



Ninth Annual Conference

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

AVs, Public Transit and Movement of People

January 27-28, 2027 | San Francisco Bay Area

Hosted by:

AVAMERICA
NEWS, ANALYSIS & PERSPECTIVE ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Supported by:

Global **Mass Transit**

Sponsors so far:

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Q'STRAIT
THINKING BEYOND SAFETY

BACKGROUND

Autonomous vehicles are beginning to play an increasingly important role in the future of public transportation, offering opportunities to improve service efficiency, enhance safety, expand accessibility and provide more flexible mobility options. Transit agencies and operators are exploring autonomous buses, shuttles and shared mobility services to strengthen existing public transport networks, improve first- and last-mile connectivity and serve areas where conventional fixed-route services may be difficult to sustain. The transition is gradually moving beyond small-scale demonstrations towards real-world operations.

Recent policy and regulatory developments are creating new opportunities for transit automation. In 2026, California adopted updated AV regulations that opened new pathways for larger autonomous vehicles, including certain transit applications, while strengthening safety and operational oversight. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has also updated its transit bus automation policy guidance and continues to advance research into automated shuttles, bus rapid transit, advanced driver assistance systems, mobility-on-demand services and automated maintenance and yard operations. Across the United States, transit agencies are evaluating applications ranging from precision docking and automated bus operations to autonomous microtransit and depot automation. These developments highlight the growing potential for autonomous technologies to support public transportation, while underscoring the importance of appropriate regulatory frameworks, infrastructure readiness and operational integration.

Despite this progress, several challenges remain before autonomous vehicles can be deployed at scale across public transport networks. Transit agencies must evaluate the financial and operational viability of autonomous services, determine appropriate deployment models, ensure passenger and pedestrian safety, and address accessibility and cybersecurity requirements. Integrating autonomous vehicles with existing bus and rail networks, developing reliable digital and charging infrastructure, managing mixed fleets and preparing employees for new operational responsibilities are equally important considerations. As autonomous vehicle technology matures, greater attention is being directed towards practical implementation, including procurement strategies, partnerships between transit agencies and technology providers, fleet management, workforce transformation and the development of sustainable business models. Ensuring that autonomous mobility complements public transport and delivers measurable benefits to passengers and communities will be central to its long-term adoption.

Against this backdrop, **AV America** and **Global Mass Transit** are organising the **ninth edition** of the **Autonomous Vehicles and Public Transport Conference** on **January 27–28, 2027**, in the **San Francisco Bay Area**.

Mission

The mission of the conference is to examine recent developments, emerging trends and progress in the deployment of autonomous vehicles for public transportation, with a particular focus on moving from pilot projects to scalable and commercially viable operations. It will explore policy and regulatory frameworks, transit agency strategies, autonomous bus and shuttle deployments, integration with existing public transport systems, enabling technologies, infrastructure requirements, safety, accessibility and workforce transformation. Through case studies, project experiences, technology showcases and executive discussions, the conference will bring together transit agencies and operators, government authorities, metropolitan planning organisations, AV manufacturers, technology suppliers, infrastructure providers, research institutions and industry stakeholders to share best practices and identify strategies for accelerating the safe, efficient and sustainable integration of autonomous vehicles into public transportation.

Key topics to be discussed

- Policies, guidelines, and regulations driving the development of AVs
- AVs in public transit and the future of mobility
- Role of transit agencies/operators in the connected autonomous mobility future
- Autonomous buses and shuttles: deployment experiences and lessons learned
- OEM and operator perspectives – scaling shuttles, robotaxis, and fleet electrification
- AI, deep learning, and autonomous driving software stacks
- Sensor fusion: LiDAR, RADAR, cameras, and INS systems
- Cloud computing and edge AI for AV coordination
- ADAS systems for safety and route optimisation
- Digital infrastructure needs: V2X, V2I, V2V communication systems
- 5G/6G readiness and network reliability for autonomous operations
- Digital twins for simulation, modeling, and real-time system optimisation
- Charging and energy supply infrastructure for autonomous bus and shuttle fleets
- Safety and cybersecurity in AV public transport
- Automating bus yards (ABY)
- Public acceptance, passenger trust, and accessibility considerations
- The future of shared, on-demand, and last-mile mobility using AVs
- Transit agency activities for labor force transformation

