

2019

ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION

PLANNING CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 10-12



AGENDA

2019 ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10:30 **MPO CAUCUS**

12:00 **REGISTRATION**

1:00 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Honorable Joe Smith, Mayor of North Little Rock, Arkansas
Kevin Thornton, P.E., Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning - ARDOT

1:30 **SESSION 1 – INTEGRATING RESILIENCY INTO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

MODERATOR: Jessie Jones, P.E., Division Engineer, Transportation Planning and Policy - ARDOT

Integrating Resiliency into Transportation Decision Making

Heather Holsinger, Environmental Specialist - FHWA

Transportation System Security and Resilience (Multi-State DOT Panel)

Kwabena Aboagye, Assistant Director of Long Range Planning - Tennessee DOT

Mathew Swift, P.E., Division Engineer, Strategic Asset and Performance Management
Division - Oklahoma DOT

Steve Frisbee, P.E., District Engineer, District 3 - ARDOT

Michael Lee, Director of Engineering & Safety Operations - Texas DOT

3:30 **BREAK**

4:00 **SESSION 2 – EMERGING MOBILITY TRENDS**

MODERATOR: Tab Townsell, Executive Director - Metroplan

Connected Autonomous Vehicles

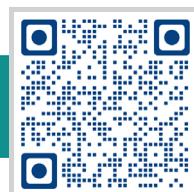
Loreana Marciante, Emerging Mobility Solutions Engineer - HNTB

Transportation Tetris: A Managed System

Trey Baker, Consultant - WSP Advisory Services

Have Questions?

Get More Info Here:





WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

7:30 **BREAKFAST**

8:30 **SESSION 3 – DOES YOUR DATA SPARK JOY?**

MODERATOR: Sharon Hawkins, GIS and Mapping Administrator - ARDOT

Do We Plan or Just React?

Brad McCaleb, P.E., Division Engineer, System Information and Research - ARDOT

Location Services Enabled

Sunny Farmahan, Senior Transportation Planner - ARDOT

Traffic Safety Dashboards

Ted English, Strategic Highway Safety Plan Coordinator - ARDOT

Jeremy Plummer, Safety Information Coordinator - ARDOT

Taunya Kidd, Traffic Safety Analyst - ARDOT

Bringing It All Together

Sharon Hawkins, GIS and Mapping Administrator - ARDOT

10:00 **BREAK**

10:15 **SESSION 4 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS**

MODERATOR: Casey Covington, P.E., AICP, Deputy Director - Metroplan

MPO 101: It Takes All of Us

Amy Heflin, Program Delivery Team Leader/ Planning & Air Quality Engineer - FHWA

Introduction to PlanWorks

Jeff Carroll, AICP, Partner - HighStreet Consulting Group

How Can We Partner With You?

Daniel Siskowski, P.E., Staff Local Federal-aid Project Administration Engineer - ARDOT

Be Part of the Vision: Access Management on Highway 112

Andy Brewer, P.E., Assistant Division Engineer, Transportation Planning and Policy - ARDOT

Tim Conklin, AICP, Assistant Director - Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

12:00 **LUNCH (Plated Lunch With Luncheon Speaker)**

Workforce of the Future

Steve Straessle, Principal - Catholic High School for Boys, Little Rock, Arkansas

AGENDA

2019 ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 (CONTINUED)

1:30

SESSION 5 – MULTIMODAL PLANNING: MOVING GOODS

MODERATOR: Virginia Porta, P.E., Senior Transportation Planning Engineer - ARDOT

Workin' on the Rail Road

Drew Tessier, Senior Director of Public Affairs - Union Pacific Rail Road

Rollin' on the River

Senator Mathew Pitsch, Assistant President Pro Tempore - Arkansas State Senate

Cruisin' on the Highway

Shannon Newton, President, Arkansas Trucking Association

Freight Planning in the Southeast

Paula Dowell, Ph.D., Principal and National Practice Leader - Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

3:00

BREAK

3:30

SESSION 6 – MULTIMODAL PLANNING: MOVING PEOPLE

MODERATOR: Reese Brewer, Transportation Director - Frontier MPO

Transit Planning

Ronisha Hodge, Community Planner - FTA

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans

JD Allen, AICP, Executive Vice President and Principal Planner - Alliance Transportation Group

Health as a Public Good

Leesa Freasier, MEd, CTRS, Physical Activity Coordinator - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Planning for Bikes and Pedestrians

Kim Sanders, Program Management Specialist / Bike-Ped Coordinator - ARDOT

Have Questions?

