

COMMUTER RAIL SUMMIT

September 18 - 20, 2023

Chicago, IL

CONVENE | CONNECT | COLLABORATE



Commuter Rail Coalition

WELCOME TO THE WINDY CITY

Dear Commuter Rail Coalition Members & Guests,

Together with Northeastern Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation (Metra), I am pleased to welcome you to this year's Commuter Rail Coalition (CRC) Summit in the Windy City of Chicago! It is an honor and privilege to convene with each of you for a second year of dreaming, innovating, and achieving. As the historical South Shore Line extends from the rich culture of South Bend, Indiana, to the lively central business district here in Chicago, Illinois, I can think of no better venue that so beautifully captures the spirit of what we support as we come together to build a successful future for commuter rail transportation.

This year, CRC participants have worked tirelessly to compose an enriching and empowering program that incorporates both the challenges we face as well as the opportunities that present themselves as we discuss some of the leading topics pertaining to commuter rail agencies across the nation.

As it happens, the South Shore Line currently finds itself in the midst of two transformational infrastructure investments: the \$650M Northwest Indiana Double Track Project and the \$950M West Lake Corridor Project. The implementation of these long-sought service improvements and expansions will pave the way for increasing capacity, performance, and safety on the South Shore Line and will position our railroad to meet the changing demands of our riders for years to come. These projects have been decades in the making with countless hours of planning, advocating, fundraising, engineering and now finally, construction, to make these once once-dreams a reality. Our pride in delivering these investments on time and within budget will most likely be evident to those of you who join us on our project tour on Monday morning the 18th, and during our conversations at the summit.

I believe that we all share the same vision of the importance of our industry. We provide vital and essential service that supports the needs of our riders, our local and state economies, and the environment as the nation's safest mode of public transportation. Whether our trains are used to get someone to work every day, or several days during the week, is an avenue to recreation, is used to get to a medical appointment, or allows family or friends to visit us, commuter rail is part of the fabric of our service regions and of our communities. In these post-covid times that are challenging so many of us to re-think our operating plans, we should never underestimate the value of the service that we provide.

I trust that your time at this Summit will offer you the opportunity to benefit from our collective wisdom and give you the invaluable space to collaborate and connect with those contributing to America's best tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Michael Noland

President, South Shore Line
Chairman, Commuter Rail Coalition



We're Glad You're Here

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Commuter Rail Coalition 2023 Summit here in Chicago, Illinois.

As the nation's busiest rail hub, it only makes sense to bring the Summit to Chicago. Metra is delighted to serve as the conference co-host and to have the opportunity to share with you the challenges and successes we face in our region.

Attendees at the conference include the nation's policymakers, stakeholders, and thought leaders convening together to discuss new ideas and collaborate on today's most pressing commuter rail issues. Through a series of round table discussions, fireside chats, technical tours and next-level networking, you will be given the opportunity to prepare for your own challenges and the unprecedented opportunities awaiting commuter railroads.

I want to thank each of you for attending the 2nd Annual Commuter Rail Summit and bringing your expertise to our gathering. As industry leaders, you each have the vision, knowledge, and wherewithal and expertise to help pave a positive way into the future. You are truly a great asset. Without your support and leadership, this conference would not be a success. Throughout our time together I ask you to stay engaged, remain a proactive learner, and help us shape the future of commuter rail.

My personal respect and thanks go out to all of you.

Sincerely,

Jim Derwinski

CEO/Executive Director, Metra
Founding Chairman, Commuter Rail Coalition (2019 – 2023)



WITH GRATITUDE TO THE SPONSORS WHO MADE THIS EVENT SPECIAL

AECOM

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KCI

RailComm/Tracsis

RazorSecure

Rolling Stock Solutions

Stacy and Witbeck/Modern Railway Systems

STV Inc.

TYLin

Wabtec

WSP

And special thanks to Gary Wagner and Tom Austin
for their stewardship of the 2023 Golf Outing.

SUMMIT AT A GLANCE

Monday, September 18

- 8:30 AM – 1 PM Optional Technical Tour: NICTD’s Mega Projects
- 1 – 5:00 PM CRC Board Meeting, Metra HQ
- 6 – 9:00 PM Welcome to the Windy City Reception, The Fremont Chicago

Tuesday, September 19

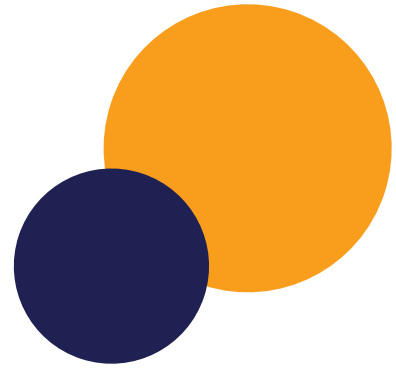
- 7:45 – 9:00 AM Breakfast and Opening General Session with FRA’s Jennifer Mitchell
- 9 – 11 AM Becoming the Transportation Mode of Choice
- 11 AM – 1 PM Technical Tour & Lunch – Metra’s 49th Street Shop
- 1 – 2 PM Commuter Rail Brain Trust
- 2 – 3 PM Fireside Chat with Transportation Security Administration
- 3 – 4 PM Perspectives from Capitol Hill
- 4 – 5 PM Meeting Today’s Workforce Challenges
- 5 PM Return to InterContinental Hotel
- 6:30 – 7:30 PM Cocktail Reception – Toledo/Spanish Court, 5th Floor
- 7:30 – 9:30 PM Champions of Commuter Rail Awards Dinner – Renaissance Ballroom

Wednesday, September 20

- 7:45 – 9 AM Breakfast and Fireside Chat: The Commuter Rail Renaissance
- 9 – 10:30 AM Innovations
- 10:30 – 11:45 AM Building for the Future: Mega Projects
- 11:45 – 12:30 Lunch
- 12:30 – 2 PM The Future of Cities
- 2 PM Fireside Chat with STB Chairman Martin Oberman
- 3 – 4 PM Fireside Chat - Project Pricing: Risk and Reward
- 4 – 5 PM Sustainability
- 5PM Summit Closes

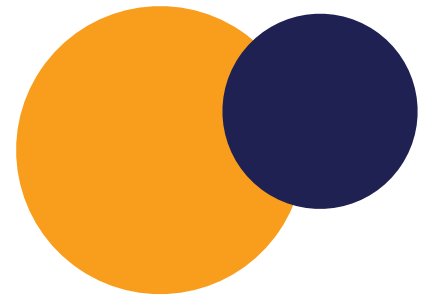
Golfers meet in Partners’ Lounge/Streeterville Foyer, for briefing

(Times listed are subject to change. Please use the QR code to download program updates.)



MONDAY

September 18, 2023



8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

PRE-SUMMIT TOUR - NICTD

Departure from Millennium Station

The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), operator of the South Shore Line, cordially invites you to attend a tour of its \$650 million Double Track project as well as its \$950 million West Lake Corridor project. Leaving precisely at 8:30 am on a Commuter Rail Coalition special out of Millennium Station, the tour will travel 14 miles along the Metra Electric District right-of-way before it enters the South Shore Line at 115th Street at the Kensington Interlocker. From there, the special will proceed to Hammond, Indiana where we will be met by several over the road buses that will travel the project area and see the incredible progress being made on these two New Start projects. Double Track will be nearing final completion of the civil construction by the time of the tour and West Lake will be close to the 50% mark of completion.

Tour participants will return to Chicago by bus, with a stop at Metra's headquarters for those attending the afternoon CRC board meeting, and back to the InterContinental for everyone else.

1:00 - 5:00 PM

CRC FALL BOARD MEETING

CRC Board Meeting @ Metra HQ, 547 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago.

- CRC Members only; RSVP required.
- Lunch provided, as is return transportation to the InterContinental

3- 6:30 PM

BADGE PICK UP AND HOST INFORMATION DESK

Streeterville Foyer, Lobby Level, InterContinental Hotel

6:00 - 9:00 PM

WELCOME TO THE WINDY CITY RECEPTION

The Fremont Chicago | 15 W. Illinois St
(at W. Illinois & N. State Streets)
(Summit badge required)

The #2023CommuterRailSummit kicks off with a private party under the night sky at the dazzling Fremont Chicago, a 6-minute walk from the InterContinental Hotel.

This year Icomera is partnering with Clever Devices and RailComm/Tracsis to deliver a buzz-worthy Welcome to the Windy City for Summit attendees.

The venue is otherwise closed to accommodate this private Summit event. Please have your badge for admittance.

