

Speaker Bios
APTA Transit Board Members Seminar
January 26 and February 2, 2022



Dennis O. Anosike is the Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. As

EVP/CFO, Dennis oversees the offices of budget, treasury management and capital market operations, financial reporting, risk management and real estate and park facilities.

Mr. Anosike has over 25 years of senior financial leadership experience in public and private sector organizations including 11 years as Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer for Chicago Transit Authority.

Dennis worked in the Mayor's Office of Budget and Management for the City of Chicago, ultimately serving as Deputy Budget Director. Other senior financial management positions of note include Senior Vice President/Manager of Public Funds Group for Northern Trust Company, President, United Investment Managers, Inc., a multi-manager investment advisory firm and as Senior Advisor for Management and Performance for the United States Department of Commerce.

Dennis has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Business Administration and Public Financial Management and Juris Doctor.



India L. Birdsong joined the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) as Chief Executive Officer and General Manager on September 16, 2019. She brings nearly 15 years' experience working in positions of increasing responsibility in the public transit industry, most recently in Nashville, where she served as Chief Operating Officer, and in Chicago.

At RTA, Birdsong oversees more than 2,300 employees at one of the largest transit systems in Ohio, which provides more than 35 million annual rides to customers using the bus, rail, paratransit, trolley, and bus rapid transit system across the county's 457 square miles. Responsible for managing the Authority's \$292 million operating budget, Birdsong is committed to transparent leadership, management accountability and sound financial oversight.

Birdsong is providing strategic leadership to advance RTA's initiatives at a critical time for the organization. Paramount issues include replacing its aging rail fleet and securing additional and sustainable funding. Birdsong is leading the organization toward innovative solutions to significantly increase RTA's customer base, improve service frequency and coverage, and expand RTA's role in contributing to the economic development of the region.

Birdsong is an active member in several industry and community organizations, including the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and Transit Cooperative Research Program. She is an active board member for the United Way of Greater Cleveland, the Downtown Cleveland Improvement Corporation (DCIC), the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), the American Public Transportation Foundation (APTF) and the Transportation Learning Center.

Proficient in Spanish, Birdsong earned her Master's in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago and her Bachelor of Arts from Temple University in Philadelphia.



Steve Bland is the CEO for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Nashville and Davidson County, and the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee, both doing business as WeGo Public Transit. He began his tenure in Nashville in August of 2014.

Steve is a lifetime transit manager, with over 25 years in the industry, and has served in the chief executive role for transit agencies in York, Pennsylvania; Albany, New York; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; before arriving in Nashville. During his career, he has served as Chairman of both the New York and Pennsylvania Public Transportation Associations; has been a Board Member of the American Public Transportation Association; and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Public Transportation Association, serving as its Vice President.



Tom Brede is the Public Information Officer for the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RGRTA) in Rochester, NY. Tom oversees strategic and executive communications, media relations, and government affairs. He also serves as the spokesperson for the Authority. Prior to joining RGRTA, Tom was a Counselor of Public Relations and Public Affairs at the Mower Agency where he managed public relations and public affairs accounts for key agency clients.

In his role at Mower, Tom conducted media training, presentation training, and crisis communications training sessions for a variety of companies and organizations. He also developed and implemented successful strategic communications plans and helped clients manage a variety of crisis situations. Before joining the team at Mower, Brede served for nearly seven years as a communications aide to former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, including nearly three years as Press Secretary. Through his 17-plus years as a communications professional, Tom gained extensive experience navigating communications and media landscapes in both the public and private sectors. Tom has donated his time and expertise to area non-profits such as Causewave Community Partners, the March of Dimes Genesee Valley/Finger Lakes Division, and the Venture Jobs Foundation.



Vince Buzek was elected to the RTD Board of Directors in November 2018 and took office in January 2019, representing District J. Director Buzek’s District includes the cities of Westminster, Northglenn, Federal Heights, portions of western Thornton and portions of unincorporated Adams and Jefferson Counties.

A Chicago native, Director Buzek grew up in a transit dependent family, relying on public transportation for much of his early life. As a Council Member for the City and County of Broomfield from 1999 – 2007, Director Buzek was active in transit issues and participated in the decision for Broomfield to publicly support FasTracks. Director Buzek also served on the Colorado Gaming Commission as a Member and its Chair and has served for the past 6 years on the Adams County Planning Commission as Member, Vice-Chair and Chair. As the current Chair of the RTD Board, Chair Buzek understands the many challenges faced by RTD and its ridership and brings his leadership, background and expertise to address the issues faced not only by his constituents in District J, but the issues of his fellow Directors throughout the entire region.

