



2024 Speaker Bios

Taylor Benjamin, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Taylor Benjamin is a seasoned communications specialist with the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Her responsibilities include crafting engaging communication strategies, organizing outreach initiatives, and fostering meaningful partnerships with stakeholders to ensure inclusive and transparent planning processes. She believes that the voices of all community members, especially those from marginalized populations, should be heard and valued in the decision-making process.

Erik Braaten, Denver Regional Council of Governments

Erik Braaten is a senior planner with the Denver Regional Council of Governments working to coordinate the regional crash data consortium. He has previous experience with congressional and legislative redistricting with the State of Colorado and has previously done work for the City and County of Denver and the City of Boulder. He holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado Denver and is passionate about traffic safety, data-driven governance and collaboration.

Tim Burkhardt, Alliant Engineering, Inc.

Tim Burkhardt (he/him), AICP, MPH, is Director of Transportation Planning at Alliant Engineering where he leads transportation planning, grants, NEPA, and public engagement work. His early career in public health and neighborhood organizing informs his approach to understanding and engaging communities. Tim holds degrees from Carleton College and the University of Minnesota.

David Burns, Metropolitan Council (St Paul, MN)

Dave has been with the Metropolitan Council since 2017, where he leads the Council's CMP and PBPP work. Prior to joining the Council, Dave worked at the Fargo-Moorhead

Metropolitan Council of Governments and the Florida Department of Transportation. Dave holds both a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Geography from the University of Minnesota Duluth and Miami University, respectively.

Paul Calvaresi, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Paul Calvaresi is the Intergovernmental Manager. Mr. Calvaresi has over 10 years of experience in public service. He holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida Atlantic University. During his time at the Broward MPO, Paul has worked on a variety of projects ranging from financing, public engagement, local community transit, and mobility hubs. Paul is also an active member of the planning community, sitting on boards for the United Way, Congresswomen Cherfilus-McCormick, as well as the Policy Committee and Intergovernmental Committee for AMPO.

Zhi Chen, Des Moines Area MPO

Zhi Chen, AICP is a Senior Planner at the Des Moines Area MPO. He is interested in leveraging technologies to improve the connection between transportation planning and land-use planning, specifically with regards to spatial justice, public health, and the environment. At the Des Moines Area MPO, he works on the Iowa Data Bike project, data collection and analyses, GIS mapping, travel demand modeling, performance measures and reports, and facilitating roundtables on traffic management and freight. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science and history from Grinnell College and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Iowa.

Caitlin Cook, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Caitlin Cook is the Transportation Planning Director with the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Within her role at AMPO she oversees the technical programs, the AMPO Research Foundation programs, and advises on policy and research initiatives. Prior to her time with AMPO she worked at the Mid-America Regional Council focusing on data and performance based planning, and managed a small MPO north of Kansas City. Caitlin has a masters in Urban Planning from the University of Kansas, with bachelors in English and Spanish.

Amy Cummings, Parametrix

Amy Cummings, AICP, LEED AP, is the Nevada Planning Manager for Parametrix.

Judy Day, Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Judy Taylor has been the Boston Region MPO's Climate Resilience and Air Quality Program Manager since Summer 2022, and is the first person to hold that title for the MPO. Her role

has been to strengthen the consideration for climate resilience in all aspects of the Boston MPO's planning process, while also evaluating emissions impacts and air quality conformity for the MPO's planning documents. She received her Master's in Environmental and Sustainability Studies from the College of Charleston in South Carolina where she worked closely with environmental justice communities on issues related to air quality and climate justice, and is passionate about building equitable resilience to climate change with a strong focus on public engagement.

Chelsea Favero, Forward Pinellas

Chelsea Favero, AICP, is the planning manager for Forward Pinellas, the countywide land use and transportation planning agency. She manages the MPO program at the agency, while also serving a liaison between the agency and local, regional and state transportation partners. Chelsea has 18 years of experience in transportation planning, with a focus on improving the multimodal transportation system, and holds a bachelor's degree from Eckerd College.