Sponsored by:



TUESDAY

September 19, 2023

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

BADGE PICK UP AND HOST INFORMATION DESK

Streeterville Foyer, Lobby Level,
InterContinental Hotel

7:45 AM

BREAKFAST – AVENUE BALLROOM, LOBBY LEVEL

Doors open early, we start with a hot, plated breakfast courtesy of Rolling Stock Solutions



8:20 AM

OPENING SESSION: WELCOME TO CHICAGO

Featuring remarks from Jennifer Mitchell, Deputy FRA Administrator, in conversation with Kevin Corbett, President & CEO, New Jersey Transit

9:00 – 11:00 AM

BECOMING THE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER OF CHOICE IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

As the transportation landscape continues to shift in a post-COVID world, how does commuter rail become a traveler's mode of choice? By meeting and exceeding the changing needs of riders and offering amenities that they can either only find on commuter rail - or are superior on commuter rail. We've assembled agencies from across the country to share what's going right for them.

Moderator: Michelle Andres, Group 7even

- Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, Caltrain, and CRC Vice Chair
- Darren Kettle, CEO, Metrolink, and CRC Board Member
- Nick Ruiz, Planning Program Manager, VRE
- Katie Persons, Director of Planning & Communications, NCTD
- Jody Holton, Chief Planning and Strategy Officer, SEPTA
- Jennifer Farmer, President, TRC Services

11:00 AM

TECHNICAL TOUR

We'll depart the hotel via chartered bus to LaSalle St. Station and connect to Metra service.

Explore Metra's 47th and 49th Street Shops to view the various stages of the agency's program to rehabilitate its coach cars and locomotives. At the 47th Street diesel shop, you'll witness firsthand the breakdown and rebuild of Metra's MP36 locomotive rehabilitation program. Passenger cars are being refurbished in-house at Metra's 49th Street Car Shop, using Metra's skilled and experienced workforce. By doing the work in-house, Metra is saving riders and taxpayers money, pumping dollars back into the local economy and reducing the time that a car is out of service. You'll also tour the new training center where the latest programs and apprenticeships are implemented.

Signed waivers are required; PPE is not required, but flat, closed-toe shoes are recommended.

1:00 – 2:00 PM

LUNCH/THE COMMUTER RAIL BRAIN TRUST

With a "Taste of Chicago" lunch courtesy of Metra

This is an "Ask Me Anything" opportunity.

Here's your chance to pick the brains of emeriti who have already wrestled with many of the challenges you're facing today.

Take advantage of the collective insights of the former agency CEOs in the room, pose your questions anonymously, and perhaps gain new perspective on the issues keeping you up at night.

Panel to include industry veterans:

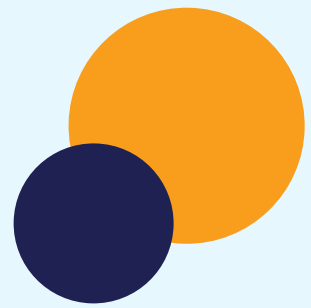
Tom Prendergast, Sally Librera, Joe Giulietti, and Jeff Knueppel

Facilitated by Railway Age's Bill Vantuono



TUESDAY

September 19, 2023



2:00 – 3:00 PM

FIRESIDE CHAT: SAFETY AND SECURITY

NY MTA Chief Safety Officer and CRC Founder Patrick Warren leads a conversation with Chris McKay, Industry Engagement Manager for the Transportation Security Administration on what's putting agencies at risk, and where CEOs must turn their attention to stay ahead of threats.

3:00 – 4:00 PM

PERSPECTIVES FROM CAPITOL HILL

This is your chance to ask a panel of insiders about the political realities in Washington and how they shape legislation impacting commuter rail. And, perhaps more importantly, find out how to make your voice heard in policy and funding debates.

Moderated by Janice R. Thomas, Deputy Executive Director, External Affairs, and Chief of Staff, Metra

- John Cline, CRC Director of Government Affairs, and Principal, Cline Strategic Consulting
- Andrew Dohrmann, Director of Government Relations, TY Lin, and former Senate Environment & Public Works Committee staff
- Julie Minerva, Partner, Carpi & Clay
- Auke Mahar-Piersma, Senior Advisor, Cardinal Infrastructure, and former House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Staff

4:00 – 5:00 PM

MEETING TODAY'S WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Labor shortages, changing job/lifestyle preferences, early turnover and high inflation have brought significant challenges to American companies since the Pandemic. This panel discussion of rail leaders will explore best practices in meeting these challenges for the commuter rail industry. Beyond the importance of having a workforce at full strength and well trained, engaged employees will drive a company forward in terms of improved customer service and safety. The panel will also discuss ways to increase job satisfaction and drive longevity for commuter rail employees.

Moderator: Jeff Knueppel, VP & Corporate Transit Practice Leader, KCI

- Rich Andreski, President & CEO, Trinity Metro
- Justin Davis, Chief of Staff, New Jersey Transit
- Win Buren, Chief Human Resources Officer, Metra

We'll depart the 49th Street Car Shop at 5 pm and arrive back at the hotel by 5:30.

6:30 PM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

TOLEDO/SPANISH COURT, FIFTH FLOOR

Join us for an evening cocktail as you transition from a demanding day of programming and tours into the evening's celebration, courtesy of Alstom. And be sure to allow tonight's photographers to capture the moment: pause for them as you arrive and look for photos to be posted shortly after the event.

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TUESDAY

September 19, 2023

7:30 PM

AWARDS DINNER

RENAISSANCE BALLROOM, FIFTH FLOOR

CELEBRATING THE 2023 CHAMPIONS OF COMMUTER RAIL

The Commuter Rail Coalition's Champions of Commuter Rail Awards recognize individuals who have impacted the industry through their innovative thinking and inspirational leadership.

The awards were shaped by the memory of Robert Doty, whose work in Taipei, Korea, and the UK transformed commuter and regional railroads. In the US, Doty implemented Caltrain "Baby Bullet" express service; he achieved the first FRA waiver to operate UIC equipment in mixed traffic; and he was the first national award winner of FTA's recognition for "Success in Enhancing Ridership". Bob passed away in spring 2022 without appreciating the regard with which he is held around the world.

But it isn't just Doty's technical contributions we celebrate with these awards. Bob Doty was intentional in how he built teams that were diverse, starting with equal parts men and women. He nurtured individual strengths and empowered the next generation of rail leaders.

With the Annual Champion of Commuter Rail Awards, the Commuter Rail Coalition spotlights heroes of the industry, ensuring that the transformations that have resulted from their efforts, grit and determination, are properly recognized and feted for the significance of their contributions.

CRC's 2023 Champion of Commuter Rail is Charles A. (Chuck) Spitulnik, a man who, without fanfare, has left a legacy through his determination to improve the industry.

The 2023 "DOTY" Award is presented to Joseph J. (Joe) Giulietti for a career spent demonstrating the value of building and empowering teams of diverse individuals and nurturing the next generation of railroad leaders.

Elevated attire is requested for this event (such as jackets, ties).

Thank You to the Evening's Generous Sponsors

AECOM

HERZOG


**KAPLAN KIRSCH
ROCKWELL**
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

stv

WSP

WEDNESDAY

September 20, 2023

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

BADGE PICK UP AND HOST INFORMATION DESK

Streeterville Foyer, Lobby Level, InterContinental Hotel

7:45 AM

BREAKFAST – AVENUE BALLROOM, LOBBY LEVEL

Doors open early for the morning's hot breakfast buffet, sponsored by Stacy and Witbeck/Modern Railway Systems

**Stacy and
Witbeck**



8:15 AM

FIRESIDE CHAT: THE COMMUTER RAIL RENAISSANCE

Sponsored by TY Lin

TY Lin

CRC's 2023 Champions of Commuter Rail Chuck Spitulnik (Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell) and Joe Giuliatti (TY Lin International) were both instrumental in the commuter rail renaissance of the late 80s and early 90s. In this morning's conversation we'll discover the lessons learned from the system start-up process that are still pertinent today.

9 - 10:30 AM

INNOVATIONS

From cutting edge to bleeding edge: what are the innovations that agencies need to know about to save time, save money, and reduce opportunities for human failure. Learn about the research that's behind the solutions that will transport the industry. Sponsored by Wabtec.

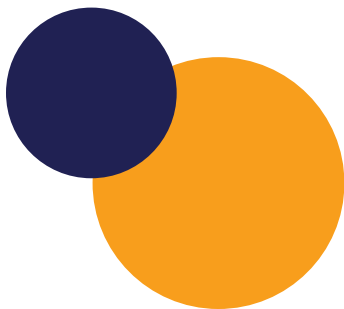


Moderator: Rich Dalton, CEO, Virginia Railway Express

- Kari Gonzalez, President & CEO, MxV
- Maryam Allahyar, PhD, Director, Office of Research, Development and Technology, Federal Railroad Administration
- Plus highlights from around the industry

MORNING BREAK

Fruit smoothie shooters, fruit-forward macarons, or simply fresh fruit. Healthy or not, you have options courtesy of Amsted Rail.



