

Research to Practice Transit Symposium

October 25-27, 2022



Hosted by:



SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW

The central theme for the symposium is “translating transit research into practice.” As the transit industry is poised to take advantage of the largest transit and rail investment in our lifetimes, the symposium will be a platform where transit experts share insights on how evidence-based research is being or can be, used to make the most of these opportunities in a changing environment. In addition to discussions on transit research and practice in the US, a group of international speakers will be invited to share transit insights from non-US contexts. The Symposium will focus on the following topics:

This year’s topics included:

- Zero-fare transit
- Fare collection and payment options
- Electrification and zero emissions
- Transit resiliency
- Public health and transit
- Mobility hubs and multimodal coordination
- Strategic funding for public transit
- Managing costs and maintenance

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

October 25 | TRANSIT OPERATIONS

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (EST)

Plenary Session: Transit finance in the post-COVID era

Speakers:

Brian Taylor, Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy Luskin School of Public Affairs and Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies, UCLA

Moderator: Chad Riding, Caltrans

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM (EST)

Break

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)

Fare Collection and Payment Options

Speaker:

Gillian Gillett, Program Manager of the California Integrated Mobility Program California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Moderator: Chad Riding, Caltrans

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM (EST)

Break

2:15 PM - 3:00 PM (EST)

Vermont and California's Experience with Zero-fare Transit

Speakers:

Adam Barth, Chief Executive Officer Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority (StanRTA)

Ross MacDonald, Public Transit Program Manager Vermont Agency of Transportation

Moderators: Chad Riding, Caltrans and **Andy Furillo**, Caltrans

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (EST)

Break

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM (EST)

A Zero-fare Transit Debate: Pros & Cons

Speakers:

Joshua Schank, Managing Principal InfraStrategies

Greg Newmark, Professor of Regional & Community Planning Kansas State University

Moderator: Andy Furillo, Caltrans

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

October 26 | SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (EST)

Plenary:

Future Mobility and Innovations: Public Perception, Governance, and Partnerships

Speakers:

Arnd Bätzner, Transit Strategist and Member of the Board of Directors, Mobility Genossenschaft and Crearene AG

Mary Leary, Deputy Associate Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Office Of Research, Demonstration and Innovation

Moderator: Greg Newmark, Kansas State University

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM (EST)

Break

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)

Electrification and Emissions Reduction

Speakers:

John Coose, Facilities Superintendent, San Joaquin Regional Transit District

Brad Menil, Maintenance and Operations Supervisor, San Joaquin Regional Transit District

Justine Chao, Senior Project Manager, Southern California Edison's eMobility Operations

Yachun Chow, Manager, California Air Resources Board

Dan Trujillo, Director, Transit for El Dorado National Bus Builders (ENC)

Moderator: Chad Riding, Caltrans

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM (EST)

Break

2:15 PM - 3:00 PM (EST)

Transit Resiliency: Dealing with Cybersecurity Threats and Wildfire Evacuations

Speakers:

Mark J Talbot, Transportation Strategist based in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Xilei Zhao, Director of Smart, Equitable, Resilient Mobility Systems (SERMOS) Lab Assistant Professor of Civil & Coastal Engineering, University of Florida

Moderators: Stuart Mori, Caltrans

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (EST)

Break

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM (EST)

Public Health and Transit

Speakers:

Andrew Krum, Group Leader and Senior Research Associate Center for Truck and Bus Safety, Virginia Tech and Transportation Institute

Jodi Godfrey, Senior Research Associate, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), University of South Florida (USF)

Linda Hill, Professor, Founding Faculty and Assistant Dean, Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health

Moderator: Chad Riding, Caltrans

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

October 27 | CAPITAL PROJECT DELIVERY

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (EST)

Closing Plenary:

Transit innovations at the State and Local Levels in Florida

Speakers:

Brad Thoburn, Assistant Secretary, Strategic Development Florida Department of Transportation

Jessica Vargas Astaiza, Transportation Planning Manager, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA)

Moderator: Dr. Xilei Zhao, Director of Smart, Equitable, Resilient Mobility Systems (SERMOS) Lab Assistant Professor of Civil & Coastal Engineering, University of Florida

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM (EST)

Break

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)

Mobility Hubs and Multimodal Coordination

Speaker:

Omar Atayee, Senior Engineer, SANDAG

Matt Warfield, New Mobility Planner, Boston Transportation Department

Adam Weigel, Transit & Parking Manager, City of Lawrence

Danielle Zhang, Contract Manager / Landscape Associate - Landscape Architecture Design, Caltrans

Moderator: Hilary Nixon, Ph, Deputy Executive Director, MTI

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (EST)

Break

2:30 PM - 3:15 PM (EST)

Strategic Funding

Speakers:

Art Guzzetti, Senior Engineer, SANDAG

Moderators: Andy Furillo, Caltrans

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM (EST)

