Conference on

The Future of Robo-taxis: Deployment, Regulation, and Adoption

September 17, 2026 | Jay Conference Midtown East

Host

AV AMERICA

Supported by

Global Mass Transit

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HONK

verizon business

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	*Presentation and discussion with:* • Hugh Nguyen, Partner, Deal Advisory & Strategy, **KPMG** • Heikki Laine, Director of Fleet Automation, **WSP** *(moderator)*
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	*Presentations and Q+A with:* • 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	*Discussion amongst and Q+A:* • 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	*Presentations and Q+A with:* • 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**	

post-lunch agenda continues on next page…

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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	*Panel discussion amongst:* • 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** *(moderator)*
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	*Panel discussion with:* • 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** *(moderator)*
16:00–16:15	**Closing Remarks and End of Conference**	