WEDNESDAY

September 20, 2023

10:30 – 11:45 AM

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: MEGA PROJECTS

Moderator: Scott Sherin, Chief Commercial Officer, Alstom, and CRC Board Member

- Mike Noland, President/General Manager, NICTD, and CRC Chair
- Dave Hancock, Director, Capitol Development, Utah Transit Authority
- Josh Van Jura, Director, Trails and Transit, Utah Department of Transportation
- Ayelet Hirschhorn, Attorney, Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell
- Sally Librera, Transit Markets Lead, Americas, AECOM

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM LUNCH

12:30 – 2 PM

THE FUTURE OF CITIES

With many central business districts boarded up, struggling with homeless, and workers still not returning to the office, it's easy to be pessimistic on the future of cities. In this session our esteemed panel of experts will share their perspectives and the role of public transportation in a post-COVID transformation. Sponsored by Hatch.

HATCH

Moderator: Jon McDonald, Global Director, Rail Systems and Assurance, Hatch

- Jack Levin, CEO, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Lauro Ferroni, Senior Director, Capital Markets Research, Jones Lang LaSalle
- Tracy Hadden Loh, Fellow with the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking, Brookings Institute
- Dee Leggett, EVP and Chief Development Officer, DART
- Ryan Coholan, Chief Railroad Officer, MBTA

2:00 PM

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Chairman Martin Oberman in conversation with Metra CEO Jim Derwinski

2:45 PM

ICE CREAM BREAK

Stretch your legs and grab some ice cream during our afternoon break, courtesy of Razor Secure.



3:00 – 4:00 PM

FIRESIDE CHAT ON PROJECT PRICING: RISK AND REWARD

Lessons learned. Opportunities for the future

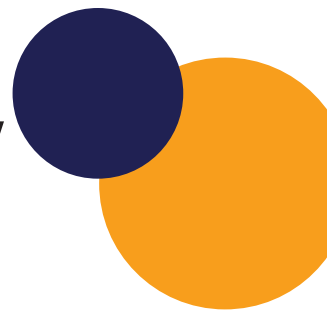
Let's put NICTD's Double Track Corridor Project under the microscope and discuss the harsh realities of what inflation has wrought on the price of projects.

And what else is impacting the risk equation? NICTD faced down a >60% delta between project estimates and bids. The panel will address how can project owners can achieve estimates that hew closer to the contractors' outlook while also mitigating project risks.

CRC Chair Mike Noland, President/General Manager, NICTD, leads a frank conversation about the realities driving the project's costs.

- Paul Rieger, President, Modern Railway Systems
- Scott Norman, EVP Construction, Herzog
- Phil Pasterak, Vice President and Director of Transit & Rail, WSP

WEDNESDAY



September 20, 2023

4:00 – 5:00 PM

SUSTAINABILITY

There have been a number of discussions about specific technologies and regulatory issues related to Sustainability in the industry. In this panel, we'll take a step back and look at the bigger picture: what railroads need to consider to actually implement and support sustainability programs or technologies in the long run.

This includes planning considerations, operational issues, political/funding matters, or considerations related to infrastructure and maintenance needs to support sustainability initiatives or zero emissions technologies.

Moderator: Devin Rouse, DC Rail Advisory

- Ryan Coholan, Chief Railroad Officer, MBTA
- Matt McHale, Deputy Chief of Staff, New Jersey Transit
- Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer, Metrolink

5:00 PM

2023 SUMMIT CONCLUDES

THURSDAY

September 21, 2023

11:00 AM

POST-SUMMIT GOLF OUTING

11 am Scramble at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville, IN. Contact Tom Austin or Gary Wagner for questions and join the briefing Wednesday at 5 pm for details on foursomes and transportation.

AS INFORMATION

SUMMIT ATTIRE

Attire for the 2023 Summit is business casual, with the exception of Tuesday evening's Champions of Commuter Rail Award Dinner, for which we request elevated attire.

PARTNERS' LOUNGE

Summit sponsors are welcome to reserve the Partners' Lounge for sidebar meetings. Please see Rosie Bugarin or Victoria Brooks at the CRC Registration Desk to secure your preferred 45-minute time block.

SUMMIT PROGRAM

The final program of the 2023 Commuter Rail Summit will be available via QR code on site. Change happens. For the most up-to-date schedule, please refresh the link throughout the Summit.

SUMMIT REGISTRATION LIST

You can access the list of registered attendees at the 2023 Summit via the QR code link to the Summit Program.

SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

Presentations will be available following the Summit. Please watch for an email inviting you to complete the Summit evaluation in exchange for access to the presentation files.

SUMMIT BADGE

Your badge is required to access the venue for Monday's Welcome to the Windy City reception, as the venue is otherwise closed for this private party. Please collect your badge from the CRC Registration Desk, Streeterville Foyer, Lobby Level, before you depart the hotel. Desk hours are 3 – 6:30 pm on Monday.

Your badge is your pass on NICTD service September 18 – 21. Enjoy the ride.





Commuter Rail Coalition

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Mike Noland, NICTD

Vice Chair: Michelle Bouchard, Caltrain

Secretary: Leslie Richards, SEPTA

Treasurer: Joe Yesbeck, T.Y. Lin International

Affiliate Member Rep: Gabriel Lopez-Bernal, Icomera

At-Large: Cathy Rinaldi, Metro-North Railroad

At-Large: Darren Kettle, Metrolink

At-Large: David Dech, SFRTA/Tri-Rail

At-Large: Scott Sherin, Alstom North America

At-Large: Kathryn Holmes, Holmes & Associates

At-Large: Otis Tolbert, AON

Chair Emeritus: Jim Derwinski, Metra

CEO: KellyAnne Gallagher

Speaker Bios

With thanks to the panelists and presenters who shared their research, insights and best practices, and set a new bar for the Commuter Rail Summit.

DR. MARYAM ALLAHYAR WYRICK, FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Maryam Allahyar Wyrick leads the Research, Development, and Technology demonstration program designed to improve the safety, security, efficiency, and capacity of freight and passenger rail transportation—including intercity, commuter, and high-speed ground transportation systems.

Dr. Allahyar Wyrick has more than 25 years of diverse experience as a research scientist in academia, the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and U.S. Department of Transportation. She served as a research psychologist at the Naval Weapons Test Center in China Lake, California, followed by more than four years as a Human Factors Technical Expert at the United States Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, California. She is a former human performance investigator for the NTSB, and prior to joining FRA, she worked as a senior research psychologist for the Chief of Staff of the Army at the Pentagon. Dr. Allahyar Wyrick has a Ph.D. in Cognition from the University of Washington.

MICHELLE ANDRES, GROUP 7EVEN

Michelle is President of Group7even, a strategy, creative and digital agency. Prior to launching Group7even, Andres held account and officer positions at several advertising agencies, including FCB Draft (Chicago), Young & Rubicam (Detroit), and KCS & World (Chicago). With over 20 years of experience, Michelle has received numerous awards and recognition, including being awarded FCB's most prestigious award for creative and strategic excellence.

RICH ANDRESKI, TRINITY METRO

Richard Andreski has served as Trinity Metro's President and Chief Executive Officer since June 2022. In this role, he focuses on delivering exceptional service and finding ways to bring additional value to the communities served by Trinity Metro. The agency provides bus, rail, paratransit, on-demand ridesharing, vanpool and bike sharing services throughout much of Tarrant County. Under Andreski's leadership, Trinity Metro is laying the groundwork for an expanded transit system to support growth in Fort Worth, the nation's 13th largest and fastest growing big city.

Andreski is motivated by a mission of public service and believes transit plays a critical role in communities by providing access to employment, education and other opportunities, spurring economic development and improving the quality of life. He keeps the customer experience at the heart of every investment decision.

MICHELLE BOUCHARD, CALTRAIN, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION VICE CHAIR

Michelle Bouchard is the first Executive Director of Caltrain, having been unanimously appointed to the position by the Caltrain Board of Directors on November 3, 2022 after serving in an acting capacity since April 2021.

Caltrain provides rail service from Gilroy to San Francisco by way of San Jose and the Silicon Valley, serving one of the largest economies in the world with 32 stations including two major intermodal terminals.

Ms. Bouchard has more than 25 years in the transit industry. She also has a long history with Caltrain, having spent more than 20 years in progressively responsible positions. Ms. Bouchard has overseen the implementation of Positive Train Control and completion of the Strategic Business Plan, including a Long Range Service Vision for the railroad. She is currently overseeing a \$2.44 billion Electrification project, which will transform Caltrain service as it is completed and in revenue service in 2024.

