URL: https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/the-case-for-convergence

It takes more than a single technology to solve a comprehensive problem. In the context of the automotive industry, says Lyft's chief strategy officer Raj Kapoor, the future is going to be connected, autonomous, shared and electric. He describes how all four elements will be required to achieve an optimal system.

Transcript

- That we're going into another revolution that's right now, feels like it's gonna be happening slowly, and like most things, like you look at the mobile revolution, it's gonna hit like super aggressive and turn everything that's there.. And the reason is not just because there's technology and we can do it, it's because we're facing a fundamental problem.. Americans spend more on transportation than they do on food.. It is the second largest expense aside from housing.. Ninety percent of the way that Americans move around is through a car.. Their car is utilized, no offense to the car industry, I feel good talking about this here with Ford, because I think Ford gets it, and Ford is moving in the direction, but a car is utilized four percent of the time.. 96% of the time it's sitting and not being utilized.. And when it is utilized it's 75% unoccupied, as I mentioned before.. So we have this asset that people are spending a lot of money on that is also responsible for, unfortunately there's significant amount, 94% of accidents are caused by human error.. We have emissions problems that we've talked about before, and, of course, congestion, of adding more cars and urbanization, two and a half billion people moving into cities..

So when you add all that up, it's not just technology, it's that we have to have a solution.. We need a solution in the next 10 to 15 years.. And it just so happens that the building blocks are here now, which is on-demand technology.. The word that's often used about the future of automotive transportation is case.. C-A-S-E, which is connected, autonomous, shared, electric.. And the thing that I will say right now, is that if you just have one of those technologies, it's not going to work.. You need all four, for the system to work, for us to fundamentally rewire the transportation system in the world.. All four must be there because if you just have autonomous, you'll just end up with a lot more cars, and that won't necessarily solve the problem.. So you need shared.. If you have autonomous and shared, you're still generating emissions, and we can't even afford one more ton of carbon into the atmosphere than we've already been putting in..

So you need all of them that are there, and so, that's what, I believe, represents this huge change is that, atoms and bits are coming together.. It's not just about digital.. Two years ago we were an app and you would just connect to drivers that are out there.. Now, we have 35,000 cars in our fleet and we're building hardware up the street...