



Mobility and Innovation

Thursday, January 8, 2026
Detroit Regional Chamber
777 Woodward Ave., Suite 800, Detroit, MI 48226

- 8:30 a.m. **Class Arrival & Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome & Announcements**
- 9:05 a.m. **Overview of Automotive Mobility Industry in Michigan**
Glenn Stevens, Jr., Executive Director, MichAuto; Chief Automotive and Innovation Officer, Detroit Regional Chamber, LD 31
- 9:50 a.m. **Networking Break**
- 10:00 a.m. **Ann Arbor to Detroit Innovation Corridor**
Introduction By: Sandy K. Baruah, President and CEO, Detroit Regional Chamber
Lisa Prasad, Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, Henry Ford Health
Scott Shireman, Director, University of Michigan Center for Innovation
Moderator: Ned Staebler, President and CEO, TechTown Detroit
- 10:45 a.m. **Networking and Activities**
- 11:45 a.m. **Lunch**
- 12:15 p.m. **Downtown Detroit Partnership Overview**
Elise Fields, Sr. Director, Urban Innovation, Downtown Detroit Partnership
James Fidler, Urban Innovation, Downtown Detroit Partnership
- 12:45 p.m. **Networking Break**
- 1:00 p.m. **Conversation with Mark de la Vergne**
Mark de la Vergne, Director, Economic Innovation and Policy, Michigan Central
- 1:45 p.m. **Powering Detroit's Mobility and Energy Startups: From Innovation to Implementation**
Ron Butler, CEO, Energy Safety Storage Products International (ESSPI)
Brittany McGee, CEO, OptimizeEV
Kristin Shaw, Program Manager, Smart Cities, NextEnergy
Moderator: Drew Coleman, Senior Director, MichAuto, Detroit Regional Chamber
- 2:30 p.m. **Networking Break**
- 2:45 p.m. **Startup Showcase and Demonstration: Smart Battery Protection System Demonstration**
Amanveer Gadiya, Executive Product Manager, Innovation and Systems Design, Energy Safety Storage Products International (ESSPI)
- 3:15 p.m. **Demistifying Innovation: If You Solve Problems, You're an Innovator**
Johnnie Turnage, Co-Founder, Black Tech Saturdays
- 4:00 p.m. **LD46 Led Class Group Discussion**



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Janelle Arbuckle-Michael, Associate Director, Talent Development, Pre-K-12 Initiatives,
Michigan Central

Paul Johnson III, Community Relations Ombudsperson, SMART

4:45 p.m. **Wrap Up and Class Announcements**

5:00 p.m. **End of Session**