In 2018, she was named one of Railway Age's Women in Rail, in recognition of her experience, leadership skills, contributions to the industry, and her community service. She serves as Chair of the San Francisco Peninsula Rail Program Executive Steering Committee and Vice Chair of the Commuter Rail Coalition.

Ms. Bouchard holds a BA in Economics from Brown University and an MSc in Urban and Regional Planning from the London School of Economics.

Speaker Bios

MELISSA BOYLES, MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Ms. Boyles is Chief of Staff at Valley Metro in Phoenix, Arizona. Valley Metro is the regional public transportation authority for metropolitan Phoenix, the fifth largest city in the United States. Boyles is a 25-year AEC professional with a background in supplier diversity, social equity, communication, and organizational development. Her career began in the public sector developing award winning external civil rights programs, recognized as national best practices, for Valley Metro and the Arizona Department of Transportation. Her private sector experience includes working with AEC giant Jacobs where as a Vice President she was responsible for managing and developing the Arizona transportation portfolio. She also served as Stacy and Witbeck's Vice President of Diversity and Development and Foundation President. She sits on the boards of the American Society of Highway Engineers, Friends of Transit, and the Arizona Transit Association.

Boyles holds a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration, Master's of Science in Organizational Leadership, Master's of Business Administration, and Graduate Certificate in Leading with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

WIN BUREN, METRA

Mr. Buren was named Chief Human Resources Officer in October 2020. In this role, Mr. Buren is responsible for leading Metra's people strategy. He also oversees all human resources functions, including succession planning, talent development, performance management, benefits, compensation, employee engagement, talent acquisition and EEO.

Mr. Buren comes to Metra with over 15 years of experience in Human Resources and Operations. Prior to joining Metra, he served as Vice President of Human Resources for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, where he was responsible for performance management, compensation & benefits, talent management, learning and development, employee relations and HRIS. Mr. Buren also served as a Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations, as well as Regional Vice President of Operations for the Midwest at MV Transportation, the largest private provider of paratransit services and the largest privately-owned transportation contracting firm in the United States.

Mr. Buren earned a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

JOHN CLINE, CLINE STRATEGIC CONSULTING, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Mr. Cline is an independent consultant and registered lobbyist advising executives and boards on issues covering surface transportation. Mr. Cline represents public and private organizations, including Tri-Rail, advising them on legislative and regulatory issues impacting their organizations, as well as funding opportunities under various federal programs.

Mr. Cline came to Washington in 1989 where he served in the federal government: in the White House as Special Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs under President George H. W. Bush; in the US Department of Transportation as Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, and; in the Federal Transit Administration as Associate Administrator for Budget and Policy.

Mr. Cline also served as Director of Commuter Rail for the MBTA in Boston. In 2001 Mr. Cline was a founding partner of the bi-partisan government relations firm, C2 GROUP, which was acquired by FTI Consulting where Mr. Cline served as a Senior Managing Director.

RYAN COHOLAN, MBTA

With almost 30 years in the railroad industry, Ryan Coholan currently serves as the Chief Railroad Officer for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. In this role, Ryan is responsible for the safe and efficient daily operation of the MBTA/MassDOT Commuter Rail system and railroad network, as well as administration of the Operating Agreement with Keolis Commuter Services, Amtrak, CSX Transportation, and other tenant railroads.

Ryan began working in a locomotive shop as a laborer and progressed through the ranks of multiple disciplines through his career. Over the years, Ryan has held many positions in the railroad industry, such as Trainmaster, Rules Examiner, Train Dispatcher, Track Inspector and General Manager. Ryan joined the MBTA in 2014 as a Railroad Operations Manager and has been the Chief Railroad Officer since 2016. Ryan also actively maintains his certifications, including his locomotive engineer's qualifications.

Speaker Bios

KEVIN CORBETT, NEW JERSEY TRANSIT, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION FOUNDER

Kevin S. Corbett was appointed President & CEO of New Jersey Transit in 2018. Mr. Corbett is responsible for the nation's largest statewide public transportation system with more than 11,000 employees providing more than 944,000 weekday trips on 252 bus routes, three light rail lines, 12 commuter rail lines and the agency's Access Link paratransit service.

Mr. Corbett, currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Northeast Corridor Commission, is a Founding Member of the Commuter Rail Coalition, and was appointed U.S. Representative to the Executive Board of UITP, the International Association of Public Transport in June 2023.

Prior to joining NJ TRANSIT, Mr. Corbett served as Vice President, Cross Services at AECOM, one of the world's premier transportation and infrastructure companies.

Before joining AECOM, Mr. Corbett had been the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) and Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development.

After September 11th, 2001, Mr. Corbett led the economic recovery efforts in relation to the attack on Lower Manhattan. Working closely with the Port Authority and City & Federal agencies, Mr. Corbett directed the development of all programs to restore business services and the revitalization of economic activity to that area.

Mr. Corbett was a fellow at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs focused on issues involving U.S. - China relations prior to his tenure at ESDC. Mr. Corbett also spent 17 years in the logistics industry with Wilh. Wilhelmsen of Norway, a leading global transportation firm.

In the civic realm, Mr. Corbett served on the Executive Committee of the Regional Plan Association (RPA) and was Co-Chair of its Transportation Committee. He also served on the board of the Maritime Association of the Port of New York & New Jersey (President), Tri-State Transportation Campaign and The New York League of Conservation Voters (Chairman).

RICH DALTON, VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

A seasoned rail-operations veteran, Rich Dalton was with VRE for 11 years as deputy CEO and chief operating officer until being named acting CEO in late 2019 and then CEO in 2020. Among his accomplishments, Mr. Dalton led VRE's multi-year effort to implement positive train control (PTC), a federally-mandated safety technology. In April 2019, VRE became the nation's sixth rail system to operate under PTC.

Before joining VRE, Mr. Dalton spent 19 years in private industry with a global leader in passenger and freight rail. He is a military veteran, having served as a petty officer in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Dalton holds bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Sam Houston State University.

Dalton has also served on the board of directors of the Commuter Rail Coalition (2021 - 2023).

JUSTIN DAVIS, NEW JERSEY TRANSIT

Justin Davis is the Senior Vice President for Regulatory and Government Affairs and the Chief of Staff at NJ TRANSIT, the nation's largest statewide transit system and the third-largest overall in the country. He previously served as the Chief of Staff for State Senate President and Governor Richard J. Codey. During his career, he has served in senior and executive leadership positions with local, legislative, and statewide political campaigns, most recently on New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's successful reelection campaign. Justin began his career as the Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff during the Codey Administration. He then spent the next 11 years in the legislature, working in the Senate President's office and New Jersey's 27th Legislative district office before moving to NJ TRANSIT.

Justin is a graduate of Drew University in Madison, NJ, and resides in Morris County, New Jersey, with his wife, Emma, and their three children.

Speaker Bios

JIM DERWINSKI, METRA, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION FOUNDING CHAIRMAN (2019 – 2023)

James M. Derwinski oversees one of the nation's largest, busiest and most complex commuter rail systems. Metra, which has 242 stations, 11 routes and some 1,200 miles of track, serves as an economic engine that extends far beyond its service area.

Prior to his appointment in 2017, Derwinski served as Metra's Chief Mechanical Officer managing the work of 650 professionals assuring the safe operation of nearly 1,200 railcars and locomotives. Among his many responsibilities were oversight of Metra's railcar and locomotive rehabilitation programs, department contracts, and the installation of Positive Train Control, bringing a new level of safety to an agency that provides nearly 290,000 passenger trips each weekday.

Mr. Derwinski began his career at Metra in 1997 as an electrician, rising steadily through the ranks, holding positions of ever-growing responsibility as a foreman, general foreman, shop superintendent, director of systems maintenance, locomotive superintendent, division director, and senior director of mechanical operations before assuming the role of Chief Mechanical Officer in 2013.

A six-year U.S. Navy veteran, Mr. Derwinski served our country as an electrician in America's nuclear submarine fleet. Upon leaving the service, he began his career with the Chicago & North Western Railroad in 1993.

A longtime champion of public transportation, Mr. Derwinski is both a founder and chairman of the Commuter Rail Coalition (CRC), an advocacy organization that launched in 2019. The CRC is an association of commuter rail agencies, operators and other interested parties acting together to educate and engage stakeholders on the importance and value commuter railroads bring to the nation as a whole and the communities they serve.

Throughout the CRC's crucial first years, Mr. Derwinski has steered the direction of the association as Chairman of the Board of Directors, invested in the association's growth and impact, and has represented the CRC on Capitol Hill, before House and Senate Committees, and in the media.

