

SARAH M. KAUFMAN – CURRICULUM VITAE



Executive Director

Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management
Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Owner and Principal

KAUFMAN CONSULTING LLC

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SUMMARY:

Sarah M. Kaufman is the Director of the NYU Rudin Center for Transportation and an Assistant Clinical Professor of Public Service, where she researches, advocates for, and educates about innovative transportation policy, planning, and technologies.

Her research explores the critical intersections of transportation with sustainability, equity, and technology. Through pioneering work in climate adaptation, urban mobility, and technological innovation, she develops projects addressing contemporary transportation challenges, including adapting to extreme weather impacts, developing an autonomous vehicles policy framework for U.S. cities, exploring the Pink Tax on Transportation and its effects on women's travel patterns, reimagining paratransit for seniors and residents with disabilities, and leading the Emerging Leaders in Transportation program to foster innovation in transportation planning and policymaking.

Currently, Kaufman is leading the "Bus of the Future" project in partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. This initiative convenes stakeholders to identify technologies and policies that will make buses in the region safer, smarter, more efficient, and more appealing to riders.

In addition to her academic and research work, Kaufman serves on the Board of Commissioners of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission.

Prior to NYU Wagner, Kaufman spent nearly five years at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, where she led the open data program, created a conference connecting MTA with software developers, and helped develop the agency's social media strategy.

She has been honored with the Transportation Power 100 Award (2021-2024), a Responsible 100 Award in 2018, and a Tech Power 50 Award in 2019 by City & State New York. Her research and insights have been featured in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, NBC, CNN, Curbed, Vital City, Urban Omnibus, and Forbes.com.

Kaufman holds a Master of Urban Planning from NYU Wagner. She completed her BA at Washington University in St. Louis, majoring in science writing with a concentration in computer science.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION / EDUCATION:

New York University Polytechnic Institute; New York, NY; MBA, Technology Innovation Management; May, 2011

New York University Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service; New York, NY; Master of Urban Planning; May, 2005

Washington University in St. Louis; St. Louis, MO; Bachelor of Arts, Science Writing; May, 2001

APPOINTMENTS / PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

Executive Director, Rudin Center for Transportation Policy & Management, Robert F. Wagner School of Public Policy, New York University, October 2024 to present.

Interim Executive Director, July 2022 to September 2023

Research Associate /Associate Director/Director of Technology Programming, December 2011 to July 2022

Commissioner, New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, July 2023 to present

Assistant Clinical Professor of Planning; New York University. Courses:

Capstone: Advanced Projects in Urban Planning (2017 - present)

Smart, Sustainable Urban Planning in Amsterdam (2025)

Intelligent Cities: Technology, Policy and Planning (2016 – 2021)

Owner and Principal, Kaufman Consulting LLC, July 2014 to present.

Helping cities and corporations to benchmark for safety, read nuance into data, apply principles of equity, and make urban planning joyful.

Projects Coordinator, Emerging and Intelligent Transportation Systems, MTA New York City Transit Authority, 2007 to 2011

Technical Writer, Wireless Systems, New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, 2006 to 2007

PUBLICATIONS / TECHNICAL PAPERS:

Kaufman, S., Cardenas, A., Foxall, R., & Nielson, D. (Forthcoming 02/2026). The Bus of the Future. NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, in partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and C2SMART, a Tier 1 USDOT Research Center.

- Kaufman, S., Krawczynski, M., Kanengiser, H., & James, T. (01/2024). *Accelerating progress: Making transit accessible for all New Yorkers*. NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, supported by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and C2SMART, a Tier 1 USDOT Research Center.
- Kaufman, S., Zimmerman, R., Ozbay, K., Smith, A., Lambson, S., Jeng, E., & Curry, C. (06/2023). *Lessons Learned from the Buffalo Blizzard*. NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, commissioned by Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown.
- Kaufman, S. (06/2023). *Principles for Autonomous Urbanism*, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, sponsored by Nuro.
- Kaufman, S., Chow, J., Liu, B., Yamron, A., & Geck, M. (08/2022). *AVs in NYC: A Policy Framework*. NYU Rudin Center for Transportation.
- Kaufman, S., Shermansong, A., & Cowan, N. (02/2022). *The Pink Tax on Mobility: Opportunities for Innovation*. NYU Rudin Center for Transportation. Retrieved from <https://wagner.nyu.edu/impact/research/publications/pink-tax-mobility-opportunities-for-innovation>
- Kaufman, S. (08/2020). *Commute Choice Is Key to Bringing Essential Workers to The Front Lines*. Forbes.com. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/sarahkaufman/2020/08/22/coronavirus-essential-worker-transportation-choice-redundancy>
- Kaufman, S., Moss, M., McGuinness, K., Cowan, N., Rudner, C., Limone, O., Malloy, J., Koh, J., Rivard, K., & Wise, R. (July 2020). *Transportation During Coronavirus in NYC*. NYU Rudin Center and Sam Schwartz Engineering. Retrieved from <https://wagner.nyu.edu/impact/research/publications/transportation-during-coronavirus-nyc>
- Kaufman, S. (05/2020). *The 200-Year-Old Answer To Our 2020 Crisis*. Forbes.com. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/sarahkaufman/2020/05/16/the-200-year-old-answer-to-our-2020-crisis>
- Kaufman, S., Polack, C., & Campbell, G. (11/2018). *The Pink Tax on Transportation: Women's Challenges in Mobility*. NYU Rudin Center for Transportation. Retrieved from <https://wagner.nyu.edu/impact/research/publications/pink-tax-transportation-womens-challenges-mobility>
- Kaufman, S., Simon, J., & Aboaf, C. (12/2017). *Bringing Innovation to Paratransit*. NYU Rudin Center for Transportation. Retrieved from <https://wagner.nyu.edu/impact/research/publications/bringing-innovation-paratransit>
- Kaufman, S., Moss, M., Hernandez, J., & Tyndall, J. (11/2015). *Mobility, Economic Opportunity and New York City Neighborhoods*. NYU Rudin Center for Transportation. Retrieved from

