrification, **Michigan DOT**
- Director of Mobility Research & Innovation, **Michigan State University - College of Engineering**
- Chief Engineer for Innovative Mobility, **National Laboratory of the Rockies (NRL)**
- Government Relations and Public Policy Manager, **National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association**
- Project Manager, **NCDOT**
- Principle Planner, **Nelson\Nygaard Consulting**
- Director, Smart Cities & Communities, **NextEnergy**
- Associate Professor, **North Dakota State University**
- Director of Business Development, **Ohmio**
- Journalist, **Oregon Public Broadcasting**
- Account Executive, **Ouster**
- Communications Director, **Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)**
- Professor Emeritus, **Purdue University**
- Program Director Innovation, Planning and Regional Development Department, **Port Authority of New York New Jersey (PANYNJ)**
- Western Sales Manager, **Qstraint**
- Senior Managing Director, Transportation Policy, **Reason Foundation**
- Communications Director, Strategic Growth, **SEIU California**
- President & CEO, **SFB Consulting, LLC**
- California Safety and Legislative Director, **SMART-Transportation Division**
- CEO, **SporTran (Shreveport Transit Management, INC.)**
- Advisor, **Techne Infiniti Ventures**
- Engagement Strategist and Accessibility SME, **The PLUM Catalyst**
- CEO, **Transdev North America**
- Director, Strategy & Development, **UC Berkeley**
- Executive Director, MoSAIC, **UC Davis**
- Assistant Vice Chancellor, Transportation & Activation, **UC San Diego**
- Researcher/ Lecturer, **UCI**
- VP Business Strategy, **UZURV**
- Sr. Director, Connected Vehicles, **Verizon Business**
- Diridon Program Director, **VTA**
- Policy and Development Manager, **Waymo**
- Director, Fleet Automation, **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 Sponsor - USD 4,500

15% 'early-bird' discount until July 31: USD 3,825

- Speaking slot/ Presentation of 10-15mins
- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Branding on all event paid promotional campaigns
- Social media posts
- Table space at the venue
- 2 delegate registrations (excluding the speaker)

Option 2 - USD 8,000

15% 'early-bird' discount until July 31: USD USD 6,800

- Speaking slot/ Presentation of 10-15 mins
- Moderating a panel discussion
- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Branding on all event paid promotional campaigns
- Social media posts
- Table space at the venue
- 5 delegate registrations (excluding the speaker)

Exclusive Lanyard Sponsor – USD 7,000

15% 'early-bird' discount until July 31: USD 5,950

- Named Lanyard Sponsor
- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Branding on all event paid promotional campaigns
- Social media posts
- 2 delegate registrations
- Lanyards to be provided by company

Exhibitor – USD 3,500

15% 'early-bird' discount until July 31: USD 2,975

- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Branding on all event paid promotional campaigns
- Social media posts
- Table space at the venue
- 1 delegate registration

Coffee Sponsor – USD 3,500

15% 'early-bird' discount until July 31: USD 2,975

- Named Coffee Sponsor
- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Branding on all event paid promotional campaigns
- Social media posts
- 1 delegate registration

Exclusive Wifi-USD 7,000

15% 'early-bird' discount until July 31: USD 5,950

- Named Wifi Sponsor
- Tent cards with branding (to be placed on tables)
- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Branding on all event paid promotional campaigns
- Social media posts
- 2 delegate registrations

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 August 07, 2026	Price before August 28, 2026	Standard Fee
One Delegate	USD 750	USD 850	USD 1,000
Two Delegates	USD 1,350	USD 1,530	USD 1,800
Three Delegates	USD 1,950	USD 2,210	USD 2,600
Four Delegates	USD 2,550	USD 2,890	USD 3,400
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://bit.ly/3TYWXgf>

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

2. Wire Transfer:

Beneficiary: India Infrastructure Publishing Private Limited*
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Bank Account No: 094179587002
Swift Code: HSBCINBB

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Payment Policy

- Full payment must be received prior to the conference in USD.

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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Sanya Uppal
Analyst, AV America
Email: sanya.uppal@avamerica.org

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