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.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

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Ninth Annual Conference

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

January 27-28, 2027 | San Francisco Bay Area

Day 1: Wednesday, January 27, 2027 (8:00-16:30 PT)

8:00-9:00 | Registration, Networking Breakfast and Refreshments

9:00-9:10 | Welcome Remarks by AV America and Global Mass Transit

9:10-9:50 | Session 1: Opening Keynote on The State of Autonomous Public Transit in 2027

- Progress in autonomous public transportation: from pilot projects to scalable deployment
- AVs in public transit and the future of urban mobility
- Autonomous buses, shuttles and shared mobility: key developments and market outlook
- Opportunities for improving transit efficiency, accessibility and first/last-mile connectivity
- Barriers to Level 4 and Level 5 automation in public transportation
- Key challenges and priorities for transit agencies, operators and policymakers

9:50-10:30 | Session 2: Legislative and Regulatory Landscape

- Federal and state policies, guidelines and regulations for autonomous transit vehicles
- FTA initiatives, research programmes and funding for transit bus automation
- California's evolving regulatory framework for autonomous vehicle testing and deployment
- Developing consistent safety standards, certification and operational requirements
- Regulatory considerations for driverless buses, shuttles and passenger services
- Policy measures to support safe and commercially viable autonomous transit operations

10:30-11:15 | Tea/Coffee and Networking Break & Visit to Sponsor Booths

11:15-11:35 | Session 3: The Business Case for Autonomous Public Transport

- Assessing operating costs, service efficiency and potential financial benefits
- Identifying suitable applications for autonomous buses and shuttles
- Evaluating the transition from demonstration projects to regular passenger service

11:35-12:30 | Session 4: Keynote Panel Discussion – Transit Agency and Operator Perspectives

- Role of transit agencies and operators in the connected autonomous mobility ecosystem
- Experiences with autonomous transit deployments: challenges, successes and lessons learned
- Planning and designing autonomous mobility services and integrating them into existing public transport networks
- Identifying suitable routes, operating environments and service models

- Passenger acceptance, accessibility, affordability, privacy and safety
- Partnerships between transit agencies, vehicle manufacturers and technology providers

12:45-13:45 | Networking Luncheon

13:45-14:30 | Session 5: Autonomous Buses and Shuttles – Deployment Experiences, Case Studies and New Initiatives

- Case studies of autonomous buses, shuttles and circulator services
- Applications in bus rapid transit, first/last-mile connectivity, paratransit and demand-responsive services
- Transitioning from pilot projects to regular passenger operations
- Performance, reliability, safety and operational lessons from deployments
- Challenges of operating autonomous vehicles in mixed traffic and complex urban environments
- New initiatives, expansion plans and emerging opportunities for transit agencies

14:30-15:30 | Session 6: Technology Showcase – Enabling Safe and Reliable Autonomous Transit Operations

- AI, deep learning and autonomous driving software stacks
- Advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) for safety, precision docking and route optimisation
- Sensor fusion: LiDAR, RADAR, cameras and inertial navigation systems
- Cloud computing and edge AI for autonomous fleet coordination
- Remote monitoring, fleet supervision and operational control systems
- Emerging technology solutions for autonomous buses and shuttles

15:30-16:30 | Session 7: OEM and Operator Perspectives – Scaling Autonomous Transit Fleets

- Developments in autonomous bus, shuttle and shared mobility vehicle platforms
- Scaling vehicle production, deployment and fleet operations
- Building autonomous vehicle manufacturing and supply-chain capacity in the United States
- Buy America requirements, procurement constraints and domestic sourcing considerations
- Integrating fleet electrification, charging and energy management into autonomous operations
- Vehicle maintenance, lifecycle costs and fleet reliability
- Market outlook, investment priorities and pathways to commercial scalability

16:30 | Close of Day 1

Note: Session topics, formats, speakers and timings are tentative and subject to change as the programme is finalised.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

