Keynote presenters and panelists will discuss informative topics and call-to-action steps.

- Present and Future Green Transportation
- Clean Energy Solutions
- Healthy and Sustainable Communities
- Climate Crisis Mitigation
- Policy, Technology, Practice, Equity

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the US House of Representatives

Nuria Fernandez
Federal Transit Administrator
US Department of Transportation
Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

Nancy Pelosi is the 52nd Speaker of the House of Representatives, having made history in 2007 when she was elected the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House. Now in her third term as Speaker, Pelosi made history again in January 2019 when she regained her position second-in-line to the presidency, the first person to do so in more than 60 years. As Speaker, Pelosi is fighting For The People, working to lower health care costs, increase workers’ pay through strong economic growth and rebuilding America, and clean up corruption for make Washington work for all.

For 31 years, Speaker Pelosi has represented San Francisco, California’s 12th District, in Congress. She has led House Democrats for 16 years and previously served as House Democratic Whip. In 2013, she was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Seneca Falls, the birthplace of the American women’s rights movement.
Nuria Fernandez
Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Nuria Fernandez was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 15th Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on June 10, 2021. She was previously appointed as Deputy Administrator and senior FTA official on January 20, 2021. With more than 35 years of experience, Fernandez made a name for herself as an inspiring leader in the transportation industry. She came to FTA after serving as General Manager and CEO of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), where she was responsible for 2,100 employees and oversaw projects, programs, and transit services that provide mobility solutions for more than two million people who live and work in the Silicon Valley.

Among the highlights of her tenure at VTA was the completion of the first Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) heavy rail service into Silicon Valley, a 10-mile, $3 billion line that opened to passenger service in June 2020. She also received federal approval in 2018 to extend the heavy rail service for another six miles. When completed in 2026, the heavy rail service will total 16 miles of rail and six stations that will provide transit alternatives for tens of thousands of commuters in and around the Silicon Valley.
On April 23, 2021, Rob Bonta was sworn in as the 34th Attorney General of the State of California, the first person of Filipino descent and the second Asian-American to occupy the position.

Attorney General Bonta’s passion for justice and fairness was instilled in him by his parents, who served on the frontlines of some of America’s most important social justice movements. Instilling in him the lessons they learned from the United Farm Workers and the civil rights movement, Attorney General Bonta’s parents lit a fire inside him to fight against injustice — to stand up for those who are taken advantage of or harmed. It’s why he decided to become a lawyer — to help right historic wrongs and fight for people who have been harmed. He worked his way through college and graduated with honors from Yale University and attended Yale Law School.
EVENT HOST

Rod Diridon, Sr.
Executive Director Emeritus Mineta Transportation Institute

Rod Diridon, Sr. served as founding executive director of the Mineta Transportation Institute until 2014 when he moved to Emeritus status. Mr. Diridon has chaired more than 100 international, national, state and local programs, most related to transit and the environment. He provides legislative testimony on sustainable transportation issues and is regarded by many as the “father” of modern transit service in Silicon Valley.

Governors Davis and Schwarzenegger appointed him to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board, of which he is chair emeritus. He helped found, and is chair emeritus of, the High-Speed and Intercity Rail Committee and the National High-Speed Rail Corridors Coalition of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). He also was president of the national Council of University Transportation Centers.
SPEAKERS
In person or virtual

PANEL - GREEN TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND LIVABLE CITIES

Serena Alexander
Research Associate
Mineta Transportation Institute

Oscar E. Diaz
President
DZE Global

Rod Diridon, Sr
Executive Director Emeritus
Mineta Transportation Institute

Andrew Kunz
Founder/President
US High Speed Rail Association

Carlos Moreno
Professor
Paris IAE – Panthéon Sorbonne University
SPEAKERS

PLENARY – CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS: GENERATION AND DELIVERY

Kari Hall
The Climate Reality Project
NBC Meteorologist

Varun Sivaram
Managing Director/Sr. Advisor
Clean Energy & Innovation,
Special Presidential Envoy for
Biden-Harris Administration
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PANEL - Green Transportation Solutions and Sustainable Communities

Serena E. Alexander, PhD

Serena Alexander is an Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning and Director of Urban Online at San José State University. Her research focuses on developing and implementing cutting-edge strategies to address climate change and climate justice. Her recent work includes harnessing the greenhouse gas emissions and mobility equity potential of autonomous vehicles and on-demand mobility and harmonizing climate change mitigation and adaptation in transportation and land-use planning. Dr. Alexander has published peer-reviewed journal articles and technical reports and presented her research at national and international conferences. She is currently establishing the American Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) and Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) collaboration platform to serve as a repository of best practices of climate action planning across the globe. She received her doctorate in Urban Studies (Specialization in Urban Policy and Development). She holds master’s degrees in Urban and Regional Planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and Architectural Engineering from the Azad University of Tehran.
PLENARY - Clean Energy Solutions: Generation and Delivery, Present and Future

Kari Hall

Kari Hall joined NBC Bay Area in May 2015 as meteorologist for NBC Bay Area’s morning newscast Today in The Bay. Kari is a self-described weather fanatic. She grew up in Louisville, KY where she says her love of weather began at a very early age. From droughts to floods and snowstorms to tornadoes, Kari wanted to learn about it all.