Director Buzek, an attorney with over 30 years’ experience in Chicago and Colorado, currently operates his own firm in Broomfield focusing on estate planning and mediation. Director Buzek enjoys travelling with his wife, Karen; bee keeping, reading, and attempting to garden.

Committees

- RTD Executive Committee (Chair)
- RTD Performance Committee (Chair)
- DRCOG Regional Transportation Committee
- Northwest Parkway Public Highway Authority Board
- Adams County Regional Economic Partnership (ACREP)
- APTA Board 2022



Gail Carr Williams is the Board Chair of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority. Gail earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit School of Law. She practiced law in Michigan and later as a human resources employee relations specialist as well the Executive Assistant of Outreach and Engagement for the university at The Ohio State University. In 2001, she and her family relocated to Nashville where Gail began her tenure at Vanderbilt University and held the position of Associate Director of Community Relations until March 2020. She was responsible for building partnerships and collaborations on behalf of the university through innovative and creative academic based programming. In 2014,

Gail became an instructor at Vanderbilt's Peabody College of Education and Human Development's Independent School Leadership M. ED program and continues to teach courses in Independent School governance and community engagement.

Gail is a strong community leader who understands the power of engagement to create a deeper understanding of the issues of our communities along with strategic responses that create sustainable positive change.

Gail is serving for a second time as Chair of the Metropolitan Nashville Transit Authority Board of Directors and previously served as Chair of the Finance and Transportation Committees. Additionally, she serves the Nashville arts community by serving on the boards of The Frist Art Museum, Tennessee Performing Arts Center and The Nashville Symphony; Gail also recently joined the board of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee along with their Women's Fund Advisory Board as well as the Regions Foundation Board. Her work in education continues as board member at the University School of Nashville Board and the Board of American Baptist College and the Nashville Public Education Foundation. Gail is also a proud member of the Nashville (TN) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated.



Flora M. Castillo is a nationally recognized health care executive, mobility and public transportation thought leader, Flora is President of Pivot Strategies, LLC, a consulting firm serving the transportation, infrastructure, healthcare, insurance industries and its related professional services firms. Pivot Strategies specializes in creating strategies and solutions that connect customers to systems ultimately driving business growth, optimal customer engagement, equity and social good for communities.

Pivot's leadership and principal has dedicated her life to serving those who do not have a voice or are represented at the corporate and/or policymaking tables. Ms. Castillo has over 30 years of direct experience in serving underserved, under resourced and publicly insured low-income populations. Most recently under both her prior executive roles and consulting engagements, Ms. Castillo also brings a unique insight, diverse perspective and rich practical experience in understanding the ins and out of public transportation systems; a long track record of creating and strengthening linkages between agency staff and board members; creating go-to market winning strategies to support business development; serving as a strong advocate for all customers and a bridge between the community stakeholders and organizations in an authentic and trust-worthy relationship building approach.

In addition, Ms. Castillo served as the first Latina elected chair and only sixth woman to lead for the American Public Transportation Association, (APTA), an international and the pre-eminent organization that has been representing the entire \$58B North American public transit industry for over 100 years, since 1882. In this role, Ms. Castillo was the industry spokesperson across the US, Canada and international associations partners and represented the interests of 1,500 member organizations engaged in the areas of bus, paratransit, light rail, commuter rail, subways, waterborne passenger services, and high-speed rail. At the national level, Flora promoted public

transit's role in providing access critical health services and established the Emerging Leaders Program to retain and attract talent within our industry.

Until her retirement in June 2019, Flora also served over two decades as a senior policymaker and member of the board of directors at the 3rd largest statewide public transportation agency in the nation, New Jersey Transit. Ms. Castillo was appointed by former Gov. Christine Todd Whitman as the first Latina and youngest member of the board and served under 7 Democratic and Republican administrations. During her tenure, she chaired the Board's Customer Service, Safety and Administration Committees overseeing an annual capital and operating budget of more than \$3.585 billion and 10,978 employees.



Maggie Daly Skogsbakken is the Chief Communications Officer at Pace Suburban Bus. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College Chicago and a Master of Science in Integrated Marketing & Communications from Roosevelt University. She is currently studying Public Policy at Northwestern University.