Break

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM (EST)

America's Best and Worst Bus Stops

Speakers:

Marcel E. Moran, Author and PhD candidate in the department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley

Alva Carrasco, Vice President, Transit & Rail National Business Line - West Region Market Lead, WSP USA

Moderator: Andy Furillo, Caltrans

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 25 | TRANSIT OPERATIONS

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (EST)

Plenary Session:
Transit finance in the post-COVID era

Moderator:
Chad Riding, *Caltrans*

Plenary:



Brian D. Taylor, PhD
Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy
Luskin School of Public Affairs
Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies, UCLA

Brian D. Taylor, PhD, FAICP is a Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy in the Luskin School of Public Affairs and Director of the [Institute of Transportation Studies](#) at UCLA. He teaches courses on transportation, land use, and urban form; public transit and shared mobility; and transportation economics, finance, and policy. Professor Taylor studies travel behavior and transportation equity, finance, history, and politics. His recent research examines falling public transit ridership, public sector responses to new transportation technologies, the socio-economic dimensions of travel behavior, the equity of increased local option sales taxes for transportation, the economic effects of traffic congestion, and the transportation policy and equity implications of the SARS-Cov-2 global pandemic.

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM (EST)

15-Minute Break

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 25 | TRANSIT OPERATIONS *continued*

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)

Fare Collection and Payment Options

Moderator:

Chad Riding, *Caltrans*

Speaker:

Gillian Gillett

Program Manager of the California Integrated Mobility Program
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Gillian Gillett works at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as program manager of the California Integrated Mobility Program. Previously she was the Chair of the Caltrain Joint Powers Board of Directors; a transportation coordinator at the San Francisco Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Use & Mapping; Director of Transportation Policy, Office of the Mayor of San Francisco; and the co-founder of Graffio, Inc., a custom software development company. Ms. Gillett also served as the Chair, Transportation Policy Board.

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM (EST)

15-Minute Break

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 25 | TRANSIT OPERATIONS *continued*

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM (EST)

Vermont and California's Experience with Zero-fare Transit

Moderator:

Chad Riding, *Caltrans*

Stanislaus County Transit:



Adam Barth

Chief Executive Officer

Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority (StanRTA)

Adam Barth is the Chief Executive Officer of the Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority (StanRTA). Before becoming the CEO, Adam was the Director of Operations and Planning at the StanRTA. Adam was the Transit Manager at the City of Modesto operating the Modesto Area Express transit system prior to the StanRTA formation in 2021. Before his work in Stanislaus County, Adam was the Transit Manager in Fairbanks, Alaska where he learned the workings of public transit at a small transit agency. He started his transportation career working in the private industry by operating tour buses for the cruise lines in Alaska.

Adam graduated from the Leadership APTA program organized by the American Public Transportation Association. In addition, he was recognized with the Rising Star Award by the California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT).

Adam is received a Masters Degree in Transportation Management from San Jose State University's Mineta Transportation Institute in June 2022, and holds a Bachelors Degree from Brigham Young University.

Vermont DOT:



Ross MacDonald

Public Transit Program Manager

Vermont Agency of Transportation

Ross started his career in State government after 12 years of working for international manufacturing companies. In 2004 he joined the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and contributed to land-use policies and Transportation Orientated Design projects. Ross and his family moved to Vermont in 2007 where he became a Public Transit Program Coordinator and created the successful Go! Vermont program for the Vermont Agency of Transportation. In December 2019, Ross was named the Public Transit Program Manager. The combination of business, environmental and transportation experience contribute to his understanding of transportation demand management (TDM) projects and opportunities. Ross was also named the 2018 "Rural Transit Champion" by the Transportation Research Board.

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM (EST)

30-Minute Break

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 25 | TRANSIT OPERATIONS *continued*

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM (EST)

Zero-fare Transit: Pros & Cons

Moderator:

Andy Furillo, *Caltrans*

Pro on zero-fare transit:



Joshua Schank
Managing Principal
InfraStrategies

Joshua Schank is a Managing Principal at InfraStrategies, a transportation and financial advisory firm, where he leads a practice focused on innovation, strategic planning, and technology. He is also a Senior Fellow in the Institute for Transportation Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a Research Associate at the Mineta Transportation Institute. Prior to joining InfraStrategies and UCLA, Dr. Schank was the first-ever Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro). Dr. Schank previously served as President and CEO of the Eno Center for Transportation, a leading national transportation policy think-tank based in Washington, D.C.