Kari began her career at KATC in Lafayette, LA, where she covered severe weather events, including Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav. After spending six years in Louisiana, she moved back to her home state of Kentucky where she was the weekend meteorologist at WKYT in Lexington, frequently covering tornadoes and snowstorms.

Most recently, Kari worked at News 12 in Connecticut, where she was the Chief Meteorologist for the past two years.

Kari holds a B.S. in Geoscience with an emphasis in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University. She is a member of the American Meteorological Society and has a seal of approval from the National Weather Association.
PANEL - Green Transportation Solutions and Sustainable Communities

Oscar Edmundo Diaz

Oscar Edmundo, with 25 years of experience, has devoted his career to urban planning, transportation, and road safety. He is recognized for leading the planning and implementation of transport projects, including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems, e-mobility, and safe infrastructure for non-motorized transport-NMT (cycling and walking) in cities in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. This expertise is complemented with a solid financial knowledge to structure projects in major urban areas. After his post as Special Advisor on Mobility to Enrique Peñalosa, Mayor of Bogota, Colombia (2016-2019), Oscar has been doing consulting work for clients such as the World Bank in the Middle East and Latin America, C40, ITDP in Africa and Latin America, John Laing Investments, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Mr. Diaz is an advisor to FIA Foundation for the Road Safety strategy in Latin America. As Special Advisor on Mobility to Enrique Peñalosa, Mayor of Bogota, Colombia (2016-2019) he worked on the restructuring TransMilenio’s (BRT system). He was part of an extraordinarily complex negotiation aimed to the financial sustainability of the Public Transport Integrated System (10,000+ buses).
Andrew Kunz

Andrew is the founder and sets the vision and direction for the US High-Speed Rail Association (USHSR). A long-time high-speed rail advocate, he brings 30 years of successful business experience to USHSR - and provides senior leadership and an ambitious vision for sustainable transportation in America. This vision includes a 17,000-mile national high-speed rail network built in phases and slated for completion by 2030.

As an award-winning national designer with a background in urban design, community planning, landscape architecture, and sustainability, he has designed various projects, including several new towns and transit-oriented developments. As an authority on high-speed rail, Mr. Kunz is committed to further developing USHSR and the high-speed rail network in America.
PANEL  -  Green Transportation Solutions and Sustainable Communities

Carlos Moreno

International renown researcher Carlos Moreno is Associate Professor at the Paris IAE – Panthéon Sorbonne University in France and co-founder and scientific director of the ETI Chair, Entrepreneurship – Territory – Innovation. His work aims at promoting the transformation of our lifestyles and urban spaces to offer solutions to the issues faced by the cities, metropolises, and territories during the 21st century. His contributions are internationally valued for their originality and incorporated in multiple local governance projects and urban transformations worldwide. Carlos Moreno was awarded Knight of the Order of the Legion of Honor in 2010 by the French Republic. In 2019 he received the Foresight Medal from the French Academy of Architecture. Winner of the Obel Award 2021 for his work on urban and territorial proximity and its impact on the world. In November 2021, he won the Leadership Award at the World Smart Cities Awards, organized by the Smart City Expo World Congress.
Varun Sivaram

Varun Sivaram is a physicist, bestselling author, and clean energy technology expert with experience spanning the corporate, public, and academic sectors. He currently serves in the Biden-Harris administration as the senior director for clean energy, innovation, and competitiveness for Secretary John Kerry, the US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. Previously, as chief technology officer of ReNew Power, Sivaram led research and development for a multibillion-dollar company recognized as India’s largest producer of renewable energy as well as its most innovative energy company. A widely published scientist and innovation scholar, Sivaram has served on the faculty of Georgetown University and Columbia University. He has also shaped government policies supportive of innovation as the director of the energy and climate program at the Council on Foreign Relations and as a senior energy advisor to the Los Angeles mayor and New York governor's office. He has served on the boards of the Stanford University Woods Institute for the Environment and Precourt Institute for Energy; as one of the 25 advisors to the UN COP26 climate conference in 2021, on the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council for the Energy Transition; as senior fellow at the Aspen Institute, ITIF, and Energy for Growth; and on the board of directors of Peridot Acquisition Corp. (NYSE:PDAC). TIME Magazine named him one of its "100 Next most influential people in the world," MIT Technology Review named him one of the top 35 innovators under 35, and PV Magazine called him "the Hamilton of the Solar Industry."
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