

PM 3: The Future is Here, Are We Ready? *Magic Kingdom 3*

MODERATOR



Greg Brannon

Director, Automotive Engineering and Industry Relations, AAA National

In his role as the Director of Automotive Engineering for AAA, Greg Brannon oversees all automotive research and testing for the 65 million member organization. Areas of expertise include electric vehicles, advance driver assistance systems, autonomous vehicles, automotive batteries and fuels.

AAA's Automotive Engineering team, spanning both coasts of the United States, conducts a wide variety of unbiased, independent research projects that inform consumers and influence the industry toward the safer adoption of technology.

Greg holds a B.S. in Business Management and a MBA from the University of Central Florida along with ASE Master Technician certification. He serves as a student mentor and on the Board of the Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools. In his spare time he enjoys building, restoring, and racing cars.

PANELISTS



Ryan Brodley

Business Development, Joby Aviation

Ryan is leading Joby's initiative to bring its all-electric air taxi service to Southern California. As the Business Development Lead, he collaborates with local partners to prepare the region for Joby's innovative vertical takeoff and landing aircraft. With a background that combines a decade in automotive and aircraft software with a Master's in Aerospace Engineering from Bristol University, Ryan joined Joby in 2022 to turn visionary aviation into a local reality.



Frank Girardot

Senior Communications Director, RIDE_Co

Frank Girardot is an American author, journalist, victim advocate, and radio host. He is best known for "Name Dropper", his biography of serial imposter Christian Gerhartsreiter. He is communications director for BYD Auto's North American operations, CEO of Pegasus Communications, LLC and the former editor and columnist for the San Gabriel Valley Tribune.

Frank got his start in journalism as a copy boy at the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner. Subsequent to the newspaper's closing, he worked for the Ontario Daily Report, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune and the Pasadena Star-News. His 1994 story on the unsolved murder of Geneva Hilliker Ellroy, the mother of novelist James Ellroy, resulted in Ellroy's book *My Dark Places*.

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Frank has won several writing awards, including the Southern California Press Association's award for Investigative Journalism 1995, the Los Angeles Press Club's First Place Award for sports writing in 1998, and he was a finalist for the 2015 University of Florida Award for Investigative Data Journalism in 2015. Frank headed a project for the Los Angeles Newspaper Group titled "Getting Away with Murder." The effort chronicled 11,242 homicides that occurred in Los Angeles County between 2000 and 2010. Relying on data supplied by the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner the project found that less than 50 percent of all homicides that occurred countywide were ever solved.

Frank resides in Pasadena, California. He has three children and is a Roman Catholic. He plays guitar in Thunderheart, a band he formed in Temecula, California, with actor Dean Norris.



Adam Lane

City Policy & Government Affairs Manager, Waymo

Adam Lane is a Public Policy Manager for State & Local at Waymo, the autonomous driving technology company with a mission to be the world's most trusted driver. In this role, he oversees Waymo's relationship with policy and government stakeholders in Southern California and six states across the United States.

Prior to Waymo, Adam served as the Vice President of Government Affairs and Programs for the Los Angeles Business Council, a progressive business advocacy and research organization, where he oversaw the organization's government affairs strategy and public policy priorities in the areas of clean energy, economic development, environmental sustainability, homelessness, housing, and transportation.

Adam received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with Magna Cum Laude honors from California State University, Northridge and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of Southern California.



Zayn Mashat

Director of Business Development, Ohmio

Zayn Mashat is the Director of Business Development – Americas at Ohmio, where he leads the company's strategic growth and deployment efforts across North America. With over a decade of experience in sales, go-to-market strategy, and business development, Zayn is driving the expansion of Ohmio's autonomous shuttle technology across key transit and smart city projects.

He oversaw multiple Ohmio operations such as at JFK Airport, including shuttle platooning demonstrations and the launch of passenger-carrying pilots connecting travelers to the AirTrain, enhancing airport mobility and efficiency. He also leads Ohmio's business development efforts in Riverside, California, working closely with company leadership and public partners to advance deployments across the region.

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Zayn brings a strong track record of helping early-stage ventures grow into companies valued in the hundreds of millions, focusing on sustainable growth, strategic partnerships, and scalable solutions. Now, at Ohmio, he is spearheading expansion on both U.S. coasts, with a pipeline of exciting projects that aim to redefine the future of autonomous mobility.

Known for building high-performing teams, forging strong client relationships, and championing technology that makes everyday life smarter and more connected, Zayn brings a people-first approach to innovation and growth.



Mark W. Taylor

Senior Director, State Advocacy & Global Engagement, The Boeing Company

Mark W. Taylor serves as Senior Director of State Advocacy and Global Engagement for The Boeing Company. In this role, Mark leads Boeing's state and local government relations activities in California and Boeing's corporate philanthropy in western states. He joined Boeing in 2019 with extensive government affairs, strategic communications, political and campaign experience after working for government agencies and clients throughout California.

Prior to joining Boeing, Mark served as Chief of Staff for Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia where he helped lead significant achievements including the creation of the first Public-Private-Partnership to build a new City Hall, Main Library, Port Headquarters, and downtown park, as well as passage of eight local ballot and tax measures.

Mark serves as the Chair of the Aerospace and Defense Alliance of California (ADAC) and is a board member for the California Manufactures and Technology Association (CMTA).

Mark is also active in his community and currently serves as the board president for the Long Beach Opera, and on the board of the Long Beach Mayor's Fund. Mark earned a master's degree in global business administration from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a master's degree in the History of American Civilization at Brandeis University.