Con on Zero-fare Transit:



Greg Newmark
Professor of Regional and Community Planning
Kansas State University

Greg Newmark is an associate research professor of civil engineering at Kansas State University. He is particularly interested in the provision and management of public transit services (and used to work at Chicago's Regional Transportation Authority). Dr. Newmark's research emphasizes the innovative use of data to understand public transportation as well as the collection of those data. He is working with the Transportation Secure Data Center (TSDC) to build an archive of on-board survey data from transit systems across the country. Please feel free to reach out to Dr. Newmark about sharing your rider survey data! gnewmark@ksu.edu

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 26 | SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (EST)

Plenary Speakers: Future Mobility and Innovation: Public Perception, Governance, and Partnerships

Moderator:

Greg Newmark, *Kansas State University*

Future Mobility and Innovation:



Arnd Bätzner

Transit Strategist and Member of the Board of Directors, Mobility Genossenschaft and Crearene AG

Arnd is passionate about better understanding the various intersections of mobility, transportation and society. Based on a holistic approach driven by urban design and spatial layout considerations, Arnd expands and translates new insights into forward-looking policies and governance models. His work experience includes executive management, research, consulting and advisory roles with both the public and private sectors in Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Americas.

Convinced that robust new approaches in transportation need to be built around serving and empowering our societies, he believes strategic interventions can best be developed at the crossroads of analytical insights and industry best practices, leveraging human skills, research and operational know-how into novel service concepts ultimately strengthening communities. His experience in the mobility industry encompasses urban rail, shared, on-demand and informal modes, paratransit, walkability, elevated and cable-propelled transit, and aviation.

Recent focal areas of his managerial and consulting work comprise multi-modal integration of shared mobility with fixed-route transit, fare integration, layout of passenger intermodal facilities, design proposals for urban cable car networks, benchmarking and implementing alternative bus propulsion technology, autonomous driving and the role of data, and broad considerations of economic and social opportunities, challenges and costs of the mobility revolution. Arnd is engaged in national and international government, industry and research bodies and advisory boards. He is a frequent speaker at leading global transportation conferences.

Key professional interests and areas of expertise include

- Strategic development and management of integrated, multi-modal transit systems
- Regulation and policy guidelines for digitally enabled mobility business models
- Integration of new mobility modes with mass transit: shared, on-demand, elevated/cable and informal transport
- Data-driven last-mile connectivity integrating passenger and cargo logistics
- Urban design and land use requirements for an autonomous vehicle age based on holistic socioeconomic analysis
- Transit bus electrification focused on long-term viability and sustainability, based on specific network parameters such as topology, route lengths and network evolution

Arnd has grown to love the magic promise that lays in trains and reliable transit since experiencing, as a child, the closure of passenger rail serving his village in rural France. What then had resulted in 3-hour cycling trips to the next available transport other than his parents' car today fuels his particular awareness for the design of interfaces between rural, urban and undefined in-between zones - in many cases the very generators of private car dependency.

Directions in Research at FTA:



Mary Leary

**Deputy Associate Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Office Of Research, Demonstration and Innovation**

As the Deputy Associate Administrator for FTA's Office of [Research, Demonstration and Innovation \(TRI\)](#), Mary Leary leads a group of transportation specialists, engineers and a data scientist who work on FTA's Public Transportation Innovation Research Program, overseeing the operational activities of the office, and providing strategic support to the Associate Administrator Karina Ricks. FTA's research mission is to enable a robust public transportation network that connects communities and protects the environment.

Mary has held various managerial positions at FTA, including serving as the Deputy Associate Administrator for TRI since August 2017. She has seventeen years in Federal and nonprofit service, and led innovative teams on a range of projects from public transportation research, rides to wellness, United We Ride, and program evaluation and assessment; to transportation workforce development; accessible mobility; aging in place; and human services transportation, accessibility, and mobility technical assistance. Prior to going into the nonprofit and Federal sector, Mary was in the private sector where she managed teams that helped global and national corporations and the Federal Government apply innovative technologies and business process re-engineering solutions to improve their organizations. She changed careers in 2001 to give back to the community, and quickly gravitated to roles in the fields of aging, human services transportation, and accessibility.

Among other degrees, Mary holds a PhD from George Mason University (GMU) in Public Policy with a concentration in Organizational Informatics, and a Master's certificate in Gerontology from GMU's College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 26 | SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY *continued*

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM (EST)

15-Minute Break

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM (EST)

Electrification and Emissions Reduction

Moderator:

Chad Riding, *Caltrans*

San Joaquin Regional Transit District:



John Coose

Facilities Superintendent

San Joaquin Regional Transit District

Mr. Coose joined RTD in 2003, throughout his 19 years at RTD Mr. Coose has been given an opportunity to oversee the maintenance of five facilities with 213,000 combined square feet, approximately 850 bus stops, thirteen 60kW depot chargers, four 500kW rapid overhead chargers, a 500kWh Battery Energy Storage System, and by the end of October will have completed a 711 kWh photovoltaic solar energy system. Mr. Coose oversees RTD's Facilities Department staff, manages construction projects, and ensures compliance of RTD's Transit Asset Management (TAM) plan.