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Eighth Annual Conference

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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

Day 2: Thursday, January 28, 2027 (8:00-14:00 PT)

8:00-9:00 | Registration, Networking Breakfast and Refreshments

9:00-9:45 | Session 9: Autonomous Mobility-on-Demand – Integrating Shuttles, Robotaxis and Shared Services with Public Transport

- Role of autonomous mobility-on-demand in complementing existing public transport networks
- Autonomous shuttles, robotaxis and shared ride services for first/last-mile connectivity
- Integrating autonomous services with fixed-route buses, rail and paratransit
- Applications in low-density, underserved and suburban communities
- Software platforms, booking systems, payments and data integration
- Partnerships between transit agencies, mobility providers and AV operators
- Service design, affordability and commercial sustainability

9:45-10:30 | Session 8: Digital Infrastructure and Connected Autonomous Transit

- Digital infrastructure requirements for autonomous buses and shuttles
- V2X, V2I and V2V communication systems
- 5G/6G readiness, network reliability and communication redundancy
- Roadside infrastructure, traffic control systems and high-definition digital maps
- Cloud computing, edge AI and real-time vehicle-to-infrastructure communication
- Digital twins for simulation, modelling and operational optimisation
- Infrastructure investment priorities and collaboration between transit agencies, cities and technology providers

10:30-11:15 | Tea/Coffee and Networking Break & Visit to Sponsor Booths

11:15-11:35 | Session 10: Global Perspectives – Lessons from Autonomous Transit Deployments in China and Asia

- Progress in autonomous bus, shuttle and shared mobility deployments
- Government support, regulatory approaches and industry collaboration
- Lessons for US transit agencies and operators

11:35-11:55 | Session 11: Automating Bus Yards and Preparing Infrastructure for Autonomous Fleets

- Automating bus yards: progress, applications and operational benefits
- Autonomous parking, vehicle movements, dispatch and depot management
- Automated charging and energy management for electric bus and shuttle fleets
- Integrating automation with existing depot and fleet management systems
- Infrastructure requirements, investment considerations and funding opportunities
- Safety, operational efficiency and workforce considerations

11:55-12:15 | Session 12: Transit Workforce Transformation – Preparing for an Autonomous Future

- Changing roles of drivers, operators and maintenance personnel as automation advances
- Transit agency strategies for workforce transition and development
- Training and reskilling for remote supervision, fleet management and autonomous operations
- Labour relations, employee engagement and workforce acceptance
- Human oversight, passenger assistance and operational responsibilities
- Resources and partnerships required to prepare the transit workforce

12:15-13:00 | Closing Keynote Panel – The Road to 2030: Scaling Autonomous Public Transport

- What will autonomous public transportation look like by 2030?
- Moving from individual pilots to integrated, large-scale autonomous transit operations
- Which applications are most likely to achieve commercial viability: autonomous buses, shuttles, robotaxis or automated depots?
- How should transit agencies prioritise investments in autonomous mobility?
- Developing sustainable business models and public-private partnerships
- Addressing regulatory uncertainty, safety, accessibility and public acceptance
- Preparing transit infrastructure and the workforce for increased automation
- Key milestones and priorities for the next three to five years

14:00-14:00 | Networking Luncheon and Conference Close

14:00 | End of Conference

Note: Session topics, formats, speakers and timings are tentative and subject to change as the programme is finalised.

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 our previous Autonomous Vehicles and Public Transport conference, 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 – 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)

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
- 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

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

Exhibitor – USD 4,500

- Table space
- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Social media posts
- 2 delegate registrations

Start-up show case – USD 2000 (3 spots)

- 10-minute speaking slot in the main program
- Branding on all marketing collaterals/ materials
- Branding on all communication of the conference
- Social media posts
- 2 delegate registrations (including the speaker)

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 10, 2026	Price before January 14, 2027	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://me-l.co/umpw4bjc>

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 Address: R-47, Greater Kailash – 1, New Delhi - 110048
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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To register, email us to: registration@globalmasstransit.net
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