

2026 Transportation Technologies Office Annual Merit Review Plenary Agenda

(updated May 27, 2026)

Start Time	End Time	Presentation	Speakers	Duration
1:00 PM	1:05 PM	Welcoming Remarks	Austin Brown, Director Transportation Technologies Office	5 min
1:05 PM	1:15 PM	Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) Leadership Vision	Audrey Robertson, Assistant Secretary of Energy (EERE)	10 min
1:15 PM	1:22 PM	Office of Critical Minerals, Materials, and Manufacturing (CM3) Overview	Chris Saldana, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Critical Minerals, Materials, and Manufacturing	7 min
1:23 PM	1:30 PM	Office of Energy Technology (E-Tech) Overview	Matthew Grosso, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Energy Technology	7 min
1:30 PM	1:50 PM	Panel: DOE Battery Strategy	Panelists: Madeleine Bugel, Deputy Assistant Secretary National Battery Strategy & Execution Andrew Freigang, Special Advisor Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation Eric Hsieh, Deputy Assistant Secretary Energy Storage, DOE Office of Electricity	20 min
1:50 PM	2:25 PM	Panel: AI and the Next Generation of Transportation	Panelists: Brad Freeze, Chief Engineer - Assistant Director, Nashville DOT Charlotte McElroy, Government Relations, Aurora Priyantha Mudalige, Group Manager Autonomous Vehicles, GM Bindu Nair, Associate Director Basic Energy Sciences, DOE Office of Science Moderator: Alexis Zubrow, Program Manager/Acting Deputy Director	35 min
2:25 PM	3:00 PM	Panel: Miles and Megawatts: The Art of Harmonizing	Panelists: Calvin Reed, Secretary of Transportation, Kansas DOT Allie Kelly, Executive Director, The Ray Brian Wilkie, Director-Transmission, Origination & Development, National Grid Moderator: Julie Peacock, Senior Advisor Transportation Technologies Office	35 min
3:00 PM	3:30 PM	Break		
3:30 PM	3:45 PM	Transportation Technologies Office (TTO) Overview Intro/Priorities	Austin Brown, Director Transportation Technologies Office	15 min
3:45 PM	3:55 PM	Overview: Batteries R&D	Brian Cunningham, Program Manager	10 min
3:55 PM	4:05 PM	Overview: Vehicle Analysis	Michelle Avillanoza, Program Manager	10 min
4:05 PM	4:15 PM	Overview: Technology Integration	Mark Smith, Program Manager	10 min
4:15 PM	4:25 PM	Overview: Advanced Motors and Power Systems R&D	Mike Weismiller, Program Manager	10 min
4:25 PM	4:35 PM	Overview: Materials Technology R&D	Gurpreet Singh, Acting Program Manager	10 min
4:35 PM	4:45 PM	Overview: Off-Road, Rail, Marine and Aviation	Gurpreet Singh, Program Manager	10 min
4:45 PM	4:55 PM	Overview: Energy Efficient Mobility Systems	Alexis Zubrow, Program Manager	10 min
4:55 PM	5:05 PM	Overview: Joint Office of Energy and Transportation	Alexis Zubrow, Acting Deputy Director	10 min
5:05 PM	5:30 PM	TTO Awards	Austin Brown, Director Transportation Technologies Office	25 min