Mr. Coose has served the community as a Reserve Firefighter for the Stockton Fire Department and completed an internship at the Ebbetts Pass Fire Department. And in 2017, he received his Firefighter 1 Certificate and his Emergency Medical Technician Certificate. Mr. Coose has completed the Transit Paratransit Management Certificate Program from the University of Pacific.

San Joaquin Regional Transit District:

Brad Menil

Maintenance and Operations Supervisor

San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD)

Brad Menil has over 29 years of experience as an employee at San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD), where he is currently a maintenance and operations supervisor. Prior to RTD, Brad was an aircraft maintenance mechanic with the US Navy. Brad also serves as an aircraft maintenance mechanic in the US Air Force Reserve. Brad has a degree in business administration and management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 26 | SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY *continued*

Southern California Edison:



Justine Chao
Senior Project Manager
Southern California Edison's eMobility Operations

Justine is a Senior Project Manager in Southern California Edison's eMobility Operations group and is responsible for leading SCE's Charge Ready Transport Program, which aims to install charging infrastructure to support nearly 9,000 medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles. Justine joined SCE in July 2019 as part of the Management Leadership Development Program where she spent two years rotating through different areas of the utility, including Trading & Market Operations, eMobility Operations, Transmission and Distribution, and Regulatory Affairs.

Justine earned her Masters in Business Administration from the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics and Economics from New York University. Prior to completing her MBA, Justine worked at Bloomberg New Energy Finance in New York City where she managed a portfolio of transportation, government, non-profit, and corporate clients in the Americas region.

CARB:

Yachun Chow
Manager
California Air Resources Board

Yachun is the manager of the Zero Emission Truck and Bus section at the California Air Resources Board. In this capacity, Yachun is tasked with the development of heavy-duty vehicle strategies and policies to foster the use of zero emissions technologies in the heavy-duty vehicle sector. Currently, Yachun's team is responsible for the implementation of the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation. The ICT regulation will bring the cleanest technologies to transit riders and local communities and harvest benefits including higher fuel efficiencies, less pollution, and better air quality and climate protection.

Yachun has a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy from the State University of New York-College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a B.S. in Marine Environment from the National Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 26 | SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY *continued*

New Flyer:



Dan Trujillo
Director
Transit for El Dorado National Bus Builders (ENC)

Dan Trujillo is the Director of Transit for El Dorado National Bus Builders (ENC). In this position Dan is able to provide and educate public and private fleet managers about Zero Emission vehicles and technology. Dan is passionate about the current transition from fossil fuel powered fleets to battery and hydrogen fuel cell systems.

"We have never seen this much support from government agencies willing to fund zero emission programs than now. The resources for funding and educating those willing to make the zero emission choice has never been easier. There is no guarantee on what future funding will be created or provided. We are now well past the beginning phases of introducing clean energy solutions to public and private transit. We now have 'lessons learned' and a focused path to follow."

Dan lives outside of Boise Idaho but would call himself a Southern California native after growing up in Los Angeles County and graduating from Whittier College.

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM (EST)

15-Minute Break

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 26 | SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY *continued*

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM (EST)

Transit Resiliency

Moderators:

Stuart Mori, *Caltrans*

Cyber Resiliency:



Mark J. Talbot

Transportation Strategist based in Washington, D.C.

Management executive with 25 years of experience achieving revenue, profit, and business growth objectives within rapidly changing business environments across transportation, government, and financial services sectors. Extensive experience with managing technology enabled business process services and large-scale projects around the globe. Proven success in identifying, developing, and managing teams to achieve their near terms goals while pursuing the corporation's strategic aspirations. Prior to founding Cybrbase, Mark was CEO of a publicly listed company in the intelligent transportation systems market.

Wildfires:

Dr. Xilei Zhao

Director of Smart, Equitable, Resilient Mobility Systems (SERMOS) Lab
Assistant Professor of Civil & Coastal Engineering, University of Florida

Dr. Xilei Zhao is the Director of Smart, Equitable, Resilient Mobility Systems (SERMOS) Lab and Assistant Professor of Civil and Coastal Engineering at the University of Florida. Dr. Zhao received her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and Master's in Applied Mathematics and Statistics from Johns Hopkins University in 2017. She specializes in big data analytics and machine learning, modeling and planning large-scale evacuation, modeling travel behavior for shared mobility, and quantifying resilience for critical infrastructure systems, societal systems, and communities.