<https://wagner.nyu.edu/impact/research/publications/mobility-economic-opportunity-and-new-york-city-neighborhoods>

Kaufman, S. (07/2013). *Social Media in Disaster Preparation, Response, and Recovery*. Transportation Research News July-August 2013: Logistics of Disaster Response.

Kaufman, S., Qing, C., Levenson, N., & Hanson, M. (11/2012). *Transportation During and After Hurricane Sandy*. NYU Rudin Center for Transportation. Retrieved from <https://wagner.nyu.edu/impact/research/publications/transportation-during-and-after-hurricane-sandy>

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:

Mass Transit and Climate Change, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, organized and moderated, September 2024.

Emerging Leaders in Transportation, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation: Created and led a fellowship program to train early career professionals in innovation management, including executive-level speakers from the industry and infrastructure tours. Hosted annually 2013-2019; October 2022; and February 2024.

Report Release Event: “Accelerating Progress: Making Transit Accessible for All New Yorkers” organized, presented, and moderated panel discussion, hosted by NYU Rudin Center and C2SMARTER, January 2024

Moving People and Goods Without Fossil Fuels, moderated panel discussion, hosted by Cornell’s Urban Tech Summit 2023, November 2023

Transportation Policy is Climate Policy, featuring US DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg; panel moderator; hosted by The Century Foundation, October 2022.

The Brave New World of Transit, organized and moderated panel discussion, CoMotion Miami, April 2022

Flooding and New York City Subways, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, organized and moderated, October 2021

The Future of Autonomous Vehicles, WRLD CTY, moderated, October 2021

“Programming Equity into Our Mobility Future” Keynote Speech, Young Professionals in Transportation Megaregion Policy Symposium, October 2020

“Women Leaders in Transportation” Series organizer and moderator (including LaGuardia Airport General Manager Lysa Scully, Director of Planning and Regional Development, PANYNJ Mary Kay Murphy, and Chief of Staff to the MTA President Midori Valdivia)

organizer and moderator, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, February 2020 and May and June 2019

Accessible Transit Technologies Showcase, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation and C2SMART, creator and organizer, February 2020

“Cross-Cutting Issues in Shared Mobility” Session Moderator, Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, January 2020

“Better Buses: Advancing Social Equity for New Yorkers: How Can Improved Bus Service Transform Economic Opportunity?” Panel Organizer and Moderator, NYU Rudin Center and NYC Department of Transportation, December 2019

Transportation Startup Showcase, Organizer and Moderator, NYU Rudin Center and C2SMART, October 2018.

“An Inclusive Vision for Intelligent Transportation” Keynote Speech, U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe Center, September 2019

“For-Hire Vehicles and Passengers with Disabilities” panel organizer and moderator, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation and C2SMART, September 2019

“The Moving City: Transportation Infrastructures of New York: Conversation with Transportation Leaders” (including NYC Taxi and Limousine Commissioner Meera Joshi, V-Squared Strategies Principal Veronica Vanterpool, and Regional Plan Association President & CEO Tom Wright) event series organizer and moderator, Open House New York, August 2019

“The Future of Micromobility in NYC” panel organizer and moderator, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, June 2019

Smart Cities Institute, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Expert Facilitator, May 2019 and December 2018

“Women Leaders in Transportation” panel organizer and moderator, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, May 2019

“The Future of Urban Mobility” panel moderator, South by Southwest, March 2019

“The Future of Scooter Sharing” panel moderator, Shared Use Mobility Summit, March 2019

“Women in Transport” panel moderator, LA CoMotion, November 2018

“The Pink Tax on Transportation: Women’s Challenges in Mobility” panel organizer and moderator, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, October 2018

“Autonomy at Your Service: Gear Up for the Driverless Revolution” panel moderator, Fast Company Innovation Festival, October 2018

“A New Vision for New York City Transit: A Conversation with NYC Transit President Andy Byford” panel organizer and moderator, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, May 2018

“Transportation Research and Trends in New York City,” Presentation to the Transportation Minister of Paris, April 2018

“Autonomous Vehicles and the New York Region” Keynote Speech, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Regional Roundtable, April 2018

Accessible Streetscape Summit, Organizer, NYC Department of Transportation and NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, January 2018

“Political Protests and Transportation Infrastructure” Keynote Speech, American Society for Highway Engineers Annual Meeting, June 2017.