Get More Info Here:





THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:30 **BREAKFAST**

8:30 **SESSION 7 – RESILIENT TRANSPORTATION THROUGH PERFORMANCE BASED PLANNING**

MODERATOR: Emmily Tiampati, MPO Coordinator - Tri-Lakes MPO

Asset Management: Life Cycle Planning

Brad McCaleb, P.E., Division Engineer, System Information and Research - ARDOT

Traffic Safety: One Fatality Eliminated At A Time

Susan DeCourcy, Regional Administrator, Region 7 - NHTSA

Getting to Work on Time: Travel Time Reliability

Tim Lomax, Ph.D., P.E., Regents Fellow and Research Fellow - Texas A&M
Transportation Institute

TMC – Pizza, Whiskey, and Water

Andy Brewer, P.E., Assistant Division Engineer, Transportation Planning and
Policy - ARDOT

Joe Hawkins, P.E., State ITS Engineer - ARDOT

10:00 **BREAK**

10:15 **SESSION 8 – PLANNING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**

*MODERATOR: Tim Conklin, AICP, Assistant Director - Northwest Arkansas Regional
Planning Commission*

Hindsight is 2020

Casey Covington, P.E., AICP, Deputy Director - Metroplan

Sustainability Through Economic Development

Carlos Silva, Ph.D., Regional Economist - Arkansas Economic Development Institute

Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan

Elizabeth Bowen, Project Manager - Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

Planning Great Places to Live, Work, and Play

Danielle Semsrott, AICP, Senior Planner - City of Bentonville, Arkansas

11:45 **CLOSING REMARKS**

12:30 **PLANWORKS WORKSHOP**

BIOGRAPHIES

2019 ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE



KWABENA ABOAGYE

Kwabena Aboagye, also known as “KB”, is the Assistant Director of Tennessee Department of Transportation’s (TDOT) Long Range Planning Division. Having over 17

years of experience in planning, KB’s broad-based background includes master planning, major investment studies, transit oriented development, public involvement, GIS, solving various land use and transportation planning issues. He obtained a Master of Science in City & Regional Planning from The Ohio State University in 2009. KB is from Ghana and now resides in Nashville, Tennessee with his wife and two children.



JD ALLEN

Mr. Allen is the Executive Vice President and Principal Planner at Alliance Transportation Group and has been with the company for 18 years. He works on transportation and transit plans – special-

izing in developing MTPs for MPOs; transit development plans; travel demand model development; human services transportation coordination plans; transit safety and security planning and oversight; federal compliance audits; and traffic engineering projects across the country. He has a BS in Economics, MS in Community and Regional Planning, is the former Executive Director of a Regional Planning Commission, former MPO Director, former member of TRB ADA30 Committee on Planning for Small and Medium Size Communities and current member of TRB ABJ30 Committee on Urban Transportation Data and Information Systems.



TREY BAKER

Trey Baker is a consultant with WSP Advisory Services specializing in public policy and strategic planning in the areas of road pricing, VMT charging, tolling and managed lanes. He is

the Deputy Project Manager for ARDOT’s Central Arkansas Area-wide Managed Lanes Study and is the current co-chair of the Transportation Research Board’s Congestion Pricing Committee. Prior to joining WSP, Trey was a research scientist and program manager at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. Trey and his wife live in Austin, Texas where he was born and raised.



ELIZABETH BOWEN

Elizabeth Bowen is a Project Manager at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission in Springdale. She is a graduate of Rogers High School and possesses Bachelor of

Science Degree from John Brown University. She has previous work experience including 9 years at Benton County and 16 years at the US Army Corps of Engineers. She has had the privilege of working on many conservation/recreation efforts throughout her career and most recently the Razorback Regional Greenway, NWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and the NWA Open Space Master Plan.



ANDREW BREWER

Andy is the Assistant Division Engineer of Transportation Planning and Policy at ARDOT. He oversees activities such as long-range planning, project planning, policy analysis,

performance management, public transportation,

and traffic safety. Andy has served various roles in the transportation planning and engineering field with the Department for 14 years, most recently as Planning Engineer and Traffic Safety Engineer. He participates with several AASHTO Committees such as the Committee on Transportation System Operations, and is an active member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers where he currently serves as Administrator of the Arkansas Chapter. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a BSCE in 2002 and MSCE in 2004.



REESE BREWER

Reese acts as the transportation director of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Fort Smith area. Her work is primarily in local transportation planning and traffic data modeling. She has served on the Eno Center for Transportation's Freight Funding and Finance group and was a contributor to the Eno Center for Transportation paper, "Delivering the Goods: Recommendations for Funding a Federal Freight Program, along with serving on Transportation Research Board Committees. While the focus of her work is in transportation planning and freight infrastructure, Reese received her Master of Science in Intermodal Transportation Management from the University of Denver and attended the Florida Coastal School of Law studying Transportation Law & Policy.



