



**GLOBAL EPICENTER
OF MOBILITY**
REVOLUTIONIZING THE DETROIT REGION

ECOSYSTEM IN ACTION

GEM 2025 ANNUAL MEETING



NOVEMBER 5, 2025

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AN INTRODUCTION FROM MAUREEN DONOHUE-KRAUSS

While the official theme of this year's Global Epicenter of Mobility annual meeting is "Ecosystem in Action", "Ecosystem in Uncertainty" would have been equally appropriate. As we reflect on GEM's third year in operation, it's impossible to overlook the challenges and obstacles we've overcome as a coalition in 2025. Changes beyond our control have presented significant implications for our work; but rather than shrinking away from our mission, the GEM coalition continues to demonstrate the grit, determination, and tenacity that defines our region and our efforts.

From students to entrepreneurs, startups to legacy manufacturers—the GEM coalition has been instrumental in bringing opportunities in advanced mobility to life in the Detroit Region. Through training programs, testing initiatives, financial and professional support, and curated events engaging our communities and partner organizations, we have continued to bring players in the advanced mobility space - new and existing - even closer.

And GEM isn't just talking the talk. Our ongoing research has shown our region is in the process of transitioning from a manufacturing hub to an innovation ecosystem, where fewer entities have control, and more have influence. Where organizations openly collaborate to bring ideas to life. This insight is rewarding, and the shift is exciting, especially as we look toward the final year of this grant-funded period.

We now must focus our efforts on defining what this work looks like for our region in the future. How will the different parts of this ecosystem evolve? How can this work continue to bring transformational change to the Detroit Region? We are excited to see where the next year takes us, and we are so grateful to have you all continuing along with us on this journey.

Sincerely,

MAUREEN DONOHUE-KRAUSS

President and CEO

Detroit Regional Partnership



GEM has had a huge impact on our program. We've been able to not only help over 120 students come into the drone pilot program but also provide them with long-term career opportunities. We're very thankful for GEM and the support they're providing to keep Detroiters at the cutting edge of mobility technology."

MARIO SW Aidan
FOUNDER AND CEO AT DRONE PILOT ACADEMY

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GRANTS COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cormick White (Chairman), Automotive Business Development, Apple

Maureen Donohue Krauss, President and CEO, Detroit Regional Partnership

Wafa Dinaro, Executive Director, New Economy Initiative

Lisa Katz, Director, Strategic Partnerships & Industry Relations, University of Michigan, Office of the Provost

Liz Keen, Chief Strategy Officer, Newlab

John Kerr, Senior Manager, Government Affairs, DENSO International

Zachary Kolodin, Founding Partner/President, Pont Law/Pont Advisory

Justin Kosmides, CEO and Co-Founder, Bloom

Michelle Sourie Robinson, President and CEO, Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council

Dave Schweitert, Senior Policy Advisor, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, & Feld LLP

Jonathan Smith, Chief Deputy Director, Labor & Economic Opportunity, State of Michigan

Cheryl Thompson, Founder and CEO, Center for Automotive Diversity, Inclusion and Advancement

2025 PILLAR ACHIEVEMENTS

Highlights of the past year from each of GEM's six pillar initiatives.

GEM CENTRAL



- Launched the Road to 2030 initiative, turning the Future Mobility Technology findings into a module-based, actionable toolkit for entities making business strategy, location, expansion or diversification decisions.
- Continued Social Network Analysis research: completed analysis and shared results of Round 2 with GEM partners and regional stakeholders and launched Round 3.
- Hosted the Building Better Regions Communities of Practice meeting in Detroit, sharing GEM successes and insights with attendees from across the country.

MOBILITY ACCELERATION & INNOVATION



- TechTown, Invest Detroit, and Venture 313 co-hosted an AI x Mobility Buildathon, a multi-day rapid prototyping event that drew hundreds of participants and produced six finalist teams—five of which developed compelling mobility solutions with strong commercialization potential.
- Centrepolis Accelerator hosted the 2025 ManuTech Innovation Summit, convening 400+ attendees from Michigan's manufacturing, mobility, and defense sectors for a full day of panels, pitches, and 435 one-on-one matchmaking meetings that sparked new partnerships and accelerated hardtech growth.
- Design Core Detroit partnered with Foxxtecca during Detroit Month of Design to present Cars, Kicks, and Culture—a two-day immersive celebration connecting automotive innovation, streetwear, technology, and community through exhibits, storytelling, panels, and live installations.

TALENT TRANSFORMATION



- The six Michigan Works! Agencies covering the 11-county GEM region supported job seekers with almost 1000 mobility career awareness consultations, enrolling 430 in training with 290 of them earning mobility ready credentials.
- The SEMCA GEM Employer Services Team launched the Mobility Talent Resource Network, enrolling 72 employers and 45 talent service providers delivering on 43 grant-funded projects.
- The SEMCA GEM Talent & Sector Team partnered with Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC), Michigan Central, University of Michigan Center for Innovation, and Drone Pilot Academy to deliver a drone training program for 90 students as part of "Saturdays in the D" over the summer.

