

**Leadership APTA Class of 2025  
Capstone Projects –August 2025**

**Abridged Information – Topic, Title, Team Members**



**Topic: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

**Title: Ready, Set, AI: Risk, Readiness, and Real-World Use of AI in Transit**

**Team Members:** Jacki Lenners, Mountain Line, Co-Coordinator; Myat Ohn, Jacobs, Co-Coordinator; Jorel Joseph, Keolis; Melissa DuMond, Kimley-Horn; Jennifer Donaldson, Stacy Witbeck.

**Topic: COMMUNICATIONS**

**Title: Economic Wins – The Missing Metric**

**Team Members:** Arya Rais-Firouz, AtkinsRealis, Co-Coordinator; Erin Mitchell, Metro Transit, Co-Coordinator; Tiffany J. Gunter, Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation; Kelli Shields, Trinity Metro; Jeff McCormack, AECOM.

**Topic: PROJECT DELIVERY**

**Title: Striking the Staffing Right Balance: What Can We Learn from Recent Capital Expansion Programs?**

**Team Members:** Katherine Ward, NJ Transit, Co-Coordinator; Leann Caver, C-TRAN, Co-Coordinator; Amanda Vandegrift, WeGo Public Transit; Stephen Loehr, MTA Construction and Development; Ben Stupka, Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan; Schneider St. Preux, Miami-Dade Transit.

**Topic: Workforce Development**

**Title: The CEO Compass: Peer Tested Strategies for Transit Executives**

**Team Members:** Jay Rank, Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, Co-Coordinator; Charlotte Obodzinski, Pace Suburban Bus, Co-Coordinator; Michael Henry, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency; Nicole Ramos, OMNITRANS; Shanita Wilkinson, WMATA.

**Topic: RIDER EXPERIENCE**

**Title: Mobilizing Mega Moments: How Transit Agencies Prepare, Perform, and Prevail**

**Team Members:** Justin Umagat, King County Metro, Co-Coordinator; Sam Sargent, VTA, Co-Coordinator; Howaida Kamel, MBTA; Juan Carbonell, Masabi; Paul DesRocher, Colorado DOT; Jamie Adelman, DART.

**Topic: SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**Title: The New Normal: Post-Covid Safety + Security Strategies**

**Team Members:** Bonnie Epstein, PSTA, Co-Coordinator; Lance MacNiven, WSP, Co-Coordinator; Kim Tucker, Orange County Transportation Authority; Mary Hill, TriMet; Arlana Johnson, Chicago Transit Authority; John Urgo, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.