JEFF CARROLL

Jeff Carroll is a partner at High Street Consulting Group and he has 27 years of experience in multimodal transportation planning and policy analysis. Jeff has managed and/or led tasks on numerous statewide, regional, and metropolitan transportation plans across the country. Over the last 15 years, Jeff's focus has been on developing state long range transportation plans (LRTPs). Jeff was the project manager for the Ar-

kansas Long Range Intermodal Transportation Plan that was adopted in July 2017. Jeff also has help to develop LRTPs in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Mr. Carroll is a member of the TRB Committee ADA 30 Planning for Small and Medium Sized Communities.



TIM CONKLIN

Tim Conklin, AICP. Tim Conklin is the Assistant Director for the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission. Past planning experience includes 16 years with the City of Fayetteville Planning Division and five years in metropolitan transportation planning with the Frontier MPO in Fort Smith and the Ozarks Transportation Organization MPO, in Springfield, Missouri. He has a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA. He is a member of American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners.



CASEY COVINGTON

Casey Covington is the Deputy Director for Metroplan, the MPO for central Arkansas. He is a Professional Engineer (PE) and certified planner (AICP), with more than 15 years of planning, engineering and management experience, specializing in transportation planning and traffic forecasting. Casey holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State and a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Louisiana Tech. Casey is a member of the AMPO Policy Board. Casey is priority lead for the Physical and Built Environment Team for Healthy Active Arkansas, alumnus of Leadership Greater Little Rock, and serves on the Louisiana Tech Alumni Board. Casey is an avid golfer and enjoys the Arkansas outdoors.

BIOGRAPHIES

2019 ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE



SUSAN DECOURCY

Susan DeCourcy is the Regional Administrator for the Region 7 Office of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation in Kansas City,

Missouri. She is responsible for the Federal 402 Highway Safety Program in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Ms. DeCourcy serves as the federal representative for the administration in providing numerous services to the Region 7 States, as well as other public and private sector customers to include technical assistance, administering the agency's grant fund programs, assisting in coalition building, and delivering presentations. Susan has spoken at numerous National and State conferences and meetings, and testified before State Legislatures. In 2018, Susan was the recipient of NHTSA's Five-Star Performer award for extraordinary leadership and enthusiastic dedication to NHTSA's safety mission. In 2016, Susan was awarded the Secretary of Transportation, "Partnering for Excellence" award for developing and organizing innovative programs that challenged operating administration, industry, stakeholders, and led to the development of new tools to improve roadway safety. She has 33 years of highway safety experience with NHTSA. Susan is an Executive Committee member of the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board and is the Chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution program. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration/Management.



PAULA DOWELL

Dr. Dowell, a Principal of CS, has nearly 20 years of experience in transportation planning and policy, focusing on economic analysis, freight transportation planning

and economic development. She leads CS' National Freight and Economics Practice. Dr. Dowell has focused her career on applying her economic

training to real world decision making, leading the development of numerous tools and processes to assist clients in assessing the economic impacts and benefit/costs associated with multimodal transportation investments. Dr. Dowell has worked in over 40 states and seven countries. Ms. Dowell is one of the nation's leaders in freight planning and economic development, continuously driving innovations in the industry through study efforts for Urban and Regional Goods Movement, Freight Transportation, Trade and Economic Development, Innovations in Application of Freight Data, Port and Rail Planning and National Freight Research and Development. Prior to joining CS, Dr. Dowell was Vice President and National Practice Leader for Freight and Economics at Wilbur Smith Associates. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



TED ENGLISH

Ted English started his career with ARDOT as a Patrol Officer with the Arkansas Highway Police in 1989. He soon completed his Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice at UALR. After the Highway

Police, Ted transferred to the Human Resources Division where he served as a Safety Inspection Officer. Ted left the department to join Acxiom Corporation as an Auditor and then as a Data Administrator for the Citi-Bank Account. Ted then returned to ARDOT as a Training Specialist and eventually again as a Safety Inspection Officer in the Human Resources Division before transferring to his current position in the Traffic Safety Section in 2004. Ted has been instrumental in moving the Department away from the old paper crash report and map era to the current electronic crash data system (eCrash) being implemented statewide. Ted also has been the main reporter for the Highway Safety Improvement Program for several years and is currently in charge of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan program at the Department. Ted has a wealth of knowledge regarding all aspects of the crash data including how it is collected and how it can be utilized.