ANDREW DOHRMANN, TYLIN

Andrew is the Director of Government Relations for TYLin. He joined the firm in 2016 after spending more than a decade working in the United States Congress on federal transportation policy. For the last six years he worked on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for former Senator Barbara Boxer. In this role he was a lead author and negotiator of two federal surface transportation bills, MAP-21 in 2012 and the FAST Act in 2015. He is originally from Washington State and has a bachelor's degree in political science from Western Washington University.

JENNIFER FARMER, TRC SERVICES

Jennifer Farmer is President at TRC Services, Inc. and for the last seven years has been helping rail lines in the Chicagoland area find solutions to keeping their property, buildings and rolling stock clean. Jennifer has also been instrumental in finding new and improved proactive methods of tracking and cleaning. The most exciting part of her work is testing new technologies on the market. As a graduate of Brigham Young University, Jennifer has worked in various capacities of cleaning maintenance and construction since 2000 and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role. Jennifer currently resides in Chicago and enjoys long runs with her dog, warm coffees, and outdoor adventures with family.

LAURO FERRONI, JLL

Based in Chicago, Lauro Ferroni is a senior director on the firm's real estate capital markets research platform. His responsibilities include leading JLL's capital markets research team and strategy for the Americas, and tracking real estate transactions, global capital flows and investment yields.

Key responsibilities of the team include developing frameworks and analytics to inform clients' investment strategies, positioning the firm as a thought leader, and executing custom advisory assignments for the firm's top investor clients. The capital markets research team's purview spans direct and indirect equity and debt investment trends across office, industrial, multi-housing, retail, hotel and alternatives sectors.

Mr. Ferroni joined JLL in 2007 and has led numerous research initiatives and advisory mandates related to real estate investment performance trends and investors' portfolio allocation strategies. As part of the research team, Mr. Ferroni has been quoted in The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, The New York Times, Reuters and Bloomberg.

Speaker Bios

KELLYANNE GALLAGHER, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION CEO & FOUNDER

KellyAnne Gallagher is a public transportation policy professional, strategic advisor, and social entrepreneur with a career spent serving across sectors – agency, association, and consulting; public, private and political.

Gallagher is the founder of the Commuter Rail Coalition, which launched in 2019 to fulfill the unique and specific advocacy needs of US commuter railroads. With a founders group comprised of current and former agency leaders and a membership that moves more than 95% of the nation's commuter rail ridership, Gallagher serves as the organization's CEO.

A credentialed association executive, Gallagher joined the American Public Transportation Association in 2000 to launch the organization's association management practice and spent the next 16 years expanding her portfolio. During her tenure she cultivated and managed key relationships across domestic and international transportation sectors, executed operational oversight for all member programs and services, and her team delivered nearly all of the association's non-dues revenue. Modal expertise included commuter and high-speed intercity rail.

Gallagher then joined the NY MTA in 2016 as the Authority's director of regulatory affairs, corporate standards and benchmarking, splitting duties between New York and Washington, DC.

She has been a member of the Federal Railroad Administration's Rail Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) for more than 15 years, and served as Vice Chair, and later Co-Chair/Host of two UIC World Congresses on High-Speed Rail. She has represented the US at industry forums in Asia, Central and South America, and throughout Europe.

Gallagher is a graduate of Leadership APTA and the Eno Transit Senior Executive program and furthered her studies at the London School of Economics.

Gallagher's undergraduate degree is in Russian-Area Studies. Prior to her career in public transportation, and after a time on Capitol Hill, she led an NGO overseeing humanitarian operations in the Soviet Union and its successor states. Later, she was the founding COO of an education and advocacy initiative supporting the interests of individual investors and provided management and policy advisory services to other non-profits and political organizations.

JOE GIULIETTI, TYLIN, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION FOUNDER

Joseph J. Giulietti has devoted his career to public transportation, starting as a brakeman and assistant conductor at Penn Central Railroad, rising through the ranks until he became president of the nation's second largest commuter railroad. He was then asked by the Governor of Connecticut, to be the Commissioner of Transportation for the State of Connecticut. Along the way, he ran railroads and waterborne services, and contracted bus operations; launched industry-leading and award-winning safety initiatives; testified before Congress on PTC, contracted operations, and rising liability insurance costs; and established a close rapport with career and political staff at the FRA, FTA, and the FHA, as well as his congressional delegations and committees of jurisdiction.

Giulietti became Commissioner of Transportation in January 2019, and guided the Agency through staff shortages, funding issues, issues with passenger and freight operations, funding, and interface with 169 towns and staffing through a pandemic. Giulietti became President of MTA Metro-North Railroad in February 2014, hired to restore safety and confidence to a railroad mired in five NTSB investigations and an unprecedented FRA "deep dive." This, his second tenure at MNR, came after 15 years with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail, where he served first as Deputy Executive Director and then as its Executive Director.

With Giulietti as its president, MNR led the industry in numerous safety and reliability initiatives, from implementing confidential close call reporting (C3RS) to developing in-house a proprietary track worker protection program that won APTA's system safety award in 2016. He had inward/outward cameras installed on locomotives and cars at both railroads prior to this being an NTSB recommendation for the industry. FRA has brought Giulietti to their biannual meetings to discuss the safety systems he instituted to make the changes at MNR. With customer confidence rebounding, MNR rail ridership reached an all-time high of 86.1 million, giving a significant boost to the economic health of the region the railroad serves.

While in Florida, Giulietti transitioned Tri-Rail's focus from a three-county operation to a regional vision for mobility throughout South Florida. He worked with the counties, Regional Business, and legislature to create the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. With FTA, he executed a \$327 million FFGA and spearheaded a major service expansion resulting in a double-digit ridership increase. In 2006, APTA named Tri-Rail the fastest growing commuter rail system in the nation. Before he left, in 2013, Tri-Rail experienced the highest ridership in its 25-year history, 4.3 million passengers.

Speaker Bios

KARI GONZALEZ, MxV

Kari Gonzales is President & CEO of MxV Rail, the world's premier rail research advisory. Since taking the role in 2021, Kari has spearheaded the company's transformation from TTCI to MxV Rail. Kari has been a part of MxV Rail, a subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads since 2000, advancing from a student intern to a research engineer, and then later assuming the role of Vice President and CFO. She leads the MxV Rail team with the advantage of 20 years' service and experience in the rail industry. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado School of Mines, holds an MBA from Regis University, Denver, and was recognized by Progressive Railroading as a "Rising Star." She was the inaugural candidate for the MxV Rail Railroad Exchange Program, spending a year at BNSF Railway's Texas headquarters as a visiting professional. In addition, Kari serves on a number of community and industry boards.

TRACY HADDEN LOH, BROOKINGS

Tracy Hadden Loh is a Fellow with the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking at Brookings, where she integrates her interests in commercial real estate, infrastructure, racial justice and governance. Her most recent writing includes chapters in *Hyperlocal: Place Governance in a Fragmented World* and a series on the future of downtowns, including what to do about public safety and adaptive reuse.

She serves on the boards of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and Greater Greater Washington.

DAVE HANCOCK, UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Dave is currently serving as the Director of Capital Development for the Utah Transit Authority, managing \$1.3 billion in short- and mid-range capital planning programs and projects. Dave brings to the table years of experience as a senior leader in Capital Development, Capital Construction and Capital Asset / Infrastructure management. He has also spent much of his time at UTA "in the trenches" working side-by-side with those whom he is directing. This unique perspective provides him with valuable insight and empathy as to what it takes to run an agency. Dave believes in leading from the forefront and in tackling and solving difficult problems head-on and advocating for women in transportation through advanced training and career opportunities.

Dave and his wife, Jen, are the parents to five children and enjoys skiing, pickleball and golfing.

AYELET HIRSCHKORN, KAPLAN KIRSCH & ROCKWELL, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION COUNSEL

Ayelet Hirschhorn is a partner in the Rail Transit Group of Kaplan Kirsch and Rockwell. She focuses her practice on developing and advancing transportation infrastructure projects, including advising on issues related to construction, operations, maintenance, funding and financing; drafting and negotiating contracts; and navigating the complex regulatory environment. She has extensive experience in successfully leading capital projects and drafting and negotiating capital, real estate, and railroad contracts for public agencies. Ayelet is experienced in providing effective guidance on Federal and State policies, statutes, and regulations in railroad, environmental, utility, and procurement matters.

Ayelet also represents public and private entities before the Surface Transportation Board on matters such as railbanking, abandonment of rail lines and acquisitions of rail and bus companies.