“Using Data to Improve Bus Service Planning,” Organizer, first-ever Metropolitan Transportation Authority hackathon, March 2016; sponsored by Google, TransitCenter and CartoDB

Periphery: Commuting from the Edge, organizer and moderator, Van Alen Institute, November 2015.

“Taxi Shift-Change Hackathon” organizer and moderator, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation with NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, April 2015

“Citi Bike Data Showcase,” organizer and moderator, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, May 2014.

Short Talks, Big Ideas, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation: Created and led regular events to share new concepts and innovations in transportation. Hosted semiannually 2012-2015.

AFFILIATIONS:

Faculty Advisor, Wag City Gov student group, September 2022 to June 2023

Board of Directors, Transportation Alternatives, December 2021 to June 2023

Committee Member, New York City Mayor Adams Transition Committee (Infrastructure), 2021

Task Force Member, Black Car and Livery Task Force, New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, 2021 to 2022

Advisory Council Member, New York City Mayor De Blasio Covid Recovery Advisory Council (Surface Transportation), 2020

Advisory Group Member, Better Buses Advisory Group, NYC Department of Transportation, 2019 to present

Advisory Board Member, Partnership for New York City: Transportation Innovation Partnership, 2018 to 2023

Member, The List Women in Technology Network, 2017 to present

Founder and Director, Transportation Ladybosses Networking Group, 2017 to present

Women's Transportation Seminar of Greater New York, Annual Conference Planning Committee, 2015 to 2016

Director-at-Large, 2012 to 2014;

Founding Chair, Young Professionals' Committee, 2009 to 2010

HONORS AND AWARDS:

2021- 2024 Transportation Power 100, *City & State*

2023-2024 Transportation Power Player, *AM New York*

2021 Dr. Louis J. Pignataro Memorial Transportation Education Award for Teaching, Institute for Transportation Engineers, New York Metro Section

2019 Tech Power 50, *City & State*

2018 The Responsible 100 New Yorkers, *City & State*

2014 Google Fellow, Personal Democracy Forum

2005 Next American Vanguard, Next City

2005 Urban Planning Thesis Winner, Sterling D. Spero Award "for exceptional written work," NYU Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service

2002 Distinguished Alumna, Washington University in St. Louis

SELECTED RECENT MEDIA APPEARANCES:

"The Emergency Brake Dilemma," The New York Times, January 12, 2024

"'Get Out of Our Bus Lanes': New York's Message to Drivers," The New York Times, December 21, 2023

"NYC's Transit Debt Is as Big and Complex as the Subway Itself," Bloomberg, December 20, 2023

“Should public transit be a free service? One city just said yes,” NPR Marketplace, November 9, 2023

“Why The NYC Subway Is Such A Mess,” CNBC, September 19, 2023

“Penn Station revamp plans discussed at NYU,” CBS, August 16, 2023

“These cities are ending fares on transit. Here’s why,” CNN, July 8, 2023

“Inside the furious debate over New York City's new tax on drivers, which New Jersey Democrats are fighting against tooth and nail,” Insider, July 2, 2023

“Buffalo’s Blizzard Response Had Numerous Failures, Researchers Find,” The New York Times, June 2, 2023

“Citi Bike, 10 Years Old and Part of New York’s Street Life,” The New York Times, May 26, 2023

“In Paris Referendum, 89% of Voters Back a Ban on Electric Scooters,” The New York Times, April 3, 2023

“As Subway Ridership Rebounds, Some Women Are Reluctant to Return,” The New York Times, February 13, 2023

“Town Hall: What we learned from the Blizzard of 2022,” WGRZ News, January 2, 2023

“What does the much-debated Penn Station Redevelopment Project herald for New York?,” *Crain’s New York Business*, December 29, 2022

“D.C. could become the largest U.S. city to experiment with free transit,” NPR Marketplace, December 15, 2022

“Talking Headways Podcast: Autonomous Vehicles in NYC? Oy Vey!” Streetsblog, December 15, 2022

“Hurricane Sandy 10 Years Later: Is New York City Ready?” Bloomberg Television, October 27, 2022

“NYC Proposal Offers Cash for Spotting Parking Violations in Bike Lanes,” *Bloomberg*, September 29, 2022

“The Smallest New Yorkers Join the Pandemic Biking Surge,” *The New York Times*, April 15, 2022

“MTA Sees 5% Drop in Ridership Compared to Monday,” NBC News, April 13, 2022

“7 ways cities can make transportation safer for women: study,” *Smart Cities Dive*, March 11, 2022

“Nearly half of Bird riders in Atlanta are women,” *Mass Transit Magazine*, November 11, 2021

“How Can New York City Prepare for the Next Ida? Here’s a To-Do List.” *The New York Times*, September 20, 2021

“Jobs for the City of Tomorrow,” *The Wall Street Journal*, June 7, 2021

“Online shopping has boomed in the pandemic. But what about all the packaging?” *Vox*, January 8, 2021