SUNNY FARMAHAN

Sunny Farmahan is Senior Transportation Planner at Arkansas Department of Transportation. His 16-year experience includes demographic data analysis, Geographic Information Systems

(GIS) web services and statistical analysis using spatial technology. In his current position, he coordinates and assists in transportation planning activities with Metropolitan Planning Organizations throughout Arkansas.



LEESA FREASIER,

MEd, CTRS, is the physical activity coordinator at UAMS' Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Community Health and Education. She previously was the Healthy Community

Domain Lead for the Arkansas Department of Health. Her experience in Arkansas spans 11 years and covers a variety of topics related to increasing physical activity opportunities and access to healthy foods for all Arkansans. In this work, she has served on the Built Environment workgroup for Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention (ArCOP), Regional Planning Advisory Committee, Healthy Active Arkansas, Physical Activity and Built Environment, Governor's Appointed Taskforce for the Statewide Master Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, as well as multiple other boards and commissions working to identify barriers, resources and action plans to improve built environment and encourage physical activity and availability of healthy food choices.



STEVE FRISBEE

Steve is the ARDOT District Three Engineer, overseeing construction and maintenance operations in 8 counties in Southwest Arkansas. A native of North Little Rock, he earned a Bachelor

of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in 1996 and has been a Registered Professional Engineer since 2001. Mr. Frisbee began work at the Department in 1993 as an Engineering Intern, working 4 summers, while in school. He began full-time with the Department in 1997 as a field engineer and was involved with a majority of the engineering oversight for construction of over 40 miles of new Interstate 49 from Louisiana to Texarkana. He has served as Resident Engineer in Texarkana for six years, District Construction Engineer in East Arkansas for five years, and District Engineer in Hope, Arkansas for the past six years. Mr. Frisbee has served on the bi-state Texarkana Metropolitan Planning Organization's Technical committee and currently serves on the Policy Committee. He enjoys the opportunity to work in the field, seeing construction and maintenance work being performed everyday by dedicated workers committed to building and maintaining our transportation system. Mr. Frisbee also enjoys serving on various committees, striving to bring the "field perspective" into engineering design, planning, research, and management decision making processes.



JOSEPH HAWKINS

Joe graduated from University of Arkansas in 2005 with a degree in electrical engineering. He joined ARDOT in 2007 in the Traffic Operations Section of Maintenance Division where he started as

Engineer I, and has promoted through to his current position of State ITS Engineer. He is a graduate of the National Operations Center of Excellence 2018 Operations Academy. ITS Management Section

BIOGRAPHIES

2019 ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE

oversees Traffic Management Center, Intelligent Transportation Systems (DMS, CCTV, RWIS, HAR), Traffic Operations, Roadway Lighting, Land Mobile Radio, Radio Dispatch, Intranet microwave backhaul radio system, and more.



SHARON HAWKINS

Sharon Hawkins obtained a Bachelor degree in Geography from the University of Central Arkansas in 1999. She started in the GIS and Mapping Section in November of that same year

where she currently serves as the Section Head. Sharon enjoys working with spatial data from across the Department and beyond. She is a member of the Arkansas State GIS Board and the AASHTO GIS-T Taskforce.



AMY HEFLIN

Amy H. Heflin became the Program Delivery Team Leader in October 2015, a team which consists of the Division Technical Programs Engineer, the Environmental Co-ordinator, the Realty

Officer, and the Transportation Planner. Amy came to the Arkansas Division in 1999 as the Transportation Planning Engineer. Beginning in 2007, she also served as the Support Services Team Leader and was responsible for tracking Division's GOE Budget and overseeing the Division's procurement procedures. She held that position until February 2012 when she was promoted to Field Operations Engineer. Amy began her career with FHWA in 1992 as a Highway Engineer Trainee. She completed training assignments in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Colorado, and Massachusetts. From 1994 to 1999, she worked as an Area Engineer in the Texas Division. Amy earned her B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Louisiana Tech University. Amy is married to Joe Heflin, the Division's Safety Engineer, and has 17 year-old twins, Jake and Hannah.



RONISHA HODGE

Ronisha Hodge was raised in Houston, Texas and graduated from Alabama A&M University with a B.S. in Urban Planning. Ronisha interned with the city of Houston's Planning Department

before starting her federal career with the U.S. Air Force as a Community Planner. There, she was responsible for planning the location of various facilities and infrastructure, and she served as the military base's liaison to the city/county for land use issues. Ronisha started working for the Federal Transit Administration in 2013 as a Community Planner where she assures compliance with federal planning regulations. She currently works with MPOs in Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. She lives in Fort Worth, Texas with her son and daughter, and she enjoys traveling and graphic design.