Maggie took her first role at Pace in 2006 as a Communications Specialist, was promoted to Marketing & Promotions Supervisor in 2008, and Media Relations Manager in 2016. In 2019, she was named Pace's Chief Communications Officer. Prior to joining the world of public transportation, she worked in newspaper production and small business marketing.

Maggie is a native Chicagoan who currently resides in Jefferson Park with her husband, twin daughters, and a very good dog named Bueller. She enjoys volunteering in her community and serves as president of her neighborhood association, Jefferson Park Forward. She is also a committee member for the Jefferson Park Working Group on Homelessness, a steering committee member for Chicago Area Clean Cities, and the chair of the American Public Transportation (APTA) PIO taskforce.



T.J. Doyle is the Vice President – Communications & Marketing for the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

Doyle, who joined APTA in July 2019, has 20 years of experience in association communications and marketing. He oversees the development of APTA's messaging and communicates key public transit industry information to its members, the media, and the public.

The Communications & Marketing Department is responsible for implementing the Research, Communication and Advocacy program in conjunction with the Government Affairs and Policy departments. It also undertakes media relations efforts in support of APTA positions and activities and writes and develops print and electronic communications

vehicles, including Passenger Transport and PT Express, to tell the industry's story and promote the benefits of public transportation.

Prior to joining APTA, Doyle worked at the National Association of Realtors, where he spearheaded marketing and communications efforts for the association's research group, before leading digital communications, executive communications, media communications and member communications teams.

Doyle holds a bachelor's degree from The College of William and Mary, and a master's degree from Georgetown University.



Charles Edmonds is Chair of the Commuter Rail Committee of Trinity Metro, the multi modal agency that provides public transportation for Fort Worth, Texas, and Tarrant County. Fort Worth is the 13th largest city in the US and growing. He previously served in leadership positions with over 45 boards and commissions including the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission as a public member appointed by the Speaker of the House for three terms. He continues to be a strong advocate for public transportation.

Professionally he is an Angel Investor and previously was a serial entrepreneur and specialized in mergers and acquisitions nationally and internationally.



Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr. is the Chief Executive Officer of the Jacksonville Transportation (JTA), in Jacksonville, Florida. His distinguished career in the public transportation industry spans nearly four decades and includes tenures leading the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority.

Ford is a champion for innovative multimodal transportation solutions, complete streets, walkable neighborhoods, public-private partnerships and transit-oriented development. He is known for being a thought leader and is often tapped by national and international groups to share his industry-leading insight on transportation matters through trade and study missions around the world.

During his nine years in Jacksonville, Ford and the JTA have received numerous awards for his transformational and community-focused initiatives in the Northeast Florida community. He was named APTA Outstanding Public Transportation Manager in 2020, the same year the JTA won the APTA Innovation Award for its innovative response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Eno Center for Transportation named Ford its Thought Leader for 2019. President Barack Obama named Ford a White House Champion of Change in 2015. Ford was named an "Ultimate CEO" by the Jacksonville Business Journal, and is an inductee in the First Coast Business Hall of Fame.

He is also the 2016 recipient of the Jacksonville Urban League's Clanzel T. Brown, Sr. Award. Under his leadership, the JTA received the APTA Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award in 2016.

Ford sits on several nonprofit and industry boards including as Chair of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee; Member of the American Public Transportation Foundation; and as Past-Chair of the American Public Transportation Association (Past Chair).

Ford holds an Executive MBA from the Davis School of Business at Jacksonville University, and a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in organizational leadership from Mercer University.

In Jacksonville, Ford oversees a state agency responsible for multimodal public transportation and infrastructure programs. The JTA operates fixed-route bus service in Duval and Clay counties, including the largest Bus Rapid Transit network in the Southeast United States; paratransit in Duval and Clay counties; the St. Johns River Ferry; the Skyway automated people mover (APM); ReadIRide on-call neighborhood shuttles; Express Select commuter shuttles from Nassau and St. Johns counties; and a growing portfolio of public-private partnerships to provide first-mile / last-mile options for customers. The JTA is currently developing the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U2C), a 10-mile autonomous vehicle network in Downtown Jacksonville to modernize and expand its Skyway AMP system.

In addition to its role as a public transportation provider, the JTA oversees a large capital programs division responsible for building complete streets, bridges, sidewalks, and other mobility infrastructure to improve the quality of life for all citizens.