Dr. Zhao won the Outstanding Paper Award of *Travel Behaviour* and Society in 2021 and was selected as an Early-Career Research Fellow by the National Academies' Gulf Research Program in 2022. Her research has been supported by multiple funding agencies, such as USDOT, NIST, USGS, and Ford Motor Company. By actively engaging civic partners in her projects, Dr. Zhao is devoted to translating basic research into practice to tackle climate change challenges. Her research has been featured in dozens of news articles and cited in the 2020-2021 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 26 | SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY *continued*

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (EST)

30-Minute Break

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (EST)

Public Health and Transit

Moderator:

Chad Riding, *Caltrans*

Ventilation:



Andrew Krum

Group Leader and Senior Research Associate
Center for Truck and Bus Safety at the Virginia Tech
Transportation Institute

Mr. Krum is a Sr. Research Associate and Group Leader in the Division for Freight, Transit & Heavy Vehicle Safety at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Andrew has 18 years of experience as a transportation researcher and engineer and has managed research projects evaluating the performance of heavy and commercial truck and bus advanced technologies sponsored by FMCSA, FTA, NHTSA, National Academies and NIOSH. Andrew also serves as the Chair of the SAE Truck and Bus Automation Safety Committee and recently served on the NIOSH/CDC COVID-19 Occupational Safety and Health Technical Assistance Program.

Assaults:



Jodi Godfrey

Senior Research Associate,
Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)
University of South Florida (USF)

Jodi Godfrey is a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida (USF), where she works on the Transit Safety and Workforce Development Program. Ms. Godfrey received her bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from USF. Ms. Godfrey serves leadership roles within the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Standing Committee on Transit Safety and Security (AP080), the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Bus Safety Committee, and WTS Tampa Bay. Ms. Godfrey has published work related to employee safety reporting, assault trends on bus transit systems, crashworthiness and crash energy management of transit buses, onboard technologies to reduce accidents and incidents, National Household Travel Survey trend data analysis, the role of public transit in natural disaster response, attracting and retaining women in the transportation industry, and training initiatives to reduce accidents and incidents, just to name a few.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 26 | SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY *continued*

Operator Fatigue:



Linda Hill

**Professor, Founding Faculty and Assistant Dean
Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health**

Dr. Hill is a Distinguished Professor, Founding Faculty and Assistant Dean of the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health. She is Faculty and Immediate Past Program Director of the UCSD/SDSU General Preventive Medicine Residency since 1989. San Diego Family Care, a Federal 330 Community Health Center, is the site of her clinical activities, as Medical Director 1980 to 2001, and Senior Staff Physician since 2001. She is the Medical Director of the UCSD Training, Research and Education for Driving Safety (treds.ucsd.edu) and Co-Director of the UCSD Center for Human and Urban Mobility. She is the Executive Director of the Asylum-Seeker Shelter Health Assessment Program. Dr. Hill is engaged in prevention research and teaching, with current and past support from the NIH, the CA Office of Traffic Safety, American Cancer Society, Health Resources and Services Administration, Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration, and AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, and the CA Department of Cannabis Control and is the author of 101 peer reviewed papers, 4 book chapters, and 135 abstracts. Her hobbies include classical piano and ocean sports.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 27 | CAPITAL PROJECT DELIVERY

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (EST)

Closing Plenary:
Transit innovations at the State and Local Levels in Florida

Moderator:
Dr. Xilei Zhao, *University of Florida*

Florida DOT Innovations:



Brad Thoburn
Assistant Secretary for Strategic Development
Florida Department of Transportation

As the Assistant Secretary for Strategic Development, Brad Thoburn leads the statewide transportation planning, modal development, research and innovation for the Florida Department of Transportation. Brad has experience in both the public and private sector and has worked in transportation, planning and policy leadership positions at the local, state and federal levels. Brad and his team shape the statewide transportation policy framework and guide some of the state's most impactful transportation investments through the Strategic Intermodal System. His modal group is strengthening the vision for an integrated multimodal transportation system.

Mr. Thoburn previously served as the Southeast Region Practice Lead for Transit and Planning at Michael Baker International, Vice President of Long-Range Planning and System Development at Jacksonville Transportation Authority, Chief Planner at FDOT and Director of Planning and Development for the City of Jacksonville.

Brad is a long-time resident of Florida with his wife, Dearing and their two daughters. He is a graduate of Washington and Lee University.

FTA Research:



Jessica Vargas Astaiza
Transportation Planning Manager
South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA)

Ms. Jessica Vargas serves as a Transportation Planning Manager for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) with 20 years of experience in the public transportation industry. She works on advancing capital development projects for the agency and its Tri-Rail commuter rail service. She also leads other mobility and service planning initiatives.

She is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Master of Science in Transportation and the University of Puerto Rico – Mayagüez with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. She is a member of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), South Florida Chapter and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), Fort Lauderdale Chapter.