Prior to joining Kaplan Kirsch and Rockwell, Ayelet was the Senior Director of Contracts and Claims at New Jersey Transit from 2015 to 2022. While there, she the lead advocate responsible for drafting and negotiating a wide range of capital contracts for NJ TRANSIT including the NJGrid, Elizabeth Station, Long Slip Canal, County Yard, Delco Lead, Raritan River Drawbridge, Trenton Station, Newark Penn Station, North Brunswick Station, Portal North Bridge and the Hudson Tunnel Project.

Ayelet also served as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of New Jersey where she was the lead attorney on a wide range of labor, employment and discrimination cases in both federal and state courts. She also represented the State of New Jersey's Department of Children and Families and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

Ayelet is a 2002 graduate of Rutgers Law School (Newark) where she contributed to the school's Women's Rights Law Journal. She also received a Certificate of Public Sector Labor Relations from Rutgers University's School of Management and Labor Relations in 2014 and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Yeshiva University.

Speaker Bios

JODY L. HOLTON, AICP, SEPTA – SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Jody Holton is the Chief Planning & Strategy Officer at SEPTA. She has over 20 years of experience in community and transportation planning in the Philadelphia region, working closely with municipalities, developers, and public agencies to achieve their vision for the built environment. She chairs the State Transportation Advisory Commission and serves on the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Board.

Prior to joining SEPTA, Ms. Holton was the Executive Director of the Montgomery County Planning Commission and she has worked at the consulting firms of KSK, Inc. and URS Corporation. She has a BA in Geography from the University of Colorado at Boulder, a certificate in Real Estate Development from the Urban Land Institute, and she is a certified planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners.

PAUL HUBLER, METROLINK/ SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

Paul Hubler is chief strategy officer for the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) which operates 138 passenger trains daily over seven lines spanning 545.6 miles of track connecting six counties in Southern California. In his role, Paul is chief advisor to the agency's CEO and executive team on Metrolink's strategic initiatives. He oversees planning and development, government and community relations, grants, sustainability and zero emission efforts, and freight railroad relations.

DARREN M. KETTLE, METROLINK / SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darren is the chief executive officer of Metrolink, Southern California's regional passenger rail service that provides a safe, easy, affordable, and stress-free alternative to car travel for millions of residents across a six-county mega-region.

He is a lifelong public servant with a professional career that spans more than 30 years working for local and regional government agencies. With a passion for connecting people to and through public transit, Kettle is focused on expanding Metrolink's essential role in safely connecting people and communities of Southern California to what matters most: family, work, housing and fun. To accomplish this, he is leading the agency to continually improve the customer experience, collaborating with the region's transit authorities to provide an integrated system

with seamless transfers anywhere people want to go. His vision is supported by the agency's Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE) Program, a \$10 billion, job-creating capital program to improve rail safety and service prior to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Before joining Metrolink in September 2021, Kettle was the executive director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) for 14 years. At VCTC, Kettle led a team focused on improving transportation planning to ensure wise investments of public funds on a wide array of initiatives, ranging from freeway and highway projects, bus, and rail service to bicycle and pedestrian projects that foster wellbeing and environmentally friendly activities among residents and tourists alike.

Previously, Kettle was with the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) from 2000 through 2007 – a time when the area, part of the Inland Empire, saw tremendous growth. His last position at SANBAG was Director of Freeway Construction, responsible for managing the project development and construction of the San Bernardino Valley's largest transportation projects, including State Route 210 extension in Rialto and San Bernardino, widening Interstate 10 through Redlands, and widening Interstate 215 through San Bernardino, as well as other freeway, interchange, and rail crossing projects. Kettle played an integral role in the 2004 passage of San Bernardino County's ½ cent sales tax extension for transportation projects (Measure I).

Early in his SANBAG tenure, Kettle was Director of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs for both SANBAG and the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) where he managed a collaborative government affairs program for both counties. Kettle was active in public and private sector transportation and local government advocacy groups and represented SANBAG and RCTC in discussions with State and Federal elected and appointed officials. In 2002, Kettle was instrumental in RCTC's passage of Riverside County's ½ cent sales tax extension for transportation (Measure A).

Kettle has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master's in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino. Kettle and his wife Keri live in Camarillo and enjoy when the "circus" comes to town each time their four kids pay a visit.

Speaker Bios

JEFF KNUEPPEL, KCI

Mr. Knueppel joined KCI after serving for 32 years with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), the nation's sixth largest transit agency, which operates Light Rail, Heavy Rail, Paratransit, Bus, and Commuter Rail services over a 2,200 square mile operating territory. He joined SEPTA as an entry level structural engineer, rose to become Chief Engineer at the age of 36, and ultimately led the agency as its tenth General Manager from 2015 to the end of 2019. As GM at SEPTA, he was responsible for its 9,500 employees.

During his entire career at SEPTA, Mr. Knueppel directly managed right-of-way structures and facilities, with responsibility for planning, design, construction, and maintenance. He excels in the strategic management of capital resources, advancing innovative ways to maximize available funds, schedules, and workforce assets. In 2014, with funding from Pennsylvania Act 89, SEPTA launched Rebuilding the System, a comprehensive capital investment strategy to tackle the backlog of state of good repair, facility improvement, and fleet upgrade projects. With a steadfast commitment to safety, Mr. Knueppel was the catalyst for the creation of SEPTA's customer outreach program, Make the Safe Choice, and its employee program, Never Too Busy for Safety.

With his extensive practical and managerial experience and "hands on" style, Mr. Knueppel understands how to approach projects, the potential pitfalls to avoid, and how to produce desired outcomes. Mr. Knueppel was appointed by the Governor in 2018, and served through 2019, as the Pennsylvania voting member on the Northeast Corridor Commission (NECC), and he Chaired the NECC Operations and Performance Committee. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the American Public Transportation Association and former chair of the Commuter Rail CEO's Committee. On behalf of the industry, he has testified before Congress and holds professional engineering licenses in PA, MD and TX. He currently works on projects that benefit the state-supported Amtrak Keystone and Pennsylvanian rail services.

JACK LAVIN, CHICAGOLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Jack Lavin is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. He has more than thirty-five years of financial and management experience in both the public and private sectors. Throughout his career, Jack has focused on economic and business development in order to create jobs and improve the quality of life for people in Chicago and Illinois.

Jack served as Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the State's economic and workforce development agency. Jack also served as Chief of Staff for Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, and Chief Operating Officer of the State of Illinois. He led the passage and implementation of the largest capital infrastructure bill in Illinois history and was responsible for managing the operations of the Governor's office and all State government agencies.

Jack serves his community on the boards of the Chicago Children's Theatre and the University YMCA. He also served on several task forces for the Mayor of Chicago including most recently The Museum Campus Working Group and the Central Business District Recovery Task Force. Jack is a strong advocate for people with disabilities. He led a Task Force for Mayor Daley on Special Education in the Chicago Public Schools and serves on the advisory board of the Adult Down Syndrome Center.

Jack holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Chicago, and a bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Illinois. He lives in Chicago with his wife and three children.

Speaker Bios

DEE LEGGETT, DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT

Dee Leggett, a nationally recognized transit leader, has over 20 years of experience in the planning, development, and operation of public transportation projects across the country. As DART's Executive Vice President/Chief Development Officer, Dee directs and oversees the Development Department which includes Capital Planning, Service Planning & Scheduling, Engineering & Technical Services, Real Estate & Economic Development, Capital Design & Construction, and Development Program Support. She is currently serving as the Project Executive for the Silver Line, a 26-mile commuter rail system connecting into Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, and the agency's multimodal System Modernization Program.

Having worked in both the public and private sector, Ms. Leggett brings a diverse perspective to her role at DART. Prior to joining DART, she served as Hatch LTK's Vice President for the South-Central Region and Director of Zero Emissions Technology. In that role, she oversaw projects and client engagement for all transit and rail clients in the South-Central Region of the United States. She has also served as a regional executive with First Transit and as a member of the Executive Leadership Team at Denton County Transportation Authority. Ms. Leggett has a bachelor's degree in History/Political Science from Union University in Jackson, TN, and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington. She holds her AICP from the American Planning Association and is a graduate of Leadership APTA.

SALLY LIBRERA, AECOM

Sally is AECOM's Transit Market Leader for the Americas. She focuses on designing and delivering sustainable, innovative, and cost-effective transit solutions. Sally has extensive experience in successfully leading large, complex rail operations through system modernization, with a strong focus on improving system performance and customer service; growing ridership; identifying and implementing efficiencies; and maximizing the value of operating and capital investments.

