

ITS America Innovation Forum 2026

K&L Gates LLP | 1601 K St. NW #1, Washington, DC 20006

Kick- Off Networking Reception | September 29, 2026 | 5:00pm to 6:30pm

Forum | September 30, 2026 | 8:45am to 4:00pm

Premier Sponsors:



September 29, 2026 | Agenda

5:00pm – 6:30pm Networking Reception

September 30, 2026 | Agenda

8:45am – 8:55am Welcome Remarks – *Laura Chace, President and CEO, ITS America*

8:55am – 9:10am Opening Keynote Remarks from Federal Leadership – *Michael Halem, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, U.S. DOT*

9:10am – 9:30am Keynote Remarks - The Next Great Convergence: AI, Quantum, Robotics and Data: What It Means for Intelligent Transportation - *Sinan Yordem, Senior Vice President, Head of North America Advisory, Energy and Infrastructure Business Units, Cambridge Consultants*

9:30am – 10:00am Tech Talk: The Software-Defined Intersection
Kurtis McBride, CEO, Miovision
For decades, we've upgraded vehicles. What if the next mobility revolution happens at the intersection? Learn what a software-defined intersection looks like, why it matters, and how it could reshape safety, operations, and transportation innovation.

10:00am – 10:30am Tech Talk: Digital Corridors at Scale: Shifting from ITS today to Tiered Smart Infrastructure
Chris Armstrong, Chief Product Officer, Cavnue
Today's ITS deployments provide valuable operational information. However, they weren't designed to deliver continuous roadway awareness or surface emerging risk at network scale. What does it take to solve that challenge? Not treating every corridor as a one-off project. Learn from real-world use cases on how a tiered framework that matches digital infrastructure investments to corridor needs is essential — especially one that scales seamlessly from inferred data systems to high-consequence, time-critical zones.

10:30am – 10:45am	Networking Break
10:45am – 11:25am	Desperately Seeking Solutions: Unsolved Challenges Hear from the public sector leaders directly about Unsolved Priority Challenges that could benefit from frontier technology solutions. • Amy Ford, Executive Director, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, City of Denver • Michele Mueller, Manager Connected, Automated and Electrification, Michigan DOT • Stephanie Dock, Innovation Branch Manager, District DOT • Karina Ricks, Partner, CityFi (moderator)
11:25am – 11:55am	Tech Talk: Engineering Roads That Think Ahead Leif Johnson, Industry Solutions Director, Bentley What if transportation agencies could predict how roads will perform before construction even begins? Explore how digital twins strengthen digital delivery by connecting fragmented data from early design through long-term operations, giving AI and simulation the context to generate insights that help teams anticipate handoff bottlenecks, identify constructability risks earlier, and deliver safer, more resilient networks.
11:55am – 12:45pm	Lunch
12:45pm – 1:00pm	Keynote Remarks - The Future Won't Wait: AI and the Next Transportation Revolution – Gerry Petrella, General Manager, U.S. Public Policy, Microsoft
1:00pm – 1:30pm	Tech Talk: Chattanooga Quantum Collaborative: From bytes to qubits Mina Sartipi, Founding Director of the Center for Urban Informatics and Progress (CUIP) and Executive Director of the UT Chattanooga Research Institute From bytes to qubits, a new computing revolution is taking shape in Chattanooga. Learn what a "quantum city" looks like, why it matters for transportation and infrastructure, and how quantum technologies could unlock solutions to challenges that today's computers simply cannot solve.
1:30pm – 2:00pm	Tech Talk: Connecting the Dots Between Technology and Outcomes Joshua Benson, ITS Market Lead, Arcadis and Jessica Hector-Hsu, ITS Market Lead, Arcadis The transportation sector is entering a new era defined by AI, digital infrastructure, automation, and intelligent systems. While technology continues to advance rapidly, agencies must also evolve how they evaluate, prioritize, and implement innovation. We will showcase practical approaches for aligning emerging technologies with organizational goals, local context, governance structures, workforce capabilities, and business outcomes, creating a programmatic approach and scalable path from innovation to measurable results.

2:00pm – 2:20pm	Start-Up Innovations: What's New and What's Next • <i>Michelle Maggiore, Founder, Vikasa</i> • <i>Paul Madeira, Chief International Growth Officer, Causeway</i> • <i>Jatish Patel, Founder and CEO, Flow Labs</i> • <i>Georges Aoude, Co-founder and CEO, Deraq</i>
2:20pm – 2:35pm	Networking Break
2:35pm – 3:15pm	Innovation Wanted. Results Required. Discover where transportation leaders are placing their bets for the future. Public sector executives will share the innovations, capabilities, and outcomes they are most eager to advance—and the opportunities they see on the horizon. • <i>Dina El-Tawansy, Director, Caltrans</i> • <i>Angela Castro, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, RTC Southern Nevada</i> • <i>Marc Williams, Executive Director, Texas DOT</i> • <i>Carlos Bracerias, Executive Director, Utah DOT</i> • <i>Joanna M. Pinkerton, Senior Vice President, HNTB (moderator)</i>
3:15pm – 4:00pm	Can We Buy That Yet? Procurement designed for asphalt and steel wasn't built for AI, automation, and rapidly evolving technology. Hear how transportation leaders are creating more agile, outcomes-focused approaches that can accelerate innovation while delivering measurable results. • <i>Shailen Bhatt, Chief Operating Officer, Atkins Realis</i> • <i>Greer Johnson Gillis, Senior Vice President/Chief Infrastructure & Development Officer, Jacksonville Transportation Authority</i> • <i>Jason Conley, Executive Director, OmniAir</i> • <i>Anderson Abernathy, President and COO, Michelin Mobility Intelligence</i> • <i>Tim Drake, VP, Government Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, Miovision (moderator)</i>
4:00pm	Closing Remarks