MODERATOR

Sarah Catz  
Executive Director, Center for Urban Infrastructure and Advisory Board Member, Mobility 21

During the past two decades, Attorney Sarah L. Catz has been a leading transportation, infrastructure and public policy expert and has played a key role in critical transportation and infrastructure projects, both at the local and state levels. She has served as California’s acting Deputy Secretary of Transportation as well as the project manager for The Commission on Building for the 21st Century, a California infrastructure commission that included projects within water, transportation, housing, facilities and technology areas. While with the state of California, Sarah also helped secure state funding for critical infrastructure projects, including major rail projects in Southern California.

Sarah spent 10 years on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Transportation Authority and served as Chairman of the Board and was a founding member and two term chairperson of the Board of Directors of Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink). Currently, Sarah is Director of the Center for Urban Infrastructure at Brandman University-Chapman University System and is a researcher in the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Irvine.

Sarah has been recognized by The League of Women Voters of Orange County with the “OC Woman of Achievement” Award and by OC Metro Magazine as one of “10 Women Making a Difference in Orange County.” She also is the recipient of the California Transportation Foundation Tranny Award for “Citizen of the Year” and has been named “Woman of the Year” three times by the Orange County Chapter of WTS.

Sarah received her law degree from the University of Santa Clara and her bachelor’s degree from George Washington University.

PANELISTS

Justine Johnson  
Mobility Strategist, Ford Mobility

Justine Johnson is a proud native of Los Angeles, California. For the past eight years, she resided in New York City working on transportation initiatives under the Bloomberg and deBlasio Administrations. While at the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC), she worked on the “Boro Taxi” initiative, also known as the Green Taxi program, which created a new for-hire vehicle and driver classification. Following her work at the TLC, she moved to the New York City Economic Development Corporation managing government and community relations for Mayor de Blasio’s new commuter ferry system called NYC Ferry. She recently joined Ford Mobility’s City Solutions team and is working with municipalities and communities on mobility solutions that help move people and goods more efficiently and effectively throughout the region. Justine holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Hampton University and two Master’s Degrees from the University of
Southern California. During her free time, you can find her running track with the Trojan’s Masters Track Club.

George Kivork
Senior Public Policy Manager, Lyft

George Kivork is Senior Public Policy Manager at Lyft, overseeing all government affairs for the Southern California region, and currently Arizona and Nevada. He is an attorney with extensive experience in legislative affairs and communications, having advised public advocacy campaigns, business executives, and officials at the local and the highest levels of the U.S government.

George has a proven track record of shaping and implementing strategies to achieve policy objectives in highly demanding environments.

Most recently, he served the City of Los Angeles in numerous capacities on behalf of Mayor Eric Garcetti. First, managing the City of LA's federal affairs office in Washington, D.C., then as press secretary, and ultimately as associate counsel advancing the City's priorities and the Mayor's strategic initiatives. Prior to that, George worked in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Commerce, and as an attorney at O'Melveny & Myers.

George is a graduate of the University of Southern California and Georgetown Law School.

Marie Sullivan
Manager, Transportation Planning, Office of Extraordinary Innovation, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Marie Sullivan is the Project Manager of Metro’s Partnership with Via, as part of her Innovation Fellowship with Metro’s Office of Extraordinary Innovation. Her previous experience at Metro has focused on specialized real estate projects such as The Bloc / Metro Connection and the North Hollywood Joint Development. She also helped write Metro’s joint development affordable housing policy and the Transit Oriented Community Policy. She hails from Denver, Colorado, studied at Pomona College (Media Studies and Spanish) and University of Southern California (Urban Planning). Marie spent three years editing documentaries in New York City, and she took her first shared, on-demand taxi during her 2003 semester in Havana, Cuba. Her travels in Latin America drew her to on-demand, shared jitney style transportation, and she is excited to be newly re-immersed in that world in Los Angeles.
Vincent Valdes

Associate Administrator for Research, Demonstration and Innovation, Federal Transit Administration

As the Associate Administrator for FTA’s Office of Research, Demonstration and Innovation since 2008, Vince Valdes leads a team of program managers, transportation specialists and engineers who work on FTA’s transit research program. The program provides a national forum for transit research and promotes the development and adoption of innovative transit practices and technologies in public transportation.

Vince has led work in various fields including aerospace engineering, transportation research, urban and regional planning, neighborhood economic development, environmental protection and international development.

He graduated with a degree in Engineering from Boston University and a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University and has worked as a city planner for Washington, D.C. and program director for the World Bank.