

## **PATH Conference 2025 Summary**

On Tuesday, February 11, 2025, the Mobility Network hosted the Planning Advancements in Transportation and Housing (PATH) Conference at the Chelsea Hotel in Toronto. With over 145 attendees, the event united academics, policy-makers, and industry professionals to explore innovative solutions for transportation and housing challenges in the Greater Golden Horseshoe region.

The day began with welcoming remarks from Karen Chapple, Director of the School of Cities at the University of Toronto, followed by an introduction to the Mobility Network Research Consortium (MNRC) from Steven Farber, Director of the Mobility Network. Dr. Farber highlighted the important role of the MNRC in fostering interdisciplinary research aimed at addressing the region's most pressing issues. To view Dr. Farber's introduction to the PATH Conference and the MNRC, click [here](#).

The conference featured three concurrent sessions covering a range of critical topics, including integrating land use and transportation planning, sustainable urban mobility, AI-driven innovations in transit and traffic control, and the intersection of climate justice and transportation. These thought-provoking sessions drew from the expertise of faculty members from the University of Toronto's Departments of Civil & Mineral Engineering, Geography & Planning, as well as the Institute for Management & Innovation. For more details, the full conference program is available [here](#).

Attracting a broad mix of participants from 10 municipalities from across the GGH, 6 universities, 2 federal and 2 provincial agencies, all representatives contributed to a dynamic environment for collaboration and knowledge exchange. The sessions also included practitioners from Hatch, Pembina Institute, ESRI Canada, Sonder Bloom and Black Urbanism Toronto.

A major highlight of the day was the keynote presentation by Professor Daniel Rodriguez, Director of the Institute for Transportation Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. His talk, titled *Building Strategic Partnerships to Drive Transportation Research Innovation*, captivated the audience as he discussed the importance of collaboration between academia, industry, and government in advancing transportation research and policy. His insights set the stage for continued conversations on how to develop the MNRC in our region. View his keynote presentation [here](#).

A lively debate on the motion "Cars Are Still the Future of Mobility in the Greater Golden Horseshoe" also captured attention. Prof. Murtaza Haider of Toronto Metropolitan University supported the motion, while Prof. Shoshanna Saxe of the University of Toronto argued against it. The debate sparked engaging conversations about the future of urban mobility, keeping attendees on the edge of their seats. To view the debate, click [here](#).

The conference concluded with a reception, providing a final opportunity for attendees to reflect on the day's discussions, network with colleagues, and continue building valuable partnerships.

The PATH 2025 conference marked a significant step toward building a more sustainable and equitable future for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. It set the stage for the development of a strong, interdisciplinary community committed to advancing these goals. By bringing together academia, government, and industry, the event fostered collaboration and the exchange of knowledge, insights and practices. Looking ahead, this collective effort will drive evidence-based decision-making, promote best practices, and explore innovative solutions in transportation and housing planning, all contributing to the region's long-term success.