As the former Senior Vice President for Subways at MTA New York City Transit, Sally oversaw North America's largest urban rail transit operation, leading a team of 30,000 employees and serving nearly six million daily riders. She led the NYC subways team through a dramatic performance turnaround, significantly improving on time performance, cutting train delays in half, and safely reducing customer journey times on every line in the system. Sally also

led MTA's Staten Island Railway, a 24/7 heavy rail operation, and has served in executive posts focusing on safety management, transportation policy, workforce development, operations efficiencies, and reliability-based maintenance.

Sally is active across the transit industry. She is on the APTA Board of Directors and the International Board of Advisors for Young Professionals in Transportation, and serves as an Executive-in-Residence for the NYC Transit Tech Partnership – an organization focused on growing engagements between emerging technology providers and transit agencies seeking solutions for their most pressing challenges.

AUKE MAHAR-PIERSMA, CARDINAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Auke joined Cardinal Infrastructure in 2023 to bring his expertise in federal transportation policy to clients who provide safe, efficient, sustainable transportation. Auke most recently served as the Staff Director of the Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee in the U.S. House, advocating for robust intercity and commuter passenger rail funding. Prior to that, Auke was the Deputy Staff Director for the Highways and Transit Subcommittee in the U.S. House, specializing in public transit policy. He authored the INVEST Act title for public transit, prioritizing policies that incentivize greater service frequencies, a streamlined bus grant process, expanded zero emission bus funds, and authored a Committee Staff Report that found political delays harming projects in the Capital Investment Grant program. Auke served a total of 23 years for the House of Representatives, the last eight years on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

JONATHAN MCDONALD, HATCH

Mr. McDonald is the Global Director of Rail Systems and Assurance at Hatch where he leads a team of nearly 300 staff across four continents. Throughout his 30 years in the industry, he has built and led teams on some of the more transformative projects globally including – Hong Kong's Westrail, Toronto's Regional Express Rail Program, and Sound Transit's Link Light Rail.

In addition to his day job, Mr. McDonald has tirelessly served the Industry as a driver of innovation and change for more than 22 years in a variety of capacities from board member to committee chair to US Delegate. He is a proud son of Illinois and holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chicago's Booth School.

Speaker Bios

MATT MCHALE, NEW JERSEY TRANSIT

Matt McHale's career spans over 25 years in government, which includes working and serving in positions at the local, county, and state levels of government, including Mayor of the Borough of Dumont, NJ, his hometown. He joined NJ TRANSIT as the Federal and State Legislative Liaison in 2019, serving as a critical communications liaison to New Jersey's Congressional Delegation and State Legislators throughout the pandemic, a period of unprecedented federal and state legislative activity.

Since becoming Deputy Chief of Staff at NJ TRANSIT in 2022, he has continued to advocate for NJ TRANSIT and New Jersey through an added focus on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022. Matt is a graduate of Georgetown University's American Studies Program.

CHRISTOPHER MCKAY, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Christopher T. McKay joined the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration in October 2002 and currently holds the position of Industry Engagement Manager, Mass Transit and Passenger Rail within the TSA Surface Division. Mr. McKay is responsible for working with Chiefs of Police and Security Directors of public transportation agencies to assist them in preventing and protecting transit systems from terrorist attacks. In this position he is responsible for the oversight of security programs for passenger railroads including programs that address physical security, cyber security, employee training, security technology development and the development of policies and regulations.

Prior to his employment with the Department of Homeland Security, he held various positions at the Department of Transportation, Department of Justice and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Mr. McKay holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees with a concentration in Finance from Loyola University in Baltimore, MD and resides in Odenton, MD.

JULIE MINERVA, CARPI CLAY

Julie Minerva is a recognized leader on infrastructure investments and has worked on a variety of transportation and water resources projects across the country. A former Legislative Assistant to the late Congressman Robert T. Matsui, she has represented transit agencies, commuter railroads, short line railroads, ports, and harbors to advance critical infrastructure needs at the federal level. Since joining Carpi & Clay in 2016, Julie has secured over two billion dollars in direct federal assistance for transportation and water clients. Julie's success on advancing infrastructure projects caught the attention of Washingtonian magazine, which named her one of Washington's "Top 40 under 40" lobbyists.

Julie's two-decade career in Washington, DC has ranged from Capitol Hill to AmLaw 200 law firms, to where she is today with Carpi & Clay's concierge government relations practice. Julie's hands-on approach has helped prepare clients to testify before Congress, has coached new legislative staff through the nuances of complex issues, and has advised clients on navigating the ever-changing politics of Washington. Julie's extensive portfolio of experience covers client interests in 25 states and American Samoa. From helping to build an intermodal station in Auburn, Maine to advancing clean water supplies in rural New Mexico, to enhancing rail operations in Northwest Indiana, to reducing flood risks in the Pacific Northwest, Julie's proactive approach has been integral to revitalizing aging infrastructure and building new investments. This broad geographic and issue experience and the relationships that have been built along the way, both within Congress as well as at the agency level, are a tremendous resource to the work that she does for the firm's clients.

Speaker Bios

JENNIFER MITCHELL, FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

Mitchell was appointed as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration in April 2022. In that role, she provides executive leadership and direction on agency operations and policy matters, including the agency's safety and rail development activities.

Ms. Mitchell has over 25 years of experience working in the transportation industry in both the public and private sectors.

Prior to joining the FRA, she served for eight years as Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DPRT) where she led several strategic initiatives. These include landmark agreements between CSX, Norfolk Southern Railway and Amtrak to significantly expand passenger rail service in the State over the next ten years, as well as advancing construction of the new Long Bridge across the Potomac River. Jennifer also helped lead the creation of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission in collaboration with Maryland and the District of Columbia. She played a key role in securing dedicated regional funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, development of a new transit ridership incentive grant programs, and creation of the Commonwealth's SmartScale multimodal transportation funding program.

Ms. Mitchell has served on boards of the American Public Transportation Association, Women's Transportation Seminar, and the Eno Transportation Foundation. In 2018 she was named by Railway Age as a Woman of the Year, and in 2020 she was named by the Council of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) as a Woman that Moves the Nation. She holds a Bachelor of City Planning degree from the University of Virginia and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

MIKE NOLAND, NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT/SOUTH SHORE LINE, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION CHAIR

Noland was appointed President of the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, d/b/a the South Shore Line, by its Board of Trustees in October 2014. Noland came to the South Shore Line with over three decades in the railroad industry with extensive, high-paced, commuter railroad experience. Prior to joining the South Shore Line, he worked for 28 years at Metra in Chicago, Illinois. While at Metra he moved to positions of increased responsibility and served as Chief Human Resources Officer, General Counsel, and Deputy Executive Director. Immediately prior to joining the South Shore Line, Noland worked as an executive with a private sector railroad holding company located in Chicago, Illinois with rail operations in nine states and the United Kingdom.

SCOTT NORMAN, HERZOG

Scott has been closely involved in the construction industry for more than 40 years. He has dedicated his career to building customer relationships and identifying key pursuits for U.S. transit projects. As Executive Vice President, Construction, Scott leads national construction efforts in North America and has the business responsibility for all national construction work. He is responsible for leading operations, partnership development, customer relationships, and identifying key projects. Since assuming his executive management responsibilities with Herzog, he has been actively involved in over \$6B of contract work in both conventional and alternative delivery construction contracts for rail transportation and light rail transit projects.

Speaker Bios

MARTIN OBERMAN, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Martin J. Oberman was designated Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on January 21, 2021. Marty was sworn in as a member of the Board on January 22, 2019. He is serving in his first, five-year term following his confirmation by the United States Senate on January 2, 2019. His current term expires December 31, 2023.

Marty has had an extensive career in both the public and private sectors. His first public position was serving as the first General Counsel to the Illinois Racing Board from 1973 to 1974, where he worked closely with the Board's chairman to bring long needed reforms to the Illinois horse racing industry. From 1975-1987, Marty served on the Chicago City Council as Alderman of the City's 43rd Ward where he earned a reputation as a reform leader, committed to promoting transparency in key governing processes while also working to reduce government corruption and profligate spending.

Following his departure from the Council, the Mayor of Chicago appointed Marty as Chairman of a special commission to fix Chicago's eroding shoreline, which required collaboration with an extensive set of stakeholders, and resulted in the publication of formal recommendations, many of which have since been implemented.

In 2013, Marty was appointed to the board of Metra, the Chicago region's commuter railroad, the second largest in the U.S. In 2014, he was unanimously elected Metra chairman and served until the end of 2016. While at Metra, he gained approval for the agency's first long term fare program aimed at tackling the agency's multi-billion dollar state-of-good-repair backlog, and led the Board's effort to institute transparency and professional management in an effort to overcome an historic culture of politics and patronage abuses at the railroad. Most recently, he served on the board of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) until November 2018.