HEATHER HOLSINGER

Heather Holsinger is an Environmental Specialist with the Sustainable Transportation and Resilience Team within the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of

Transportation. Her work at FHWA involves policy development and analysis in the areas of transportation system resilience, sustainability, and electric vehicles. Prior to joining FHWA, Heather served as a Senior Policy Fellow and Program Manager for Adaptation at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, a Senior Analyst with the Natural Resources and Environment team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), and as an economic and environmental management consultant. She holds Masters Degrees from Duke University in resource economics (MEM) and public policy (MPP) and a BA from the University of Virginia with majors in Economics and Environmental Science.



JESSIE JONES

Jessie Jones is the Division Head for Transportation Planning and Policy Division at the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT). In this capacity, she oversees transportation plan-

ning activities including long-range transportation planning, modeling and forecasting, geospatial data management, policy analysis, transportation performance management, metropolitan planning coordination, public transportation, and traffic safety. Jessie has been with ARDOT nearly 18 years and has held various positions in design, research, and planning. Jessie is a member of the TRB Standing Committee on Highway Capacity and Quality of Service (AHB 40) and Standing Committee on Statewide Multimodal Transportation Planning (ADA10). She is also actively engaged in various AASHTO Councils and Committees in the areas of planning and performance management. She is a registered professional engineer in Arkansas.



TAUNYA KIDD

Taunya Kidd recently joined the ARDOT family as a Traffic Safety Analyst. She is excited to work with GIS technologies so she can continue to learn and grow within the GIS career field.

Her background prior to ARDOT was in emergency management. She most recently worked with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management as the Operations Planner and GIS Program Manager where she helped develop GIS tools, products, and applications for use at all levels of government. Before that, Taunya served in the Arkansas Air National Guard in various roles: Knowledge Operations Manager, Wing Executive Assistant, Civil Support Team Survey Member, and Air Force Emergency Manager. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management from America Military University. Her breadth of experience and professional skills make her a valuable addition to the ARDOT Traffic Safety team.



MICHAEL LEE

Michael Lee is a 1988 graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering. He was appointed Director of Engineering and Safety Operations in 2017.

Michael joined TxDOT in 1997 as an engineering assistant in the Atlanta District but he rose through the ranks in the northeast portion of the state including the Lufkin and Paris districts. He was appointed Director of the Maintenance Division in 2014 where he later oversaw TxDOT's statewide emergency response to Hurricane Harvey in 2017. In his latest role, Michael oversees and coordinates TxDOT's engineering operations for the Materials and Tests, Bridge, Construction, Design, Maintenance, and Traffic Safety Divisions.



TIM LOMAX

Dr. Lomax has been extensively involved in urban mobility research for more than 35 years. He developed, applied and evolved a methodology to assess area wide and corridor traffic

congestion levels and congestion costs. The Urban Mobility Report examines trends in U.S. urban area mobility and documents the effect of transportation investments. A related pooled-fund research project supported by 15 state departments of transportation has developed several performance measures and analytical techniques to describe mobility to a wide range of audiences including transportation professionals, public policy decision-makers, the media and the public. Dr. Lomax has also been involved in developing and evaluating a wide range of mobility solutions, including high-occupancy vehicle facilities, and in improving decision-making processes and performance measurement. He has also played a role in regional and statewide congestion analyses and in developing principles and performance measures to evaluate and communicate solution strategies. These studies included assisting the public agencies and business community in Al-

BIOGRAPHIES

2019 ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE

abama, Atlanta and Houston to develop a process to estimate congestion levels, identify cost-effectiveness analysis procedures and the effect of a range of mobility improvement strategies. He was the lead researcher in a project to examine the benefits of transportation improvements and the cost of addressing congestion in major Texas metropolitan regions for the Texas Governor's Business Council and a joint working group of Texas DOT and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Dr. Lomax is also the coordinator of gameday transportation at Texas A&M University. A football stadium expansion to more than 100,000 seats and an emphasis on providing fans with better game weekend experiences means he is responsible for extensive coordination between game attendees, local business groups, local governments, athletic operations, marketing and transportation operations groups on campus and in the community. Dr. Lomax has been invited to make presentations on congestion, mobility, event management and performance measure issues to many groups including civic, business and university groups, agency leadership and state and local governments in the U.S. He has testified before subcommittees of the U.S. and Texas House of Representatives and Senate on mobility issues.