Bill Frawley, Frawley Planning Group

Bill Frawley has 34 years of experience in metropolitan and statewide transportation planning and programming. Early in his career, he led the creation of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda (FL) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and became its first director. He has developed and delivered dozens of workshops and training sessions on a wide range of transportation planning and programming issues. Mr. Frawley is a certified National Highway Institute (NHI) instructor and has delivered scores of NHI and National Transit Institute (NTI) courses around the country. The U.S. State Department invited him to make several transportation related presentations and lectures in the Brazilian cities in 2013. Mr. Frawley has worked with MPOs in multiple states to address various processes such as public involvement, organizational structure, fiscal agent and member entity relationships, performance based planning, resiliency, data collection, and staffing needs.

Michelle Glickert, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Michelle Glickert is a transportation planner with 25 years of experience including: consulting work as an airport planner, regional planner at the Southern California Metropolitan Planning Organization, and local government with the City of Santa Monica. Personal highlights include creation of the nation's largest commuter bike center (2011), launching LA County's first bike share program, design and implementation of the first protected bikeway in California, and implementation of over 100 new miles of bikeways.

The mountains called in the winter of 2017 to join Tahoe Regional Planning Agency as their Transportation Planning Program Manager where she enjoys leading a great multi-disciplined team updating the Regional Transportation Plan, supporting plans such as

Equity, Active Transportation and Regional Safety Strategy and leading transportation performance management.

Joseph Hausman, US DOT/FHWA

Joe Has worked for over 35 years in the public sector at the Local, State and Federal Levels. First as a Transportation Planner with the Franklin County Engineers Office (Columbus Ohio). Next, Joe was the Roadway Information Manager for The Ohio Department of Transportation responsible for managing the States Roadway Databases and GIS Maintenance. For the past 13 years Joe, has worked at the FHWA headquarters in Washington, DC, the first 7 years on the HPMS team in the Office of Policy, and for the last 6 years as a Senior Community Planner in the Office of Planning. Currently Joe is managing a major Pooled Fund Study (AEGIST), is the FHWA liaison to the CTPP, is coordinating the Functional Classification/the Urban Area Boundary Adjustment Process.

Kenneth Joh, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Kenneth Joh, Ph.D., AICP, CPM is a Principal Statistical Survey Analyst at the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board. He has nearly two decades of experience working with transportation and household travel surveys and oversaw the Regional Travel Survey, which collected detailed demographic and travel behavior information from about 16,000 households, the largest household travel survey ever conducted for the DC region. Dr. Joh currently serves as Secretary of the Travel Survey Methods Committee (AEP 25) of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and is Co-Chair of the Household Travel Survey Subcommittee.

David Kall, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

David Kall is an Environmental Protection Specialist in the FHWA Office of Natural Environment in Washington, DC. Mr. Kall's expertise spans several air quality topics including transportation conformity, mobile source air toxics, and CMAQ emissions calculations. He also works with EPA's MOVES vehicle emissions model and air quality dispersion models. Previously he was a Senior Associate at Cambridge Systematics where he worked for eight years on air quality and transportation planning issues. Mr. Kall has Master's degrees in Transportation Engineering and City Planning from Georgia Tech and a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Dayton.

Bill Keyrouze, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Bill was appointed Executive Director in August of 2020 and manages all aspects of the organization. Prior to being appointed to this role, Bill worked on the technical issues MPO's are involved with in the transportation planning process. He directed AMPO's federal grant

awards and managed the activities of AMPO's Air Quality, Travel Modeling, Performance Based Planning and Programming, Vehicle Connectivity and Automation, GIS, and Public Involvement Working Groups. In addition, Bill managed the AMPO Technical Committee and directed AMPO's MPO research efforts. Prior to AMPO, Bill worked at Building America's Future, an infrastructure advocacy coalition, where he served as a senior staff member and provided infrastructure and transportation policy guidance and support to the executive staff and Co-Chairs. Bill has also worked for United States Senator Charles Schumer (NY), where he served as Deputy Director of the Hudson Valley regional office. Bill is a native of Saratoga Springs, NY. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and a master's degree in Sustainable Urban Planning from The George Washington University.

Brian Lee, Puget Sound Regional Council

Dr. Lee is the Program Manager for Data Solutions and Research at the Puget Sound Regional Council. He also has a faculty appointment at the University of Washington in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. His expertise includes land use and travel modeling, mobility analysis, survey data collection, and data tool development.