TESTING & PROVING



- Drove users to southeast Michigan's mobility test sites leveraging support from OFME's Michigan Mobility Funding Platform, including projects such as last-mile delivery robot testing, automatic emergency braking testing, teleoperated EV carsharing, and autonomous underwater robots for inspecting water systems.
- Improved GEM test site offerings such as adding to the Kettering University Mobility Research Center's vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technology, new autonomous truck testing capabilities at the American Center for Mobility, enhanced autonomous vehicle safety testing at Mcity, and new drone vertiport capabilities at the Detroit Smart Parking Lab.
- Supported test site users that have achieved further investments, deployments, and awards such as the Toyota Mobility Foundation Sustainable Cities Challenge, the National Science Foundation Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, and OFME's One-Time Mobility Fund.

SUPPLY CHAIN TRANSFORMATION CENTER



- Admitted 92 companies into the program.
- Completed 80 comprehensive company assessments.
- Launched 139 technical assistance projects across 60 companies.
 - 68 projects completed.
 - 71 projects currently active.

SITE READINESS



- More than 30 new industrial sites were accepted into the VIP program in 2025, contributing to the 100+ VIP sites invested in by the program. Additionally, more than 20 sites are moving forward for physical site studies and five active projects on VIP sites.
- The VIP Program has committed over \$4.7 million in site-specific activities across the Detroit Region, including \$1 million to Site Assessment reports, \$3.7 million to Onsite Investigations, and more than \$250,000 to End User Support.
- VIP Program and team has been nationally recognized and awarded prestigious awards this year including 2025 Racer Trust Racer's Edge Award, Business Facilities EDO of the Year, Real Estate Journals Detroit Commercial Real Estate Awards - 2025 Woman of the Year, 2025 Person of the Year Award International City/County Management (ICMA) & EPA.

2026 PILLAR VISIONING

High-level priorities for the upcoming year include the following efforts:

GEM CENTRAL



- Launch tools and initiatives that expand access, connection, and opportunity across the Detroit region's mobility ecosystem: a trusted connector program, chatbot, Outreach Strategy Playbook activation, and a new podcast series. Together, these tools will help link people, businesses, and communities to the resources that power regional growth through advanced mobility.
- Complete research and share findings on Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), an additional technology to be included in the Road to 2030 initiative.

MOBILITY ACCELERATION & INNOVATION



- Expand capital support for local startups by increasing non-dilutive funding opportunities, hosting recurring Buildathon prize competitions, and strengthening mentorship around fundraising to position founders for long-term financial success.
- Grow TechTown's revamped Start Studio program to serve 5 mobility innovators per cohort, offering intensive mentorship, prototyping support, and a strong ecosystem network that complement regional accelerators like Centrepolis, Newlab, and Michigan Founders Fund.
- Hire a dedicated Project Manager to strengthen operations, coordinate partners, and scale the reach and impact of the MAIN initiative.

TALENT TRANSFORMATION



- Continue to support job seekers through mobility career consultations, training enrollments, mobility ready credentials, and job placements.
- Support mobility employers through the Mobility Talent Resource Network, connecting them with talent service providers to deliver grant-funded services.
- Start work on building the framework for the Systems Change Playbook that will capture key lessons learned throughout the Talent Transformation pillar.

TESTING & PROVING



- Deploy planned improvements at test sites with an upcoming focus on further building out southeast Michigan's advanced aerial mobility testing ecosystem and expanding battery testing opportunities.
- Share further case studies and success stories of test site users and site capabilities, highlighting continued innovation and expanded access to testing.
- Continue outreach to start-ups and the mobility ecosystem to further develop the test site user pipeline.

SUPPLY CHAIN TRANSFORMATION CENTER



- Recruit and assess the remaining companies to reach the goal of 100 assessments completed.
- Allocate remaining funding and complete the majority of technical assistance projects.
- Finalize and publish success stories that highlight company transformation.

SITE READINESS



- Completion of the Industrial Development Toolkit to equip communities with resources to attract and support new industrial development.
- Identify non-industrial zoned sites with potential to rezone and bring properties 50 acres and up into the VIP Program.
- Continue to provide essential support and technical assistance to developers, accelerating project timelines on key development sites.

Without the initial deployment at Detroit's Smart Parking lab, which was funded and supported via GEM, we would not have seen any of the growth that we've seen in the last year and a half. It was such an incredibly important opportunity for proving our technology, testing it, showcasing it to a global audience and opening these doors for us to really start to scale revenue. I can't express enough gratitude for the team at GEM, OFME and everybody that's helped make this possible."

JOSH BITTERMAN
CO-FOUNDER & HEAD OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, IONDYNAMICS ENERGY