LOREANA MARCIANTE

Loreana Marciante joined HNTB as emerging mobility solutions engineer, based in the firm's Bellevue office. Marciante focuses on advanced technologies programs and is a key

resource for HNTB in the electric vehicle solutions space. Marciante also supports zero-emission vehicle programs across the country and helps the firm strengthen partnerships with leading technology solution providers. Marciante has nearly two decades of experience in the urban built environment. Her focus has been the intersection of transportation innovation and sustainable development, including electrification aspects of Smart Cities initiatives. "Loreana is passionate about developing strategic emerging mobility solutions including electric, automated, connected and shared vehicles - that lead to positive impacts for people, the environment and U.S. transportation as a whole," said Jim Barbares-

so, HNTB national intelligent transportation systems practice leader and HNTB Fellow. Prior to joining HNTB, she was the sustainable transportation lead within the Paul G. Allen philanthropic portfolio, overseeing the Smart City Challenge initiative, a \$50 million partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation inspiring mid-sized cities to compete for the opportunity to demonstrate how advanced technologies can be used to reduce congestion, keep travelers safe, protect the environment, respond to climate change and support economic vitality. Prior to that, Marciante worked on the Juan Santamaria International Airport expansion in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the Sound Transit Light Rail System in Seattle. She has a commercial real estate development background on projects in the Seattle area, including award-winning Vulcan Real Estate projects in South Lake Union. Marciante holds a Licenciatura in industrial engineering from the University of Costa Rica, a master's in environmental studies from Brown University with an emphasis on urban sustainability and transit-oriented development, and professional certificates in Commercial Real Estate and Construction Management from the University of Washington. Marciante currently serves as transportation planning commissioner for the City of Bellevue. She has been a featured speaker at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Enterprise Forum Northwest.



BRAD McCALEB

Brad is the Division Head of the System Information and Research Division at the Arkansas Department of Transportation. Brad began his career with the Department in November 2015, as

staff planning engineer in the Transportation Planning and Policy Division. He holds a Bachelor and Master of Science in civil engineering and a Master of Science in business administration from Texas A&M University. Brad has been married to Elaine for 30 years and are blessed with six children, two daughters-in-law, and two grandsons.



**SHANNON
NEWTON**

Shannon Newton was appointed as president of the Arkansas Trucking Association (ATA) in June of 2014. Newton has been with the ATA since 2003 and was vice president from 2008-2014.

Since joining ATA, Ms. Newton has filled a range of leadership roles with expanded responsibilities in the development and implementation of strategic initiatives including planning, finance, member services, governance, regulatory and legislative affairs, and advocacy. In 2018, she was recognized with the American Trucking Associations' President's Trucking Association Executives Council Leadership Award for her regional and national advocacy efforts. Newton was inducted into Arkansas Business' 40 Under 40 Class of 2016. She has had held a number of association and national industry leadership positions and served on Governor Hutchinson's Working Group on Highway Funding. Newton is chair of the Trucking Association's Insurance Council, and a member of the Arkansas Society of Association Executives, Arkansas Society of Professional Lobbyists, and serves on the board of directors and as treasurer for Project Zero, a statewide non-profit organization raising awareness on adoption from foster care.



**MAT
PITSCH**

Senator Mathew Pitsch is serving his first term in the Arkansas Senate. He represents District 8 which includes a majority of Sebastian County. Senator Pitsch is the former Arkansas

House of Representatives House Majority Leader. For the 92nd General Assembly, Senator Pitsch served as Vice Chairman of the Aging, Youth and Military Affairs Committee. He also sits on the Senate Committee for Agriculture, Timber, and Economic Development, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Senate Audit Committee, and the Senate

Efficiency Committee. Senator Pitsch also serves as the Co-Chairperson of the Sportsman's Caucus. He attended the University of Missouri-Rolla, where he obtained his Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering. Pitsch owns several business ventures and is also the Transportation Director for Western Arkansas. Senator Pitsch is Chairperson of the Arkansas Oklahoma Fair and Rodeo Board and a member of the Sebastian County Adult Education Board and the United Way Board. He also previously served on the Manufacturing Executive Association Board. He is a father of four and currently resides in Fort Smith with his wife, Seanna.



**JEREMY
PLUMMER**

Jeremy Plummer graduated from University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) in 2015 with a Bachelor Degree in Spatial Information Systems. Upon graduation, Jeremy began working as a

GIS Technician for Crafton Tull where he utilized GIS to collect and update pipeline data. After leaving Crafton Tull, Jeremy began working for CT&T as a GIS/CAD Technician. Jeremy then left CT&T to join ARDOT as a Traffic Safety Analyst and was promoted to Safety Information Coordinator in early 2019. Jeremy has played a significant role in the processing and analysis of crash data received from the electronic crash data system (eCrash). Jeremy has also helped increase the efficiency and effectiveness of ARDOT through application development and automation. Jeremy contains a wealth of knowledge pertaining to GIS and crash data.