Gary Giovanetti is a second generation Stockton(ian) in California and served as Vice Mayor & City Council Member for District 5, the Downtown / Midtown District from 1999/2006. He graduated from St. George's Grammar School; St. Mary's High School, San Joaquin Delta College and received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo in 1972. He has practiced as an Architect, owned a Bakery and Delicatessen and now my business is Financial Services and Employee Benefits specializing in small business benefit programs as well as individual insurance along with retirement planning since 1992. His profession is as an independent Insurance Broker.

Currently, he serves as President of the local chapter of the Liguri nel Mondo and Vice President of the Pacific Italian Alliance. Also, he is a member in good standing with the Italian Athletic Club and Italian Gardeners Society and Treasure of the Rotary Club of Stockton Sunrise.

He has served as a Board Member of the San Joaquin Regional Transit District Board of Directors since 2008, currently serving as Vice Chair Person. As a Board Member, he also serves as an "Ex-Officio" Board Member of the local San Joaquin Council of Governments. He is serving as Vice

Chair of the Transit Board Members Committee for APTA. He also sits as a Board Member of the National APTA Board.



Kevin J. Holzendorf is a lifelong resident of Jacksonville, Florida. Holzendorf advises and consults with public and private sector clients in the technology, government, and financial services industries. He is currently a successful Executive Account Manager at Emtec, Inc. focused on technology sales, increasing service delivery, mitigating customer security risks, and identifying ways for customers to avoid and reduce operational costs. He has a strong ability to ascertain the business value of information technology and communicate that value to stakeholders.

In 2007 he became the first African American Director of Technology and Chief Information Officer for the City of Jacksonville. Holzendorf holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of North Florida. He also received his Lean Six Sigma Certification from the Lean Enterprise Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. Holzendorf is active in the community having served as a Big Brother for the Big Brother/Big Sister Program, Jacksonville Cultural Council Board Member, Wolfson Children's Hospital Development Council Board Member, currently sits on the YMCA of Florida's First Coast Executive Board, fundraised for Real Men Wear Pink and Chaired the United Negro College Fund Leadership Council, to name a few.

Holzendorf is the past Chairman of the Board for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority. Nationally, he sits on the American Public Transportation Association Executive Board while serving as Chair of the Transit Board Members Subcommittee. He was a member of the 2018 Leadership Florida Cornerstone Class and the 2006 Leadership Jacksonville Class. Kevin is married to Tracee Holzendorf and they have three children. Kevin II graduated from George Washington University with Political Science and Chemistry Degrees; Kenadee graduated from Florida State University in Management Information Systems, and Kourtnee is a sophomore at Louisiana State University studying Chemical Engineering.



Debra A. Johnson is a person in the people business, a transit executive focused on making lives better through connections. Johnson was selected as General Manager and CEO of Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD) by the agency's Board of Directors on Aug. 25, 2020. She is the first woman to lead the agency in its more than half-century history.

Johnson joined RTD from Long Beach Transit, where she served as Deputy CEO of the Southern California agency from May 2014 to October 2020. Prior to that, Johnson held executive positions at the Los Angeles County

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro), the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Johnson serves on the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Board of Directors, as well as APTA's Commuter Rail CEO's Committee and Emerging Leaders Committee. She is a board member of the American Public Transportation Foundation. In 2014, Johnson's vast transportation experience led to her appointment by former U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx as a member of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Intelligent Transportation Systems Program Advisory Committee. She also serves as a member of the Visit Denver Community Board and the Metropolitan State University of Denver Community Cabinet.

Johnson's leadership and work have been recognized with several recent honors. In 2019, she received a Women in Action Award from the Los Angeles African American Women's Public Policy Institute and a Women Who Move the Nation award from the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). The Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce honored Johnson with a community service award in 2017. In 2016, she was given a Women Leading the Way Leadership Award from Upgrade LA and an Outstanding Transportation Executive Leadership Award from COMTO's Southern California chapter.

Johnson holds master's degree in public administration from California State University Hayward (now CSU East Bay), and a bachelor of arts degree in international relations from the University of California Davis.



Arezou (“Ari”) Jolly is the Chair of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority Board of Directors.

Ari Jolly is a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's (Florida Blue) assistant general counsel. In this role, Ari is responsible for providing primary legal support to Florida Blue on governance, merger, and acquisitions, as well as counsel to Investment and Corporate Development operations of the mutual holding enterprise. Ari also provides board governance support related to the various GuideWell Mutual Holding Corporation subsidiary and joint venture companies.