Peter Mohr, Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Peter Mohr, in his role as the Principal Engineer at WAMPO, leverages his Computer Science degree from Wichita State University to passionately apply his technical expertise in data analytics and technical communication. His primary focus is on utilizing this knowledge to address the transportation needs of the greater Wichita area.

Kendra Montanari, Mid-Regional Council of Governments

Kendra leads the long-range planning efforts at the Mid-Region Council of Governments Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). In her twenty-two years with the MPO, Kendra has operated the regional travel demand model, managed the land use modeling and socioeconomic forecasting program, and actively participated in the development of multiple Metropolitan Transportation Plans. Most recently, she has successfully secured a Safe Streets for All grant award from the USDOT, facilitated a study to expand the MPO's Non-Motorized Counts Program, and is partnering with local housing leaders to develop a Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Kendra has a passion for issues related to land use and growth to support data-driven decision-making.

Kelly Norman, Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Kelly Norman, MS, AICP, is a Senior Transportation Planner with the Carson Area MPO.

Chad Parasa, Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Chad Parasa has been serving as Executive Director for WAMPO since 2019. Chad has more than 20 years of MPO transportation planning experience in the public sector, and he has 5 years of consulting work experience in the private sector, in the areas of Traffic Engineering. Chad has a graduate degree in Civil Engineering, major in Transportation Engineering, from the University of Oklahoma. Chad also obtained his Master degree in Mathematics, from Fairfield University, Connecticut.

Chad believes that many choices of transportation modes of public, develop into a transportation system. The transportation system becomes an integral part and a foundation for economic development. Thus there are so many areas to serve the public's interests in a multi-modal transportation system.

Steven Peterson, Met Council

Steve Peterson, AICP, is the Senior Manager of Highway Planning at the Metropolitan Council, the MPO for the Minneapolis-St. Paul region. He co-managed the Intersection Mobility and Safety Study and leads the allocation of over \$100 million per year of federal transportation funds to the region. Steve has an undergraduate degree from St. Norbert College in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Harun Rashid, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)

Harun Rashid, AICP, is the Planning Analytics Manager for the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority with more than 20 years of experience in regional transportation planning, travel modeling, data analytics, and related topics within the MPO context. He is passionate about his work to understand built environment's impact on travel behavior and choices, with multimodal transportation planning, programming, and innovation. Harun leads all things planning analytics at NVTA.

Nasim Rezvanpour, Atlanta Regional Commission

My name is Nasim Rezvanpour and I am holding a PhD degree in the field of Environmental Planning and Design from the University of Georgia. I serve as a Senior Transportation Planner at the Transportation Access & Mobility in Atlanta Regional Commission. In this role, I specialize in data visualization and transportation modeling. I am deeply passionate about analyzing and visualizing large datasets, contributing to the effective planning and development of transportation systems in the Atlanta region.

Andrew Riddle, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Andrew Riddle, AICP, serves as the Manager of City Services and is responsible for leading a team of transportation planners on various multimodal transportation studies, projects and plans with local governments, regional agencies and other transportation partners. Prior to joining the MPO, Andrew has over 20 years of work experience in the public and private sectors, including over 17 years as a professional planner with a focus on land use and transportation at the local, regional, and state levels in Florida and Virginia. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado.

Christopher Rosenberg, Miami-Dade TPO

Christopher Rosenberg serves as Chief-Transportation Planning for the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). Mr. Rosenberg oversees the finance and program development sections of the TPO, which are responsible for the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He has successfully assisted the Miami-Dade TPO to achieve its goals and funding support for the priorities and needs of Miami-Dade residents, including the SMART Program. Prior to working for the Miami-Dade TPO, he worked for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) where he managed the FDOT District Six Work Program, which averaged \$4 billion. Mr. Rosenberg earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and his master's degree from the Florida International University.