**VIRGINIA
PORTA**

Virginia is currently Senior Transportation Planning Engineering in the Multimodal and Project Planning Section of the Transportation Planning and Policy Division. She serves as the

Team Leader for multimodal planning activities – managing the Central Arkansas Managed Lane

BIOGRAPHIES

2019 ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE

Study, overseeing the railroad crossing program, bicycle-pedestrian plan implementation, statewide travel demand model, urban travel demand models, demographics, air quality coordination activities, and the rail rehabilitation program. Recently, Virginia served as the project manager for Arkansas's Statewide Long Range Intermodal Transportation Plan and the state's first State Freight Plan. She has also been involved on the project team for the Interstate 49 Alternative Delivery Study and as the project manager on the recently completed South Central Rail Corridor Passenger Rail Study. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and is a licensed engineer in Arkansas.



KIM SANDERS

Kimberly Sanders started her career at the Department in the Roadway Design Division in 1995. In 1998 she took a position in the Planning Division as a Transportation Planner where she later

in 2008 started administering the Safe Routes to School Program. She was named the Department Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator in 2012. She now works in the Local Federal-aid Project Administration Section of the Program Management Division, where she works with other staff administering the Transportation Alternatives, the Recreational Trails, and the Safe Routes to School Programs. Kim is an avid road cyclist and an occasional mountain biker. She is a graduate of Stephens College in Columbia Mo and Webster University in St. Louis Mo.



DANIELLE SEMSROTT

Danielle, Senior Planner for the City of Bentonville has fifteen years of city planning experience. Former positions for the city include Planning Technician and Community Programs Coordinator.

She holds a BS in Urban Planning, MA in Public Administration, and a graduate certificate in Project Management. Danielle graduated from Leadership

Benton County in 2006, is the President of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association, past President of the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, and Conference Chair for the NWA Business Women's Conference.



CARLOS SILVA

Carlos G. Silva is a Regional Economist at the Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI) at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He specializes in applied economic research,

and economic and statistical modeling. He provides training and technical assistance to a variety of communities and stakeholders in the state.



DANIEL SISKOWSKI

Daniel started his career with the Department in September 2010 in the Research Section of the Planning and Research Division. He has held his current position of Staff Local Federal-aid Project

Administration Engineer in the Program Management Division since November 2014. Daniel and his staff work with local agencies and other sponsors on projects funded through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), the Intersection Improvement Program (IIP), and the Arkansas Commercial Truck Safety and Education Program (ACTSEP). They also help coordinate projects utilizing STBGP-Attributable and TAP-Attributable funds awarded through the Northwest Arkansas, Central Arkansas and West Memphis MPOs, Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds awarded by the Eastern Federal Lands Division of FHWA and Partnering projects in which the Department decides to partner with local agencies to help expedite or pay for projects. Daniel graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Arkansas.



JOE SMITH

Mayor Joe A. Smith was elected in 2012 as the nineteenth Mayor of the City of North Little Rock, following over twenty years in public service as the City's Director of Commerce and Government Affairs and Director of Administration. Born and raised in North Little Rock, he is a graduate of both North Little Rock High School and University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Mayor Smith has been an active member of the Central Arkansas community for decades. He has served as Chairman of the Board of numerous organizations including Services and Opportunities for Seniors, ARC of Arkansas, Rotary Club, Argenta City Club, North Little Rock Jaycees, Governor's Commission for Minimum Standards for Law Enforcement, and North Little Rock Public Building Authority. He was inducted into the North Little Rock Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame in 2000. Mayor Smith is currently President of both the Arkansas Municipal League and Metroplan, and is on the National Transportation Committee for the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mayor Smith and his wife, Missie, have two children and three grandchildren.



STEVE STRAESSLE

Steve Straessle is a 1988 graduate of Catholic High School for Boys and has been a teacher there since 1992. In 2005, Straessle took the helm as principal and continues to teach two

classes in addition to his administrative and fundraising duties. Along with being a frequent contributor to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and other publications, Straessle was named DAR Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 1995, a finalist for Arkansas Business Non-Profit Business Leader of the Year in 2010, and ASPA Administrator of the Year in 2016. He is married and has five children.