Ari joined Florida Blue in 1993. Prior to joining Florida Blue, Ari practiced with the law firm of Rogers, Towers, Bailey, Jones and Gay in Jacksonville, Florida. Ari also served as an Officer in the United States Navy in the office of the Judge Advocate General from 1983 - 1990 and the recipient of a Navy Achievement Medal (1987).

Throughout her career, Ari has been active in community and professional organizations. She is a member of the Florida and Jacksonville Bar and serves on the boards of the Greater Jacksonville Area USO and the Naval Continuing Care Retirement Foundation, Inc. (Fleet Landing). In 2015,

Ari became a gubernatorial appointee to the board of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority and currently serves as the Chair of that board. That year, Ari was also named as one of Northeast Florida's Most Influential Women.



Beth Holbrook, Trustee Holbrook brings a wealth of experience to UTA. She began her career in the financial sector, established a real estate firm, and went back into the financial sector working in business development. Trustee Holbrook would go on to work with the Public Sector for a private company. Trustee Holbrook was first elected to the Bountiful City Council in 2007 and has served on several boards including the Bountiful Power Commission, Planning Commission, and the Utility Facility Review Board with the Public Service Commission. She is a former President of the Utah League of Cities and Towns.

Since being appointed to the UTA Board of Trustees, Trustee Holbrook has worked to increase community engagement throughout Davis, Weber, and Box Elder Counties. She serves on the EDCUtah, Envision Utah, Utah Association of Special Districts Boards, as well as the Affordable Housing Commission and the Olene Walker Housing Fund as TOD specialist. She also works with APTA-the American Public Transit Association as a Transit Board Member.



Julie Hile is President and Founder of Hile Group, a performance consulting firm specializing in collaborative culture change. She has contributed to dramatic reductions in catastrophic injury for more than 25 years by ensuring safety's place at the center of operations in high-risk environments such as freight and passenger rail, dredging, oil and gas, maritime and general construction. Ms. Hile served on the Federal Railway Administration's Confidential Close Calls Reporting study implementation lead team and contributed to white papers on the topic published by the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center. She has lent her expertise to Transportation

Research Board projects in transit safety culture and evidentiary protection. Julie currently serves as the Safety Liaison on the APTA Transit Board Member Committee, a Trustee for McLean County Connect Transit, and Board member for the Western Dredging Association. She also recently became Chair of the Safety Working Group for the World Organization of Dredging Associations.



Joni Honor has more than 25 years of award-winning experience in public relations, strategic planning, and management consulting. Her expertise was built through working with a wide range of entities from non-profit organizations to the public sector to Fortune 50 corporations. Joni is the Executive Officer of Public Relations for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, where she sets the strategic vision and direction for Metro's public relations initiatives. She currently leads the execution of digital media, executive communications, internal communications, media relations, and special events & partnerships. Joni also developed and oversees Studio M, Metro's in-house video and audio recording studio. Joni is originally from Colorado and has lived in the Los Angeles area for six years.



Kammy Horne, As Senior Vice President of Development and Planning for VIA Metropolitan Transit in San Antonio Texas ach position involved testifying on a regular basis at the State Legislature on pertinent transportation issues and funding needs

Current Memberships:

Chair, American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Committee on Innovative Funding, Finance, and P3s Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). She is responsible for service and capital planning, capital engineering, passenger amenities, and real estate acquisition and management. Kammy is currently leading many of the VIA efforts implementing new developments for the agency under ***Keep San Antonio Moving***, the voter-approved plan designed to improve the transit system by expanding trip options, investing in capital projects, exploring new technology, and putting resources where they are needed.

Kammy and her team are also responsible for planning the expansion of the agency's newest mobility service, VIA Link, on-demand transit, currently operating in the Northeast, Northwest, and Sandy Oaks portions of VIA's service area. Kammy currently serves as the Vice Chair of the American Public Transportation Association's Policy, Planning, and Program Development Committee and was appointed to represent VIA on the City of San Antonio's Climate Ready Technical Advisory Committee. Kammy is also currently chairing the WTS San Antonio Region's Leadership Development Program.

