

Lead or Follow? Keeping Massachusetts Competitive in Mobility Innovation

As part of its **Competitiveness Conversation Series**, on February 5, 2026, the **Massachusetts Competitive Partnership** (MACP), in partnership with the **Mass Mobility Hub**, convened policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and innovators to examine how Massachusetts can maintain leadership in mobility innovation, particularly as autonomy and emerging technologies move from research to real-world deployment.

John Moavenzadeh (MIT Mobility Initiative), opened the program with a presentation outlining the national and global landscape of autonomous mobility. His remarks underscored both the urgency and opportunity for Massachusetts to reassert leadership in this space.

The panel discussion, moderated by MA **Secretary of Economic Development Eric Paley**, featured:

- **Jane Lappin**, Partner, **Blue Door Strategy & Research**
- **Karl Iagnemma**, CEO, **Vecna Robotics**
- **Sidney McLaurin**, Founder & CEO, **Fleet Robotics**

Panelists emphasized the need for **regulatory clarity**, coordinated **public-private collaboration**, and **proactive policymaking** to ensure Massachusetts remains competitive. Discussion focused on safety, workforce impacts, commercialization pathways, infrastructure, and the broader ecosystem required to support autonomy—not only in passenger vehicles, but across logistics, inspection, robotics, defense, and related sectors.

A key theme emerged: **autonomy is not a future question of “if,” but “how.”** Other states and countries are actively shaping testing and deployment environments. If MA does not engage deliberately and strategically, it risks following rather than leading.

The **Mass Mobility Hub** is leading the effort to advance thoughtful autonomy policy and ecosystem development in Massachusetts. **If you are interested in engaging in this work**—whether through policy discussions, partnership opportunities, sponsorship, or coalition-building—**please connect with Kate Roberts, COO of the Mass Mobility Hub, at kroberts@massmobilityhub.com.**

Now is the moment to ensure Massachusetts leads.

