

TTA2026

ANNUAL CONFERENCE • EXPO • ROADEO

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

HOSTED BY CITIBUS

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 8:30 am - 9:45 am (Opening Session)



Title: Turning the Inspiration Into Shared Insight

Description:

this moderated panel brings together transit leaders who are actively redefining what success looks like in today's public transportation environment. Through an engaging conversation, panelists will explore how agencies are shifting the focus from simply completing projects to delivering meaningful outcomes for their communities. The discussion will highlight evolving expectations from federal partners, local leaders, and customers, while sharing real-world examples of how organizations are moving beyond performance measurement toward true performance management. Panelists will also discuss how stronger storytelling—grounded in results and community impact—can build public confidence, strengthen partnerships, and support continued investment in transit.

Mark Aesch
Founder and Chief
Executive Officer
TransPro



Dottie Watkins
President & CEO
Capital Metropolitan
Transportation Authority



Dr. Leroy Alloway
Chief of Staff
VIA Metropolitan Transit



Chris Mandrell
General Manager
Citibus



Martín Ornelas-Mata
Director
REAL Transit





Title: AI & the Future of Everything

Adapting to an AI-powered future may be today's most urgent challenge. But teams are divided. Some are excited about "AI-powered everything" and overlooking the pitfalls. Others are unsure or anxious about the disruption AI could bring—and don't know where to begin.

Dan's AI & THE FUTURE OF EVERYTHING breaks down what AI is good at, and what it's not. He'll show you how it's evolving and how to pair its capabilities with the power of human expertise.

Audiences walk away with practical strategies to leverage AI and other emerging technologies—unlocking new levels of performance, creativity, and a competitive edge. It'll change the way you think about AI and work.

Dan Chuparkoff

Adapting to an AI-powered future may be today's most urgent challenge. But teams are divided. Some are excited about "AI-powered everything" and overlooking the pitfalls. Others are unsure or anxious about the disruption AI could bring—and don't know where to begin. Dan brings 30 years of experience leading some of the most advanced, future-focused teams in the world—including at Google, McKinsey, and Atlassian. He's built teams that served billions of users. Long ago, he realized this: The speed at which you grasp and adopt new technology will determine your success. With AI, this is truer than ever.

Today, Dan helps teams to make sense of AI. It's not just a new search engine or a new chat interface, it's about to become as integrated into our lives as copy & paste. Dan breaks down what AI is good at, and what it's not. He'll show you how it's evolving, and how to pair its capabilities with the power of human expertise.

Dan Chuparkoff's Bio:

Dan Chuparkoff is a technology leader and speaker with more than 30 years of experience driving innovation at companies such as Google, McKinsey & Company, and Atlassian. Known for making complex technology practical and easy to understand, Dan has spoken to audiences ranging from Fortune 100 companies to South by Southwest. As CEO of Reinvention Labs, he focuses on AI education and research, helping organizations understand how emerging technologies are reshaping the future of work. Through his keynotes and workshops, Dan inspires audiences to harness the power of AI and technology to drive innovation and growth.

April 30, 2026, 3:45 pm - 4:15 pm



Title: FTA Update From Donald (Don) Koski, AICP

FTA Deputy Regional 6 Administrator

3:45 pm - 4:15 pm

Description:

FTA Deputy Regional 6 Administrator Donald (Don) Koski, AICP, will provide the latest updates from the Federal Transit Administration, including key federal priorities, funding opportunities, and policy developments affecting transit agencies across the region. This session is also an opportunity to hear directly from FTA leadership about the issues most important to your agency.

April 30, 2026, 4:15 pm - 5:00 pm Sponsored by RATP Dev

Title: AI and the New Transit Workforce

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm

Stephen Kuban

CEO & Principal, Kuban Transit Solutions

Description:

This fast-paced, eye-opening session will demonstrate real AI tools solving real transit challenges—in real time. Attendees will leave energized and curious, with an invitation to go deeper at Friday's post-conference workshop.

Participants Will Learn:

- Myth-busting: What AI can (and can't) do today.
- A glimpse into the changing nature of work and what it means for your agency.
- Live demonstration of AI tools applied to transit scenarios.
- Preview of the deeper workshop for those who want to learn more.

Stephen Kuban's Bio:

Stephen Kuban, founder and CEO of Kuban Transit Solutions (KTS), is an emerging thought leader on the future of the post-AI workplace. A 2025 Mass Transit Magazine "40 Under 40" honoree with over a decade leading America's most well-known transit technology companies, his mission is to help public sector leaders shatter their glass ceilings.

Stephen's work has been featured in major national distribution channels. His sessions are known for teaching immediately actionable techniques, leaving audiences energized, equipped, and thinking differently about their role in a rapidly changing landscape.