Guy Rousseau, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)

Guy Rousseau is the Transportation Models & Travel Surveys Manager for the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the MPO for Atlanta, Georgia, which he joined in 1998. He is responsible for model development activities and travel surveys. Before coming to ARC, he was the Principal Traffic Engineer for the City of Atlanta Department of Public Works, with responsibilities for travel modeling and traffic simulation. Mr. Rousseau has also been a transportation modeler for the MPOs in Dayton, Ohio, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, and for Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. He is a committee member of various TRB Committees and NCHRP projects. He is also the Chair of the SHRP 2 C10A project on advanced travel demand modeling and fine-grained, time sensitive networks.

Carl Saxon, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Carl Saxon is a Senior Planner at the Des Moines Area MPO. He has more than 13 years of experience in transit planning and operations, bringing a wealth of knowledge and passion for creating comprehensive and integrated transportation solutions to make the region

more livable for all. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geography from The University of Iowa.

John Schneeberger, Department of Transportation

J.D. Schneeberger serves as the Program Manager for the Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office's Professional Capacity Building (PCB) Program. The program provides technical assistance to the ITS Community and assists transportation professionals, educators, and students in developing their knowledge, skills, and abilities to build technical proficiency while furthering their career paths. J.D. has over 20 years of experience in providing policy, technical, policy, and strategic oversight of research and deployment of emerging technology transportation projects. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Physics from James Madison University (JMU) and Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia (UVa).

Sagert Sheets, Mid-Regional Council of Governments

Sagert Sheets is the GIS Manager at the Mid-Region MPO and Mid-Region Council of Governments in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he coordinates desktop and enterprise GIS projects in support of both technical services for member agencies and MPO planning efforts. He has a MS in Geography from the University of New Mexico.

Tim Sheldon, Timmons Group

Tim Sheldon is a Geospatial Transportation Consultant who works with state and local government departments of transportation in both Business Analysis and Linear Referencing System (LRS) capacities.

Drawing on over 17 years of experience Tim understands the business and technical aspects of an LRS and uses his knowledge to develop LRS data models, configure LRS applications, and provide knowledge transfer to clients in their own vernacular.

Tim holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography from Western Carolina University and a Master's degree in Geography from Appalachian State University.

Kyle Simpson, Forward Pinellas

Kyle Simpson, AICP is the Active Transportation Planner for Forward Pinellas, the countywide land use and transportation planning agency for Pinellas County, Florida. Kyle is responsible for development and implementation of the Forward Pinellas Active Transportation Plan, managing the non-motorized count program, and assisting in the implementation of bicycle and pedestrian projects in Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay region. Kyle holds a master's degree in Regional Planning from the University at Albany.

Sarah Siwek, Sarah J. Siwek & Associates, Inc.

Sarah J. Siwek has over forty years of experience advising public and private sector organizations on transportation planning, finance, air quality and environmental issues. Activities have included: developing and instructing training courses for transportation and environmental professionals; development, integration, financing, and implementation of transportation and air quality programs as required under the Clean Air Act. Ms. Siwek has also facilitated implementation of highway, transit, and air quality programs including policy development and legislative advice on transportation and air quality issues. Sarah J. Siwek & Associates, Inc. is a U.S. Small Business Administration Certified Women's Owned Small Business.

Johnathan Slason, RSG

Jonathan Slason, PE is a Director of Planning at RSG. Jonathan has a unique ability to see the bigger picture and understand the goals of the effort and combine that with a pathway to conduct and manage the necessary technical work. With a focus on long range planning, greenhouse gas emissions, VMT, and travel behavior changes along with decarbonization and electrification goals, Jonathan applies the numerous quantitative models and data collected to make informed planning decisions. He manages scenario planning and strategic modeling work that includes the development of visualization tools, dashboards, and associated planning reports. Jonathan is adept at translating complex travel models and traffic analysis methods, avoiding jargon and is an excellent public communicator.

Jim Stack, Genesee Transportation Council

James Stack has been the Executive Director of the Genesee Transportation Council in Rochester, NY since January 2016. Prior to being appointed Executive Director, Jim served as the Assistant Director for 14 years and has been with GTC since 1999. Prior to joining GTC, Jim was a Transportation Planner for the MPO in Bristol, CT. Jim has over 30 years of transportation planning experience.

Jim's transportation experience includes transit and corridor studies, area studies, data collection & management, project management, managing projects conducted by consultants, managing a capital program, asset management planning, air quality analysis, and developing operations budgets. He is familiar with all aspects of MPO operations. In January 2023, Jim was appointed to the AMPO Policy Committee.