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM (EST)

15-Minute Break

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 27 | CAPITAL PROJECT DELIVERY *continued*

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)

Mobility Hubs and Multimodal Coordination

Moderator:

Hilary Nixon, *MTI*

SANDAG:



Omar Atayee
Senior Engineer
SANDAG

Omar Atayee is a Senior Engineer for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). He has over 25 years of public and private sector engineering and project management experience. At SANDAG, his primary responsibilities consist of managing capital improvement projects and providing technical support to the various planning department initiatives.

In Mr. Atayee's present role, he has overseen the implementation a variety of projects including bus rapid transit, maintenance facilities, rail operation improvements and bikeways. Currently, he is the project manager for the Central Mobility Hub project which is in the environmental phase of development.

Planning:



Matt Warfield
New Mobility Planner
Boston Transportation Department

Matt Warfield is a New Mobility Planner with the Boston Transportation Department where he works on programs that help the City meet its ambitious mode-shift and carbon neutrality goals. His work includes expanding access to shared vehicles, both large and small; preparing the City for a Zero Emission Vehicle program; implementing GoHubs!, Boston's version of the Mobility Hub; and developing curb management strategies to address the ever increasing demand for curb space.

Some of his exciting upcoming projects include the launch of an e-cargo bike pilot program working with small and minority owned businesses and completing the installation of 80 public EV charging plugs. Prior to arriving in Boston, Matt worked for the City of Baltimore where he helped launch their e-scooter share program, design and install safe bicycling infrastructure, and expand the demand-based parking meter rate program. He holds master degrees in social work and urban planning from the University of Michigan.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 27 | CAPITAL PROJECT DELIVERY *continued*

Lawrence Kansas:



Adam Weigel
Transit & Parking Manager
City of Lawrence

Adam Weigel is the Transit & Parking Manager for the City of Lawrence. He manages Lawrence Transit and works closely with the University of Kansas transit system to coordinate services across the city. He leads a team that takes a creative, risk-tolerant, and partnership-building approach to the work that makes the community excited and proud about their transit system. Within the next year, Lawrence Transit will open a new central transit station after 10 years of planning, complete a major redesign of the bus route network, deploy seven battery electric buses, add microtransit service, add Sunday service, and go fare free. Our staff culture has changed from feeling like a disrespected agency with no allies to one that celebrates ribbon cuttings with community partners several times a year. Staff and the community now believe me when I say, "Transit can be fun!"

Caltrans Landscape Architecture:



Danielle Zhang
Contract Manager / Landscape Associate -
Landscape Architecture Design, Caltrans

Ms. Danielle Zhang is a Contract Manager & Landscape Associate at Caltrans, D11. She has worked in both public & private sectors internationally. Her over 30 years professional practice involved and Land Development, Themed Park Design, Urban Planning, Campus Master Planning, Transportation Design, Visual Impact Assessment Study and Stormwater Compliance with specialty in Erosion Control. She holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from University of Guelph, Canada. Her graduate study focused in regional planning & community development through LA design. Danielle was born in Beijing City who worked as a structure engineer & assistant architect in China. She has lived, worked, and traveled to six Continents. As a visual artist, Ms. Zhang specializes in B/W photography of built environments and environmental artwork utilizing recycled Plant Materials to promote sustainability practice. She is also a Commissioned Mural Artist whose work is emphasized on public education as well as social awareness. Danielle is serving on several Boards including WTS, ICTPA, Balboa Park Committee 100. Her current position at WTS San Diego Chapter is Diversity & Inclusion Committee Co-Chair 2021. Danielle is the recipient of WTS SD Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award 2021. She truly believes that embracing culture diversity is essential in delivering innovative transportation design solutions to improve quality of life for all beings.

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (EST)

30-Minute Break

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 27 | CAPITAL PROJECT DELIVERY *continued*

2:30 PM - 3:15 PM (EST)

Strategic Funding

Moderator:

Andy Furillo, *Caltrans*

1 Year of APTA:



Art Guzzetti
Senior Engineer
SANDAG

Art Guzzetti, a 40-year professional in public transportation at the local, state and national levels, serves as Vice President-Mobility Initiatives & Policy for the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the trade group for the public transportation industry. Among other things, Mr. Guzzetti is responsible for APTA's extensive policy development and research agenda, and for advancing policies favorable to public transportation with Congress, the Administration, state and local governments, with grass-roots and stakeholder organizations, and with public policy think tanks. A key current focus is integration of transit networks with new and emerging public and private mobility services, including micro-transit, transportation network companies, automated vehicles and bicycles. The public transit agency of the future will weave these services into a system, with high-capacity transit lines in key corridors as the backbone.

Prior to coming to Washington in June 1997, Mr. Guzzetti had 16 years of management experience with two of the nation's leading public transportation systems: New Jersey Transit and the Port Authority of Allegheny County.

Mr. Guzzetti has a Political Science degree from Edinboro State University, and a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Among other position, he is the immediate past national president of the Transportation Research Forum. He has been married for 40 years and is father to four children and the grandfather of five.

