



Accelerating Transportation Innovation Across California

Tahoe Room

Sequoia Room

Yosemite Room

AGENDA | February 6, 2026

8:00 AM **Registration & Networking Breakfast**

9:00 AM **Welcome and Introductions**

Laura Podolsky, UC ITS, Executive Director

9:10 AM **Morning Plenary: From Disruption to Opportunity: Shaping Mobility's Next Chapter**

This session will kick off the summit by examining the key forces that will shape mobility over the next 5 to 10 years. Panelists will explore major disruptions and transformative trends, including advancing decarbonization strategies, the effects of climate change, the future of public transit and shared mobility, transportation pricing, and changing travel behavior. The discussion will also emphasize the critical roles of policy, technology, research, and cross-sector collaboration in driving sustainable and equitable mobility strategies.

Moderator: Susan Shaheen, Ph.D., Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley; Director, Resilient & Innovative Mobility Initiative, UC Institute of Transportation Studies

Panelists:

Dina El-Tawansy, Director, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Chanell Fletcher, Deputy Executive Officer, Equity, Communities & Environmental Justice, California Air Resources Board

Michael Pimentel, Executive Director, California Transit Association

Lori Wilson, Assemblymember, California State Assembly, District 11

10:10 AM **Coffee Break**

10:30 AM **Breakout Sessions**

Driving Efficiency: Managing Road Capacity, Pricing Roads, and Mitigating Impacts

This session will explore innovative strategies for managing road capacity and funding California's transportation in the context of induced demand. Panelists will discuss how road pricing can serve as both a revenue source and policy lever to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The discussion will also examine mitigation strategies aimed at enhancing equity and environmental benefits, such as mitigation banking, improving the balance between affordable housing and jobs, congestion pricing, and more.

Moderator: Bill Higgins, Executive Director, California Association of Councils of Governments

Panelists:

James Hacker, Undersecretary, California State Transportation Agency

Amy Lee, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Davis

Michael Manville, Ph.D., Professor, Urban Planning, Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA

Kiana Valentine, Executive Director, Transportation California

Equitable Electrification: Charging Infrastructure and Incentives that Work for Everyone

How can we ensure that the benefits of electric vehicles (EVs) reach all communities? This session will focus on strategies to accelerate EV adoption across diverse populations. Panelists will discuss how to expand access to reliable and affordable charging, reduce cost barriers, and design incentive programs that effectively support low-income and underserved populations. The conversation will also explore approaches to improving EV access in multi-family housing and rural communities.

Moderator: Terry Travis, *Co-founder & Principal, EVNoire*

Panelists:

Ethan Elkind, J.D., *Director, Climate Program, Center for Law, Energy & the Environment, UC Berkeley*

Jen Kalafut, *Deputy Director, Fuels and Transportation Division, California Energy Commission*

Michelle Buffington, *Chief, Mobile Source Control Division, California Air Resources Board*

Gil Tal, Ph.D., *Director, Electric Vehicle Research Center, UC Davis*

Complement or Compete? Exploring Microtransit, Ridehailing, and Public Transit in California's Future

How do microtransit and ridehailing services fit into California's evolving transportation landscape, and how might they develop to complement public transit more? This panel will investigate the implications of these services in terms of operations, equity, and cost-effectiveness, as well as how these services may change with automated vehicles. Panelists will also consider business and policy options (e.g., subsidies, curb management) for aligning these services with public sector goals.

Moderator: Tilly Chang, *Executive Director, San Francisco County Transportation Authority*

Panelists:

James Corless, *Executive Director, Sacramento Area Council of Governments*

Michael Hyland, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UC Irvine*

Katie Malkin, *Vice President of State and Local Policy VIA Transportation*

Susan Shaheen, Ph.D., *Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley; Director, Resilient & Innovative Mobility Initiative, UC Institute of Transportation Studies*

11:45 AM

Lunch

12:45 PM

Breakout Sessions

The Future of Public Transit: Resilience, Ridership, and Revenue

Public transit agencies are grappling with multiple post-pandemic challenges, including flagging ridership, frequent budget shortfalls, and shifting travel patterns. This session will bring together experts to explore strategies for boosting ridership, adapting to evolving work and land use trends, and securing long-term financial sustainability. Panelists will also address post-COVID-19 funding recovery challenges, new revenue opportunities, workforce issues, and opportunities to strengthen system resilience.

Moderator: Laura Tolkoff, *Transportation Policy Director, SPUR*

Panelists:

Seleta Reynolds, *Chief Innovation Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority*

Joshua Schank, *Partner, InfraStrategies*

Brian D. Taylor, Ph.D., *Professor, Urban Planning & Public Policy, Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA*

Kari Watkins, Ph.D., *Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UC Davis*

Zero-Emission Frontiers: Decarbonizing Freight, Aviation, Marine, and Public Transit

While light-duty vehicles are at the forefront of electrification, decarbonizing heavy-duty freight, aviation, marine, and the public transit sectors remains a significant challenge with many uncertainties. This session will examine the potential of zero-emission strategies, such as hydrogen, electrification, and sustainable fuels, to transform these hard-to-abate sectors. Panelists will also explore the infrastructure, investment, and policy frameworks needed to scale these technologies effectively.

Moderator: Scott Moura, Ph.D., Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley

Panelists:

Kip Lipper, Chief Policy Advisor on Energy and Environment, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón

Colin Murphy, Ph.D., Co-Director, Low Carbon Fuel Policy Research Initiative, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Davis

Craig Rindt, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Research Coordination, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Irvine

Chris Shimoda, Regulatory Affairs Consultant, California Trucking Association

Designing for Safety: Creating Transportation Systems that Protect All Users

With traffic deaths and serious injuries on the rise among people walking and biking, this session focuses on how to use more proactive, upstream, and effective strategies to improve road safety for all. Panelists will explore the core principles of the Safe System approach, which assumes humans will make mistakes and focuses on designing a “forgiving” system that prevents errors from becoming fatal. This includes using proactive designs and policy change – including self-enforcing roadways, managing speed for safety, and safety-focused vehicle technology – to ensure system designers are making choices aligned with safety and health goals.