Previously working in the private sector, Kammy has worked on numerous programs and projects directly for agencies around the country including the Utah Transit Authority, Utah Department of Transportation, Arizona Department of Transportation, Valley Metro in Phoenix, Arizona, Washington DC Department of Public Works, Capital Metro, and Dallas Area Rapid Transit. She earned a Master of Science in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at

Austin and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Long Island University in Southampton, New York.



Erik Johanson is the Director of Operating Budgets for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) in Philadelphia. In this position, Mr. Johanson is primarily responsible for the SEPTA's financial planning and the annual production of SEPTA's Board-approved Operating Budget and Five-Year Financial Projections. Previously, Mr. Johanson served as SEPTA's first Chief Innovation Officer and is the former co-chair of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Sustainability

Commitment Subcommittee and Sustainability Metrics Working Group. A native and resident of Philadelphia, Mr. Johanson holds a Master's degree in Governmental Administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Tufts University.



Nadine Lee is the President & Chief Executive Officer of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), a 13-city transit system covering a 700-square mile service area with bus, light rail, commuter rail, and paratransit services, where she leverages the talents and expertise of 3700 employees to deliver the People's Transit System.

Previously, Nadine was the Chief of Staff for Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). In this role, Nadine drove coordination and delivery of projects, programs, and services across the organization to provide a world-class transportation system for the citizens of Los Angeles County. Three foundational culture-transformation functions were established under her leadership: Equity and Race, Customer Experience, and the Better Bus Program. She also served as Deputy Chief Innovation Officer in Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation where she led the development of Vision 2028, Metro's 10-year strategic plan to increase prosperity for L.A. County through improved mobility.

Prior to arriving in Los Angeles, Nadine led the development and implementation of the Flatiron Flyer Bus Rapid Transit for Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD), a project that produced a 40% increase in corridor ridership in its first few months of service. Nadine also led the Northwest Rail and Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility projects in the FasTracks Program. Nadine was appointed to the Leadership APTA Committee in 2019 and is a past Director on the WTS International Board. She was awarded 2019 WTS International Woman of the Year. Nadine participated in the 2019 APTA International Study Mission to explore Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) in three European cities. She also studied the role of performance management in improving service delivery in four Southeast Asia cities as part of the TCRP International Transit

Studies Program. A registered Professional Engineer in Colorado and Kansas, Nadine received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Ward W. McCarragher, Vice President – Government Affairs & Advocacy

McCarragher manages APTA’s lobbying efforts on federal legislative issues that affect the public transit industry on Capitol Hill. In that capacity, he oversees industry efforts on the federal budget, the annual appropriations process, multi-year surface transportation authorization bills, and security, tax, energy and environmental legislation and measures that affect public transit, commuter, and intercity passenger rail service, including high-speed passenger rail. He also serves as a staff advisor to APTA’s Legislative Committee.

Before joining APTA in 2018, McCarragher served as Majority/Minority Chief Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for 20 years. Prior to that, he served as Majority/Minority Counsel for the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and the Subcommittee on Economic Development and Public Buildings. In these roles, he has been directly involved in negotiating, drafting, and supporting each of the public transit titles of the surface transportation legislation, starting with the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) and up to and including the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Heather McKillop, Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) - Chief Financial Officer

At SMART, she is Responsible for accounting, finance, budget, and payroll and assisting with development of tools to guide SMART’s emergence from the pandemic:

- Recommended SMART’s first performance metrics for Board oversight
- Implemented "Welcome Back" promotional fares for one year (minimum)
- Developed SMART’s first Short Range Transit Plan (Final September 2021)
- Authored SMART’s FTA-approved 2021-2024 DBE program

She was the CFO and Assistant General Manager for Finance and Administration if the Regional Transportation District, Denver, Colorado (2015-2020)

Responsible for budget, accounting, finance, treasury, debt, information technology, fare collections, labor relations, and human resources
Developed six-year and long-range transit plan for the agency
Implemented real time predictions for bus and light rail
Led a group of 25 stakeholders consisting of elected officials and stakeholders over 18 months to develop new fare program, rates, and a low-income fare program
Testified on a regular basis at the state legislature on transit issues and funding needs
Invited to speak at the White House regarding transit public/ private partnerships and transit funding

Other positions have included:

Colorado Department of Revenue, Denver, Colorado - Deputy Executive Director
Colorado Department of Transportation, Denver, Colorado– Chief Financial Officer
Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles, California – Chief Financial Officer
Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, Aspen Colorado – Director of Finance and Administration.