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM (EST)

30-Minute Break

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 27 | CAPITAL PROJECT DELIVERY *continued*

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM (EST)

Improving America's Bus Stops

Moderator:

Andy Furillo, *Caltrans*

Best Bus Stop Competition:



Marcel E. Moran

Author and PhD candidate in the department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley

Marcel Moran is a PhD candidate in the department of City and Regional Planning at the [University of California, Berkeley](#). He studies urban transportation, including how infrastructure can encourage walking, cycling, and transit usage. During his time as a graduate student, he has published [seven](#) first-author articles in peer-reviewed journals, and his research has been featured in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Forbes](#), and [Bloomberg CityLab](#). For academic year 2021-22, he was given the department's Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award. He is advised by Prof. Daniel G. Chatman, Prof. Daniel A. Rodríguez, and Prof. Karen Trapenberg Frick. Prior to this he worked at the Transportation Sustainability Research Center ([TSRC](#)) under the direction of Prof. Susan Shaheen. He holds a bachelors degree from Harvard University and a masters degree from the University of Chicago.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 27 | CAPITAL PROJECT DELIVERY *continued*



Alva Carrasco

**President of the Board of Directors, Latinos In Transit
Vice President, Transit & Rail National Business Line -
West Region Market Lead, WSP USA**

Alva Carrasco is the President of Latinos In Transit (LIT), a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of Latinos and other minorities in the transportation field. Alva has been a LIT board member since its inception in 2016. She helped to build the organization from the bottom up. Under her leadership, LIT's membership has exponentially grown and has forged partnerships with multiple public and private industry organizations such as the Conference of Minority Transit Officials (COMTO) and the Transit Research Board (TRB).

Alva is also the Vice President - Transit and Rail National Business Line's West Region Market Lead at WSP USA. She is responsible for business development in the west and southwest region of the United States. She also oversees multiple projects assisting transit service providers to transition off of fossil fuels to zero-emission vehicles.

Alva has over 30 years of experience working in the transit industry. She began her career in public transit as an entry level administrative assistant and has worked her way up to various leadership and executive positions while furthering her education. She has dedicated her time in public transit to providing communities clean alternative modes of transportation, reducing congestion, improving operational efficiencies, improving the customer experience, and workforce development in what she considers a "green collar" industry. She has successfully managed multimillion dollar projects and provided leadership to large workforce groups responsible for safely transporting millions of passengers at transit agencies such as Los Angeles Metro and VIA Metropolitan Transit in San Antonio, Tx.

Alva is a graduate of San Jose State University/Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI.) Alva graduated from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Leadership class of 2002, is a two-time American Public Transportation Foundation (APTF) recipient, and currently serves as an APTA Emerging Leaders Program National Mentor, and TRB Minority Fellows Mentor. Alva is a member of several industry committees, including the APTA Diversity & Inclusion Counsel; APTA Leadership Class Selection Committee; TRB Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee; Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) TOPS Counsel; and serves as vice chair of the California Transit Association (CTA) Inclusion Diversity Equity Association (IDEA) Task Force.

SESSION MODERATORS



Andy Furillio
Strategic Management Liaison,
Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation

Andy's duties at Caltrans include administering statewide working groups focused on effectively obtaining and leveraging federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Job Act's transit and rail programs, analyzing draft legislation and Department policy, coordinating Department-sponsored research projects, and managing multiple Department contracts. Before returning to his home state of California and joining Caltrans in 2021, Andy lived in Washington, DC and followed the federal dollar as an analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office. He engages with the transit and sustainable transportation communities outside of his job, serving on citizens' advisory committees for YoloBus and Davis Unitrans, the two primary transit systems he uses to get around, and repairing donated bicycles as a Sacramento Bicycle Kitchen volunteer. He also previously wrote for the online blog of Mobility Lab, a Transportation Demand Management organization based in the DC area.

Andy obtained his Bachelor's in Political Science from UC Berkeley and Master's in International Affairs from UC San Diego. Using South Korea's excellent subways, buses, and high-speed rail during an undergraduate semester overseas sparked his passion for transit. Since then, that passion has expanded to active transportation too, be it a walk to the bus stop, country road bike ride, or long-distance run.



Stuart Mori
Associate Transportation Planner
Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation

Stuart Mori is an Associate Transportation Planner with the California Department of Transportation, Division of Research, Innovation, and System Information, Office of Planning, Programming and Policy. In this role, he plans, monitors and evaluates transportation research studies with University Transportation Centers.

His background includes high-speed rail station area development, state planning, community planning, complete streets planning, and transit oriented development.