MATTHEW SWIFT

In November 2016, Swift was appointed Division Engineer for the Strategic Asset and Performance Management Division (SAPM) with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). Prior to that appointment, he served as the State Pavement Management Engineer for four years. Swift began his career with ODOT in 2004 and served as a Project Engineer in Roadway Design for eight years prior to becoming the State Pavement Management Engineer. As the SAPM Division Engineer, Swift oversees the collection, analysis, and reporting of highway asset data, as well as planning functions. In 2015, Swift was one of two selected to represent Oklahoma in the first Emerging Leaders Program with the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO). In 2018, he was selected to be the WASHTO Treasurer. Swift is also active with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), where he serves on several committees, including the Special Committee on Freight, the Committee on Planning, the Committee on Data Management and Analytics, and the Committee on Performance Based Management. His education credentials consist of a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas in 2004 and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2008. Swift was licensed as a Professional Engineer (PE) with the State of Oklahoma in 2010. He and his wife, Season, have three children and live in Jones.

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DREW TESSIER

Paul Andrew (Drew) Tessier is the Union Pacific Sr. Director of Public Affairs, for Louisiana and Arkansas. Prior to holding that position, he was Special Representative to the Union Pacific

President in Louisiana and East Texas. As Director

BIOGRAPHIES

2019 ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE

of Public Affairs, Drew develops and implements Union Pacific's strategy and policy for state government affairs, community relations, corporate philanthropy and public partnerships in the State of Louisiana and Arkansas. This position is the key driver for organizing the interface between Union Pacific and state and local governmental entities. In this position, he has been instrumental in supporting and guiding capacity expansion construction projects in emerging crude oil, industrial, and chemical business as Louisiana and Texas go through what some call "a chemical renaissance."

He also serves on the Boards for the Louisiana Public Affairs Research Council, New Orleans World Trade Center, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, The Baton Rouge Regional Arts Council, The Shreveport Regional Arts Council, the Association of Louisiana Lobbyists and the St. Aloysius Men's Club. In addition to his various professional memberships, Drew is active in his church, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, and he has served as a Junior Varsity basketball coach since 1992. Prior to joining Union Pacific, Drew was Executive Assistant to Mayor- President Bobby Simpson in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is a graduate of Catholic High School and holds a bachelor's degree in business and a Masters in Public Administration from Louisiana State University. He is married to Sacha S. Tessier, an attorney. They have two children, Thomas (10), and Sofia (7).



KEVIN THORNTON

Mr. Kevin Thornton is the Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. He has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Uni-

versity of Arkansas and is a Registered Professional Engineer. He began his career at the Department as an Engineering Student Intern. He was hired to a full-time position in the Roadway Design Division in 1986 where he worked until he transferred to the Hot Springs Resident Engineer Office in 1987. In 1990, he transferred to the Camden Resident Engineer Office where he became the Assistant Resident Engineer in 1991 and transferred back to Hot Springs the same year. In 2006, he was promoted to Systems Administrator for the Construction

Division in Little Rock. He obtained the position of Assistant Division Head of Programs and Contracts in 2011 and later that same year was promoted to Division Head of Programs and Contracts. He was promoted to his current position in 2014.



EMMILY TIAMPATI

Emily was born and raised in Kenya, East Africa. She later relocated to the United States where she earned her Master's degree in urban and regional planning at the University of

South Florida. Prior to beginning her current role as the MPO coordinator for the Tri-Lakes MPO in Hot Springs, AR, she assisted with MPO coordination at ARDOT for almost two years. She is passionate about transportation and land-use planning coordination, and all things related to planning and development.



TAB TOWNSELL

Townsell assumed the position of Executive Director of Metroplan in January 2017. Metroplan serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway

Metropolitan Statistical Area. Townsell currently serves on the Executive Directors Council for the National Association of Regional Councils. He also sits on the board of the Downtown Little Rock Partnership and on Little Rock's Task Force for the Zoo's Future. Prior to his selection as Metroplan Executive Director, Townsell served eighteen years as mayor of the City of Conway. Townsell served on the Executive Committee of the Arkansas Municipal League from 2000 to 2016 serving as League President in 2001 and 2007. During his tenure, the city constructed and opened a long sought new airport, a new interstate exit, a new railroad overpass, nineteen modern roundabouts, and negotiated the gating of the remaining of un-gated railroad crossings. Also during his tenure, the city adopted planning



development rules mandating almost full sidewalks with all new development. The recent openings of a second new interstate interchange, another new interstate crossing and a third railroad overpass all originated from city efforts authorized during his administration. Major park facilities constructed or acquired under his tenure included nationally benchmarked youth and ADA compatible ball complexes, biking and walking trail extensions, bike share facilities, new playgrounds and restrooms facilities, and the addition of over 350 acres of new parkland. A native of Conway, Townsell received a political science degree from the University of Central Arkansas in 1984 and a MBA from Texas Christian University in 1986. While at UCA, he served as Student Body President, Student Body Treasurer and was president of his fraternity Sigma Tau Gamma. He wasn't much in high school.

EXHIBITORS



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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