Jeff Nelson is a seasoned public transportation leader who specializes in urban design, land use planning and economic development. During his over 35 years at MetroLINK (Rock Island County Mass Transit; “Metro”), his strategic focus has been on implementing cutting edge programs with an emphasis on economic growth, environmental sustainability, enhanced technologies, and workforce development – separating MetroLINK from other transit districts of comparable size.

Under his guidance MetroLINK was awarded the American Public Transportation Association “Outstanding Public Transportation System Award”. Other notable leadership recognitions include the Federal Transportation Administration’s “State Leadership Award”, numerous APTA “AdWheel” Awards, the NAACP Business Image Award, Quad City Chamber of Commerce Multi Modal Award (twice), and various community and civic sustainability awards for excellence in environmental planning.

Jeff has a unique ability to artfully maneuver through a multitude of environments and leverage a variety of resources to meet economic development expectations. Recognized as a progressive leader of exceptional skill and foresight, he brings strong vision and leadership in the disciplines of sustainability, community growth, infrastructure, and planning, creative public/private partnerships, and economic development. Nelson was an early adopter of alternative fuels, implementing Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) transit buses into the Metro fixed route fleet in 2002. Since that time the Metro CNG fleet has expanded to make up the majority of the fleet, and in 2018 Metro introduced zero emission buses to the fleet, which will encompass 30% of the fleet in 2021. His experience in creating sustainable communities using transportation investment as a

catalyst for future development include transit multimodal facilities in the downtowns of Moline, East Moline, and Rock Island.



Carl G. Sedoryk is Chief Executive Officer for Monterey-Salinas Transit District, a small urban/rural transit operator, and has worked within the public transit industry since 1988. Carl started with Monterey-Salinas Transit in June 2000 and has been its CEO since September 2005.

Under the guidance of the District Board of Directors which represents the 13 jurisdictions within the County of Monterey, Carl is responsible for leading his team of 350 direct and contract employee in providing mobility throughout the 4 counties of the vast California Central Coast region which comprises an area equivalent to one-fifth of the state coastline.

In his spare time, Carl is an underemployed multi-instrumentalist and volunteer martial arts instructor.



Paul P. Skoutelas, is president and chief executive officer of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). His entire career has been in public transportation, serving in both the public and private sectors.

Paul is a champion for the power of public transportation to create personal and economic opportunities for all and to connect and build thriving communities. He testifies often before Congress and is a frequent speaker on public transportation issues as APTA leads the industry's transformation in the new mobility era.

Prior to joining APTA in 2018, he served as senior vice president for WSP USA, one of the world's largest architectural and engineering firms and national director of WSP USA's Transit & Rail Technical Excellence Center. He also was chief executive officer at the Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAT), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX), Orlando, Florida.

He serves on numerous boards and committees, including the Transportation Research Board, Mineta Transportation Institute, ENO Center for Transportation, Transportation Learning Center, and the Alliance to Save Energy's 50×50 Commission on U.S. Transportation Sector Efficiency. He is a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Executive Advisory Board on Smart Mobility and Carnegie Mellon University's Mobility 21 Advisory Council.

He is also a long-time member of WTS International and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO).

Skoutelas received bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from The Pennsylvania State University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a licensed professional engineer.



David Stackrow is the Treasurer and Represents Rensselaer County on the Capital District Transit Authority. He was appointed to the Board of Directors in 1995, serving as Board Chair during three different terms. He has also served as Vice Chair and Secretary of the Board, as well as Chair of the Governance Committee.

In 2010 Dave became an active member of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), elected to its Board in 2014, to the Executive Committee in 2016, and in September 2017 was elected to Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors. Dave is the immediate past Chair of the APTA Board of Directors. He also serves as Chair of the APTA Diversity and Inclusion Council and has served as chair of the Transit Board Member Committee and Audit Committee. Dave is also involved in other committees including Finance, Mid-Size Operations, Legislative, Human Resources, and Member Services. He participates in several APTA task forces.

Trustee of the CDTA/ATU 1321 Pension Plan, Independent Director of the Rensselaer Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation, Treasurer of the Challenger Learning Center of the Greater Capital Region, Finance Committee Member Sacred Heart School, Troy, NY, Assistant Scout Master and Past Treasurer Boy Scout Troop 528, Poestenkill, NY, Treasurer Averill Park Athletics Booster Club, Past Chair of the La Salle Institute Board of Trustees, Past President of the La Salle Institute Alumni Association, Past Chair of the City of Troy Industrial Development Authority, Past Grand Knight of the Rensselaer Council 267 Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Stackrow is Managing Partner of Scott, Stackrow & Co. He's a graduate of La Salle Institute and Siena College, Dave is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the NYS Society of CPAs, The Country Club of Troy, and the University Club of Albany. He is the recipient of La Salle Institute's Distinguished Alumnus Award and the American Public Transportation Association Outstanding Public Transportation Board Member Award.