Greg Newmark
Professor of Regional and Community Planning
Kansas State University

Greg Newmark is an associate research professor of civil engineering at Kansas State University. He is particularly interested in the provision and management of public transit services (and used to work at Chicago's Regional Transportation Authority). Dr. Newmark's research emphasizes the innovative use of data to understand public transportation as well as the collection of those data. He is working with the Transportation Secure Data Center (TSDC) to build an archive of on-board survey data from transit systems across the country. Please feel free to reach out to Dr. Newmark about sharing your rider survey data! gnewmark@ksu.edu

SESSION MODERATORS



Hilary Nixon, PhD
Deputy Executive Director,
MTI

Hilary Nixon has served as Deputy Executive Director for MTI since 2018. Previously, she served as MTI's Director of Research and Technology Transfer. Dr. Nixon is an active researcher and educator specializing in transportation and environmental planning and policy. Her research focuses primarily on the factors that influence pro-environmental behavior, transportation finance, and the relationship between transportation and the environment. She has served as Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, or project team member on over 40 research grants totaling over \$2 million.

In her roles at MTI, Dr. Nixon led or collaborated in the publication of 19 research reports and articles on a wide variety of critical transportation issues, including sustainability, livability, economic impacts of public transportation, women's representation in the field, and more. In addition to her publications in collaboration with MTI, Dr. Nixon has presented at scores of academic and professional conferences, and her individual research has been published in highly-ranked international and peer-reviewed transportation and environment journals such as the *Journal of Sustainability Education*, the *Journal of Public Transportation*, the *Journal of Environmental Management*, the *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, and many others. Her research has also been extensively covered in a wide range of popular media including: *CityLab*, *Politico*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Washington Post*, among others.

Prior to joining MTI, Dr. Nixon spent 12 years as faculty in the Department of Urban & Regional Planning at San José State University (SJSU), where she held positions as Graduate Advisor, Associate Chair, and Department Chair, where she was responsible for long-term strategic and financial planning, accreditation, and teaching appointments for graduate and undergraduate programs. For her outstanding contributions and commitment to students, Dr. Nixon has been recognized with numerous awards and commendations, including Advisor of the Year in 2015, Outstanding Advisor Award in 2009, and both the Award for Academic Excellence and the Award for Planning Achievement by the American Planning Association 2008. Dr. Nixon also served on many departmental and university committees, including those for research, scholarship, and retention/tenure/promotion.

In her commitment to advancing transportation issues and supporting her community, Dr. Nixon has served a variety of roles at colleges, universities, and professional associations. Since 2018, she has served as Director of the Research and Education Division, of the American Road & Transportation Builders' Association. Additionally, she has served as an appointed member of National Cooperative Highway Research Program and Transit Cooperative Research Program research review panels, served as chair of the Area E Advisory Planning Commission in the Cowichan Valley Regional District from 2019-2022, and is an elected member of the California Planning Foundation.

A strong proponent of advancing women in academia, research, and transportation, Dr. Nixon regularly advocates for women's interests in her professional service roles. She served as Vice President of the Faculty Women's Interest Group (FWIG) of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning from 2013-2015 and currently serves as chair of the Transportation Research Board AME20 Standing Committee on Women and Gender in Transportation.

Dr. Nixon holds a PhD in planning, policy, and design from the University of California, Irvine, and a BA in environmental management from the University of Rochester.

SESSION MODERATORS



Chad Riding
Senior Transportation Planner,
Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation

Chad Riding is a Senior Transportation Planner at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in its Division of Rail and Mass Transportation with 13 years of planning experience at Caltrans. Chad works on strategic management, legislative coordination, and research coordination for the Division. A chief focus of his work is building better connections in the planning practitioner and researcher communities. Chad's interests in planning are in finding ways to bring diverse groups of stakeholders together and find common ground to implement change. Chad has a Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Florida.

Dr. Xilei Zhao
Director of Smart, Equitable, Resilient Mobility Systems (SERMOS) Lab
Assistant Professor of Civil & Coastal Engineering, University of Florida

Dr. Xilei Zhao is the Director of Smart, Equitable, Resilient Mobility Systems (SERMOS) Lab and Assistant Professor of Civil and Coastal Engineering at the University of Florida. Dr. Zhao received her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and Master's in Applied Mathematics and Statistics from Johns Hopkins University in 2017. She specializes in big data analytics and machine learning, modeling and planning large-scale evacuation, modeling travel behavior for shared mobility, and quantifying resilience for critical infrastructure systems, societal systems, and communities.

Dr. Zhao won the Outstanding Paper Award of Travel Behaviour and Society in 2021 and was selected as an Early-Career Research Fellow by the National Academies' Gulf Research Program in 2022. Her research has been supported by multiple funding agencies, such as USDOT, NIST, USGS, and Ford Motor Company. By actively engaging civic partners in her projects, Dr. Zhao is devoted to translating basic research into practice to tackle climate change challenges. Her research has been featured in dozens of news articles and cited in the 2020-2021 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report.