Jim holds a Master of Public Administration from the State University of New York at Brockport and a Bachelor of Geography from the University of Connecticut.

Levi Stewart Figueroa, Broward MPO

Levi Stewart-Figueroa is a senior transportation resiliency planner with the Broward MPO. He specializes in planning, designing, and implementing transportation systems that can respond to climate change and withstand extreme weather events. Levi became interested in resiliency planning while at the University of New Orleans and seeing the impacts of Hurricane Katrina. Before joining the MPO, he worked in the one of epicenters of climate change with the City of Miami Beach's transportation team.

Graham Stone, PublicInput

Graham Stone is Co-Founder and Vice President of Government Relationships at PublicInput. In his role, Stone supports state and local governments in the ongoing, evolving challenges of building stronger relationships with residents in every corner of the community. With a background in consulting planning and engineering, Stone works across all PublicInput departments to ensure agencies can fully leverage and understand how public engagement software better manages data, resulting in more meaningful, equitable decisions.

Ekin Uğurel, University of Washington

Ekin Uğurel is a third-year PhD student at the University of Washington. After earning his B.S. in Civil Engineering from UT Austin, Ekin developed his background in data science and machine learning in the context of modern transportation problems. Currently supported by the College of Engineering Dean's Fellowship, Ekin's research aims to innovate novel methods to model mobile data (i.e. GPS traces from mobile devices) for human mobility analysis. His work has appeared in a range of conferences including INFORMS, TRB, APSIPA and ISTTT (July 2024), and he has most recently published his first journal article in Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies.

Jenny Wallace, Denver Regional Council of Governments

Jenny Wallace, GISP, is the GIS Program Manager at the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). She administers DRCOG's geospatial enterprise databases and software, oversees data development and spatial analysis, and develops products alongside her team. Jenny is passionate about advancing DRCOG's GIS products and services, building her team's technical proficiencies, and fostering collaborative relationships with peers in regional transportation and urban planning.

Ryan Wang, Northeastern University

Ryan Qi Wang is an Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Research of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University, where his research intersects urban informatics, big data analytics, and critical infrastructure systems. An esteemed innovator in

applying computational approaches to urban challenges, Prof. Wang's work empowers smarter cities and informs policy decisions.

Ellen Zavisca, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Ellen Zavisca is the Transportation Planning Manager for AMPO, where she coordinates their interest group webinars and administers the ActivitySim model. Prior to taking that position, she served as staff at the MPO in Knoxville, TN, for 18 years. Her focus as an MPO planner was on safety for all modes of transportation, multimodal planning, Safe Routes to School, and the health impacts of transportation. She is certified by the League of American Bicyclists as a bicycle safety instructor and is a member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. She has a master's degree in urban planning from University of Illinois-Chicago.

Xuesong Zhou, Arizona State University

Dr. Xuesong (Simon) Zhou is an Associate Professor at Arizona State University, specializing in multimodal transportation planning. His research seeks methodological advancements in the field. A dedicated contributor, Dr. Zhou chairs the TRB Committee on Transportation Network Modeling subcommittee and led the TRB Innovations in Travel Analysis and Planning Conference in 2023. He's also a board member of the Zephyr Foundation, furthering transportation research and education.

Dr. Zhou is the Director of the ASU Transportation+AI Lab, where he is the principal architect and programmer for several open-source packages, including DTALite, NEXTA, and OSM2GMNS, which have collectively received over 100,000 downloads and many system deployments at various metropolitan planning agencies and state DOTs.

Elina Zlotchenko, Department of Transportation

Ms. Elina Zlotchenko, PMP, FAC PPM III has over 24 years of professional experience in Transportation Program Management, Long Range Transportation Planning, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). Ms. Zlotchenko is a Program Manager with the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Joint Program Office (JPO) at USDOT. Ms. Zlotchenko is responsible for overseeing the ITS4US Deployment Program and ITS JPO Enterprise Program Management Office.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Zlotchenko worked in private sector and for over 15 years at the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as North Carolina State Rural Planning Organizations (RPO) Program Manager. She received a M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN and a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Haifa in Israel.