Doug Tisdale is the Chair of APTA's Transit Board Members Committee. Doug was elected to the Regional Transportation District–Denver Board of Directors in 2016 and then re-elected in 2020. Doug served two terms as the Chair of the RTD-Denver Board. He is a member of APTA's Executive Committee; the APTA Board; the APTA Finance Committee; the Co-Lead of APTA's TBM/Business Members Joint Advocacy Plan Task Force; former Chair of the TBM Legislative Sub-Committee; among other APTA leadership positions.

Doug served as Mayor of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado and was Chairman of the State Board of Registered Psychotherapists at the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. He has chaired numerous healthcare industry and other nonprofit boards. A University of Michigan Law School graduate, Doug is President of Tisdale & Associates LLC and was formerly a partner in several global law firms. He has practiced law and consulted in Africa, Asia, Australia, China, Europe, New Zealand and throughout North America



Caitlin Vargas guides passionate entrepreneurs as the Startup Community Director for Onward Eugene; an organization dedicated to economic prosperity. After spending close to a decade fundraising at nonprofits in affordable housing and homelessness, Caitlin now spends her time engaging underrepresented communities on their path to entrepreneurship.

Now in her 3rd year on Lane Transit District's Board of Directors, Caitlin is the President of the board and recently spearheaded the agency's first-ever Strategic Business Plan. Caitlin has a long list of volunteer committees and boards that she serves on, and she is one of the founders of the Eugene Young Professionals program.

Caitlin received her Bachelors in Anthropology from Sonoma State University in California in 2005 before heading to New Mexico State University for graduate school. In 2015, Caitlin graduated at the top of her class from Bushnell University with her MBA.

A faithful soccer mom, you can find Caitlin on the weekends cheering on her 4 children (ages 4, 6, 8 and 12) from the sidelines!



Alex Z. Wiggins, a veteran of the United States Army, Air Force Reserve, and the Seattle Police Department, was appointed CEO of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority in July 2019. His transportation experience includes service as the City of Seattle's Strategic Advisor for Light Rail, Chief of Staff for the Seattle Department of Transportation, Chief Administrative Officer at the North County Transit District in San Diego County, and Deputy Executive Director at Metra Commuter Rail in Chicago. Prior to taking the helm of the New Orleans RTA Alex served as Chief of LA Metro's System Security & Law Enforcement Division.

Alex holds a Master of Science Degree in Management from the University of Maryland University College, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Arizona State University.



Michele Wong Krause is Chair of the DART Board of Directors. She was appointed in 2014 by the Dallas City Council to represent Dallas on the DART Board of Directors. DART Committee Participation: Member, Economic Opportunity and Diversity Committee Member, Budget and Finance Committee Chair, Mobility Service, LGC Board of Directors Chair, Regional Rail Right-of-Way Company Board of Directors Member, Regional Transportation Council Member, Transit Coalition of North Texas Employment:

Employment includes:

- The Wong Krause Law Firm, Dallas, Texas, October 1991 to present
- Former Associate Municipal Judge, City of Dallas, Texas, August 2006-August 2008
- Former Associate Hearing Officer, Dallas Municipal Court No. 9, August 2005-August 2006

Activities:

- House of Delegates, American Bar Association, 2013-2016
- Trustee, State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust, 2014
- Board of Directors, State Bar of Texas, 2004-2007, 2011-2014
- Board of Directors, Dallas Bar Association Community Service Fund, 2012-2014

- Board of Directors, Dallas Bar Association, 2005-2008, 2010-2011
- Chair, State Bar of Texas Asian Pacific Interest Section, 1998-1999, 2010-2011
- Chair, State Bar of Texas Hispanic Interest Section, 2008-2009
- Board of Advisors, Magnet Center for Public Service Government, Law and Law Enforcement, 2007-2009
- Director, Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, 2001-2007
- Secretary-Treasurer, Dallas Bar Association, 2000 and 2004
- President, Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, 2002