Moderator: Leah Shahum, Executive Director, Vision Zero Network

Panelists:

Rachel Carpenter, Chief Safety Officer, California Department of Transportation

Julia Griswold, Ph.D., Director, Safe Transportation Research & Education Center, UC Berkeley

Daniel Hennessey, Director, Transportation and Public Works Department, City of Santa Rosa

Federico E. Vaca, M.D., M.P.H., Professor & Executive Vice Chair, Emergency Medicine School of Medicine; Faculty Associate, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Irvine

2:00 PM

Coffee Break

2:20 PM

Breakout Sessions

Automation and Safety: Navigating Risks and Opportunities for Different Stakeholders

As automation reshapes the transportation landscape, ensuring safety is more critical than ever—not just for the driverless vehicles but also traditional vehicles, bikes, pedestrians, and the system as a whole, especially from a cybersecurity perspective. This session will explore how different forms of automation, such as robotaxis and automated trucks, as well as other emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, can enhance safety for all. Panelists will also explore the needs of different stakeholders and policy considerations needed to create a safer transportation system in California.

Moderator: James Fishelson, Ph.D., Director, California PATH, UC Berkeley

Panelists:

Alexandre Bayen, Ph.D., Liao-Cho Professor of Engineering, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, UC Berkeley

Julia Friedlander, Senior Manager of Automated Driving Policy, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

Jiaqi Ma, Ph.D., Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UCLA

Patrick Zubin, Director, Strategy & Business Operations, Lyft Autonomous

Driving Grid Readiness: Integrating Electric Vehicles into California's Energy System

As demand on California's power grid continues to rise, the state's energy infrastructure must adapt to remain resilient and responsive. This session will explore how the growing adoption of EVs will impact grid capacity, with a focus on utility policies, managed charging programs, and bidirectional charging. Panelists will highlight key challenges and opportunities of integrating EVs into California's energy system while still keeping rates affordable. The panel will also discuss what EV adoption means for California's clean energy future.

Moderator: Roland Hwang, Policy Director, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Davis

Panelists:

Duncan Callaway, Ph.D., Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, UC Berkeley

Kerry Fleisher, Director of Distributed Energy Resources, Natural Gas, and Retail Rates, California Public Utilities Commission

Alan Jenn, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UC Davis

Peter Klauer, Senior Advisor for Smart Grid Technology, California Independent System Operator

Mobility for All: Expanding Access Through Shared and On-Demand Services

Shared and on-demand mobility services offer new opportunities to close transportation gaps and improve access, particularly for underserved communities. This session will explore the role of services like shared micromobility, carsharing, and mobility wallets in expanding equitable access. Panelists will also discuss funding models, performance metrics, and lessons learned from recent pilot and demonstration programs.

Moderator: Lilly Shoup, Smart Mobility & Mobility Transition, Rebel Group

Panelists:

Evelyn Blumenberg, Ph.D., Professor, Urban Planning, UCLA

Susan Pike Cayar, Ph.D., Director, Transit Research Center, UC Davis

Mario Cruz, Chief, Climate Investments Branch, California Air Resources Board

Avital Shavit, Senior Director, Office of Innovation, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

3:35 PM

Coffee Break

3:55 PM

Closing Fireside Chat: Turning Vision into Action: Advancing Resilient, Affordable, and Equitable Mobility

This forward-looking fireside chat will wrap up the summit by highlighting key takeaways and outlining practical steps to advance resilient, affordable, and equitable mobility. Thought leaders will discuss innovative policies, funding strategies, and multi-stakeholder partnerships crucial for turning ideas into action. The conversation will focus on overcoming obstacles and setting priorities for the next phase of mobility transformation in California, including next steps for the UC ITS collaboration with the State. The session will end with a call to action, encouraging stakeholders to build bold partnerships, align on shared goals, and take coordinated action to accelerate mobility innovation.

Moderator: Randy Chinn, Policy Advisor, UC Institute of Transportation Studies

Panelists:

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

Christopher Cabaldon, Senator, California State Senate, District 3

Alissa Kendall, Ph.D., Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Director, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Davis

Jean-Daniel Saphores, Ph.D., Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering; Director, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Irvine

Tanisha Taylor, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission

4:55 PM

Closing Remarks

Laura Podolsky, Executive Director, University of California Institute of Transportation Studies

5:00 PM

Reception

Program Committee Members

- **Susan Shaheen**, RIMI Summit Committee Chair; Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley; Director, Resilient & Innovative Mobility Initiative
- **Alfred Chen**, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, UC, Irvine
- **Randy Chinn**, Policy Advisor, UC Institute of Transportation Studies
- **James Fishelson**, Director, California PATH, UC Berkeley
- **Julia Griswold**, Director, Safe Transportation Research & Education Center, UC Berkeley
- **Alan Jenn**, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, UC Davis
- **Mike Hyland**, Associate Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UC Irvine
- **Tim Lipman**, Co-Director, Transportation Sustainability Research Center, UC Berkeley
- **Adam Millard-Ball**, Professor, Urban Planning; Director, Institute of Transportation Studies, UCLA
- **Brian Taylor**, Professor, Urban Planning & Public Policy, Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA
- **Gil Tal**, Director, Electric Vehicle Research Center, UC Davis