



Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Board of Directors 2023 – 2025 | Board Slate

Bill Austin, Morgantown Monongalia MPO, Morgantown, WV (Non-TMA)

Bill Austin is a graduate of Virginia Tech having earned both a Bachelors and Master's Degrees in Political Science. He has worked for or with Metropolitan Planning Organizations for the last thirty plus years. He has a long history of supporting both large and small MPO's as part of the leadership of MPO Association's in two different states.

He began his career with MPO's at the Fifth Planning District Commission (now the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization) as a technician performing both data collection/analysis duties and administrative duties. Upon leaving the Fifth Planning District Commission he served as the lead planner for the Burlington NC MPO for five years. He left Burlington to work in Wilmington NC as the lead MPO Planner and lead Transportation Planner for the City of Wilmington. During his tenure in North Carolina, he was one of the primary founders of the North Carolina Association of MPO's serving two consecutive terms as the Association's chairman. In 2001 he left the City of Wilmington to become a consultant to Florida's Turnpike where he worked as a planning liaison to South Florida's MPOs-Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Indian River counties. His primary responsibility at this time was working with the Miami-Dade MPO. During this time, he also conducted a Community Impact Assessment for the widening of the Turnpike in South Florida as well as completing other planning duties.

He has been the Executive Director of the Morgantown Monongalia MPO since 2009. During his time in Morgantown, he has led numerous planning efforts including public involvement and technical aspects of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update and for several smaller scale studies. He has also worked with the West Virginia University School of Public Health to identify best practices for reaching underserved communities in the transportation planning process. He was one of the primary founders of the West Virginia Association of MPO's where he is in his sixth term as Chairman.

He has been married to his wife Laurie for 35 years. They have a 27-year-old son who lives in Morgantown. They also have two dogs. He is an avid bad golfer. He also enjoys chess and backgammon.

Dana Crisino Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council, Utica, NY (Non-TMA)

Dana Crisino has been the Director of the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council (HOCTC) since 2012. HOCTC is a small MPO in the central area of NYS. Currently, she serves as a member of the AMPO Policy Committee and previously was an Alternative Member. She has held professional planning accreditation through the American Institute of Certified Planners since 2009 and has been active with the NY Upstate Planning Chapter in various leadership roles. Her transportation work began in the private sector in roles that included modeling roadway networks, mapping rail corridors, evaluating walkability, completing traffic impact studies, evaluating truck traffic impact, trails/ recreational planning, evaluating environmental impacts of transportation infrastructure, and working as an on-call staff planner for many municipalities. Planning has been her chosen field since the very beginning of her career. Settling in the niche of transportation

planning and the challenge it offers is what keeps her striving to make communities better for those who live in them.

Jackson Fox, FAST Planning, Fairbanks, AK (Non-TMA)

Jackson Fox is the Executive Director of FAST Planning, a small MPO in Fairbanks, Alaska. He has 21 years of transportation planning experience from work in private consulting and City and State government. Jackson became the Director of FAST Planning in 2017, at which time he led the organization's transition from being a hosted agency to a fully independent organization. He is now leading the expansion of the organization to take on transit planning and become a dual MPO/Regional Transportation Planning Organization to serve rural communities beyond the boundaries of the MPO. Jackson is an avid community volunteer and his motivating force at work each day is to make Fairbanks a better place live, work, and visit through public engagement, improved agency collaboration, and building consensus among diverse groups of stakeholders. For his local efforts, in 2018 Jackson received Alaska's "Top Forty under 40" award and the national American Planning Association's "Great Places in America: Streets" award for his work on the Cushman Complete Street project in Fairbanks. He has a loving wife and daughter and spends most of his free time with his family enjoying the outdoors hunting, fishing, and rafting throughout Alaska.

Nick Haven, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Stateline, NV (TMA)

Nick Haven is a Transportation and Land Use planning professional at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). Nick is the Division Manager for the Long Range and Transportation Planning Division that is responsible for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) role of TRPA that is coupled with other regional land use planning functions to protect and improve mobility at Lake Tahoe. Nick has worked at TRPA for 24 years.

With over 24 years in the MPO/transportation planning space, Nick has been instrumental in establishing and growing the bi-state Lake Tahoe MPO since its designation in 1999. As a bi-state MPO, Nick has fostered strong working relationships with the USDOT, state DOTs and FHWA division offices in California and Nevada. Nick is an advocate and mentor for small and medium sized MPOs nationwide and has been an active member of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) for over 15 years, contributing to the AMPO Policy Committee and sharing presentations and information at various AMPO events.

Nick brings to his role a passion for collaboration and partnerships along with a well-established background in transportation planning to reach multi-benefit solutions to complex challenges. Nick holds a degree in Public Administration, with a minor in Transportation Geography from San Diego State University.

Francis Pickering, Western Connecticut Council of Governments, Sandy Hook, CT (TMA & Non-TMA)

Francis R. Pickering is the Executive Director of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments, the WestCOG Foundation, Inc., the Western Connecticut Economic Development District, and the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (the Housatonic Valley MPO and the South West Region MPOs), serving Stamford, Norwalk, Danbury, and surrounding areas. Mr. Pickering manages regional programs in transportation, economic development, community planning, environmental management, emergency preparedness, regional services, and data science and analytics. Mr. Pickering is recipient of the 2020 Planning for Wireless Technology Award and the 2013 Innovative Plan of the Year Award from the American Planning Association, Connecticut Chapter, and the 2014 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations. Mr. Pickering's

most recent innovation has been a move to obtain federal recognition of Connecticut's Councils of Governments, which serve as the host agencies for its MPOs, as county equivalents.

An engaged transportation professional with a 15-year record of success, Mr. Pickering serves on the Technical Committee of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation, the Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisor Board, the Connecticut Strategic Highway Safety Plan Steering Committee, the Merritt Parkway Advisory Committee, and the Southwestern Connecticut Regional Sector Partnership 2, in addition to many corridor and project advisory committees. Mr. Pickering holds degrees from Princeton University, the Free University of Berlin, and the University of Connecticut. When not working, he can be found enjoying recreational trails on his mountain bike.