Since 1975, Marty also maintained a successful practice in Chicago as both a trial and appellate lawyer. His unique combination of litigation experience, elected public service, and exposure to the significant complexities of railroad infrastructure finance and operations will inform his work as a Member of the Surface Transportation Board. Marty graduated from Yale University and the University of Wisconsin Law School, cum laude, and served as a Note Editor of the Wisconsin Law Review. He has been married to his wife, Bonnie, since 1971, and has two children, and three grandchildren. Marty is a native of Springfield, Illinois.

PHILIP G. PASTERAK, PE, WSP

Phil Pasterak has extensive experience in the management, planning and design of rail, transit and other transportation facilities and infrastructure. Phil's experience includes major program and strategic experience from rail initiatives including as program manager for Metra's \$2 billion Capital Delivery infrastructure program, the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) \$2 billion Chicago – St. Louis higher speed rail program, and leadership roles in numerous major projects and programs ranging from Utah to the United Kingdom.

KATIE PERSONS, NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT

Katie Persons is Director of Service Planning at NCTD. She began her tenure in Oceanside as Transit Planner in April of 2018.

TOM PRENDERGAST, AECOM, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION FOUNDER

Prendergast is a senior executive with more than four decades of experience in the public and private sector leading large, complex transportation systems and major projects within highly visible and politically sensitive public arenas, as well as integrating private financing into transportation programs. He has spent the majority of his career in senior leadership roles working for large transportation agencies. Tom brings a rich educational background in transportation systems engineering and detailed knowledge and experience in operations, maintenance, engineering, stakeholder and labor issues.

He currently serves as EVP and Americas Transit Market Leader at AECOM.

Speaker Bios

PAUL RIEGER, STACY & WITBECK/MODERN RAILWAY SYSTEMS

Paul has been President of Modern Railway Systems (MRS) since April of 2020. MRS, a subsidiary of Stacy & Witbeck Inc established in 2011 after the purchase of Denver-based Rail Systems Solutions. MRS is a recognized systems leader in the transit and rail industries providing our customers with the safest, most innovative, and cost-effective systems available while minimizing impacts to existing operations. Our core foundation is to build lasting customer relationships and never compromise on our commitment to deliver projects with the highest level of quality and integrity.

Paul has 40 years in the rail industry. His roots were established in Chicago starting in Construction, then moved into Project Management supporting delivery of major signal, communication and electrification systems across all transit and rail sectors. He has extensive management and project delivery experience including conventional design/furnish projects, as well as alternate project delivery models CM/GC, CMAR and Progressive Design Build. Paul's resume also includes working for Harmon Industries (GE/ALSTOM) and currently holds a position on the (RSSI) Railway Systems Suppliers Inc. Board of Directors.

DEVIN ROUSE, DCRAIL ADVISORY

Mr. Rouse is the owner of DCRail Advisory, providing consulting services to passenger railroads, public transit agencies, and railroad industry executives. He is the former Executive Officer of the Office of Railroad Systems, Technology & Innovation, and the former Director of the Passenger Rail Division within the Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Railroad Safety. In his various roles he has served as a principal subject matter expert in areas related to passenger rail safety, passenger rail equipment, Positive Train Control (PTC) and emerging technologies, high-speed rail, and the development and construction of new railroads.

In 2023 he was appointed to serve on the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WSMC) and has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), as well as FRA's Railroad Safety Board, and chaired the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee's Passenger Safety Working Group (PSWG) and Engineering Task Force (ETF). Mr. Rouse is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia, and holds a master's degree in Civil and Transportation Engineering, and a bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech.

NICK RUIZ, AICP, VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

Nick Ruiz is VRE's Planning Program Manager, serving with VRE for over two years. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a masters in urban and Regional Planning, with a career-long focus on rail transportation. Prior to serving as VRE's Planning Program Manager, Nick worked as a rail planner in several positions of progressive responsibility at the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). At DRPT, Nick was involved in several critical initiatives, including scoping, initiation, and management of the first stages of the 2022 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan update. Additionally, Nick supported completion of the DC2RVA EIS study, as well as led several studies on passenger rail expansion and station development feasibility. In addition to DRPT, Nick has worked with Amtrak and the Northeast Corridor Commission.

More importantly than a lifelong love of trains, Nick believes in the positive impact that rail transit and intercity passenger rail have on the communities and regions they serve, promoting sustainable land development, vibrant, politically active and economically resilient places, as well as providing economic opportunities to more people. Nick uses his training as a Certified Planner to consider the interrelatedness of decisions and plan for future rail service that maximizes regional benefits in a safe, equitable, sustainable, and collaborative way.

SCOTT SHERIN, ALSTOM, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Sherin is responsible for Business Development and Strategy for Alstom in North America. He has 20 years of experience in the transportation industry working with both transit agencies and freight railroads in the United States, Canada, China and Europe.

Previously, he worked for General Electric's Transportation business for almost 10 years where he focused on Corporate Development, Mergers and Acquisitions and successfully launched their railway signaling business in China.

Before entering the transportation industry, he worked in the energy infrastructure industry for General Electric's Energy business and American Power Conversion (now Schneider Electric) where he led the successful acquisition and integration of multiple companies.

Speaker Bios

CHARLES SPITULNIK, KAPLAN KIRSCH & ROCKWELL, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION COUNSEL

Chuck Spitulnik has spent his entire legal career representing both public and private sector clients on issues relating, in one way or another, to the rail industry. For the past 25 years, his practice has focused on representation of state and local governments in addressing issues related to the rail companies that serve their communities or to the issues that arise when those communities develop and implement plans for operation of rail transit systems, whether commuter rail, light rail, or heavy rail systems.

JANICE R. THOMAS, METRA

Ms. Thomas brings more than 25 years of government experience to her role as Deputy Executive Director, External Affairs/Chief of Staff, a position she assumed in March 2022. Among her key responsibilities is serving as an effective communicator and strategic advisor and planner to the CEO. Helping to manage the nation's fourth largest commuter rail system, Ms. Thomas oversees special projects and key initiatives solving complex issues demanding executive leadership.

Ms. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Chicago State University. She is a certified professional public buyer (CPPB) and a professional member of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP). She is also a graduate of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Leadership Program for executive professionals and a graduate of the Eno Transit Senior Executive Program. November 1, 2022, Ms. Thomas was honored by the House of Representatives of the United States of America with a Congressional Record as a constituent of high distinction for exceptional leadership at Metra as the highest-ranking woman of color in history.

JOSH VAN JURA, UTAH DOT

Josh graduated from Penn State University in 2001 and after numerous ski trips to Utah decided that's where he ultimately wanted to live. He started with the Utah Department of Transportation directly out of university as a Rotational Engineer and spent the first part of his career in UDOT's Construction Division as a Resident Engineer and then the State Construction Engineer. Josh is the Director of UDOT's Trails and Transit Group. Josh loves skiing, mountain biking, and trail running especially when his dog Kessler can come to.

BILL VANTUONO, RAILWAY AGE

With Railway Age since 1992, William C. Vantuono has broadened and deepened coverage of the technological revolution that is so swiftly changing the industry. He has also strengthened Railway Age's leadership position in industry affairs with the conferences he conducts, among them Next-Generation Train Control, Next-Generation Freight Rail, Light Rail, and Rail Insights. He is the author or co-author/editor of several books, among them All About Railroading; John Armstrong's The Railroad: What It Is, What It Does; Railway Age's Comprehensive Railroad Dictionary; and Planning, Engineering, Operating Light Rail, With Applications in New Jersey.

PATRICK T. WARREN, NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, COMMUTER RAIL COALITION FOUNDER

Mr. Patrick Warren's service with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) began in 2018 with his appointment as the Chief Safety Officer. In 2020 he became the Chief Safety and Security Officer. Mr. Warren also served as the Acting Chief Operating Officer for New York City Transit (NYCT) from 2020-2022. In these roles he currently oversees all-agency safety, health, emergency management, environment, and security programs – recently focused on convincing the public to return to using the MTA transportation system in the post-COVID environment.

Prior to joining the MTA, Mr. Warren worked for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) as the Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of Railroad Safety and then as the Agency's Executive Director. While there he was responsible for a range of issues including the implementation of the Positive Train Control safety system, strategies for reduction of accidents involving Crude Oil and Ethanol trains and the development of new advanced standards for passenger railcars. He further served and with the Federal Aviation Administration as the Deputy Director of Planning and Programming. In these roles, he provided leadership over these Administrations' national operations to support rail and airport development as well as rail safety.

Before joining the U.S. Department of Transportation, Mr. Warren served a career as an officer in the United States Army. Mr. Warren received a bachelor's degree in engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, a master's degree in computer science from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a master's degree in national strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. He further served as a Federal Executive Fellow with the Brookings Institution.