



THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Thriving Communities Convening Agenda

Day 1: November 30, 2023

Time	Session	Location
7:30-8:45 AM	Arrival/Registration	1200 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, DC 20590 Entrance
8:45-9:00 AM	Welcome & Logistics <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lynda Tran, Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Transportation• Mariia Zimmerman, Strategic Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Solutions, U.S. Department of Transportation	West Atrium
9:00-9:30 AM	Thriving Communities Network Plenary Learn about the regional roadmap strategy, which brings together communities, capacity builders, and federal partners to discuss the technical assistance resources needed to help communities thrive. <u>Moderator:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lynda Tran, Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Transportation <u>Panelists:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christopher Coes, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation• Matthew S. Tejada, PhD, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency• Ana Mascareñas, Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Climate Change, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	West Atrium
9:30-10:10 AM	Leadership Remarks <u>Moderator:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lynda Tran, Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Transportation <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veronica Vanterpool, Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration• Shailen Bhatt, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration• Mitch Landrieu, Senior Advisor to the President and White House Infrastructure Coordinator• Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Secretary of Transportation	West Atrium

10:10-10:15 AM	<i>Break</i>	
10:15-11:30 AM	<p>Meaningful Public Involvement Plenary Learn about public engagement that develops partnerships and processes that can sustain and catalyze transportation projects, transform economies, connect people to opportunities, and empower underserved communities.</p> <p><u>Co-Moderators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, Deputy Director of Office of Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Transportation • Ariel Gold, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the Under Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harriet Tregoning, Director, New Urban Mobility Alliance (NUMO) • Helen Chin, President, Communities First • Olatunji Oboi Reed, President & CEO, Equiticity Ventures 	West Atrium
11:30 AM-12:30 PM	<p><i>Lunch</i> Food will be provided to community attendees by your capacity builder team. Lunches will be delivered to the following rooms.</p>	
	<i>The Ray: Networked Communities</i>	Conference Room 6
	<i>Rocky Mountain Institute: Complete Neighborhoods</i>	Media Center
	<i>Main Street Center, Inc.: Main Streets</i>	Oklahoma Room
	<i>WSP USA, Inc.: Complete Transit-Oriented Neighborhoods</i>	Conference Rooms 8-9-10
12:00-1:20 PM	<p>Thriving Communities Resource & Networking Fair DOT and TCN representatives available to provide information on different grant programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Build America Bureau (BAB)</i> • <i>Department of Agriculture (USDA)</i> • <i>Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</i> • <i>Department of Labor (DOL) Employment Training Administration (ETA) & Women's Bureau</i> • <i>Department of Transportation / ROUTES Team</i> • <i>Department of Commerce / Economic Development Administration</i> • <i>Economic Development Administration (EDA)/Good Jobs Challenges</i> • <i>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</i> • <i>Equity / Civil Rights & Title VI Resources (incl. ADA access) OST Departmental Office of Civil Rights</i> • <i>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</i> • <i>Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) / Bike and Pedestrian Resource Center</i> • <i>Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)</i> • <i>General Services Administration (GSA)</i> • <i>Joint Office of Energy and Transportation</i> • <i>Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), (Regional Assistance Division/SBTRC's + Procurement Assistance/Small Business Specialists)</i> • <i>Office of Tribal Transportation</i> 	West Atrium

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Office of the Secretary, Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants</i> • <i>Office of the Secretary Transportation Policy/Climate</i> • <i>Office of the Secretary and Federal Highway Administration, Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)</i> • <i>Office of Infrastructure Innovation and Finance/Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)</i> • <i>Office of the Secretary Transportation Policy/Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG)</i> 	
1:20-1:30 PM	<i>Break</i>	
1:30-3:30 PM	Breakout Sessions by Communities of Practice	
	<i>The Ray: Networked Communities</i>	Conference Room 6
	<i>Rocky Mountain Institute: Complete Neighborhoods</i>	Media Center
	<i>Main Street Center, Inc.: Main Streets</i>	Oklahoma Room
	<i>WSP USA, Inc.: Complete Transit-Oriented Neighborhoods</i>	Conference Rooms 8-9-10
3:30-3:35 PM	<i>Break</i>	
3:35-4:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions	
	<i>Capacity Builder Q&A</i> Capacity builders and TCP staff meet to address key issues & opportunities across cohorts.	Conference Room 3
	<i>Community to Community Interviews</i> Community partners are paired with other communities to learn from each other, meet new partners, and hear issues and ideas from across the TCP cohort.	Room assignments are noted on the back of your nametag
4:30-4:40 PM	<i>Break</i>	
4:40-5:00 PM	Reflections & Closing Discussion <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lynda Tran</i>, Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Transportation • <i>Mariia Zimmerman</i>, Strategic Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Solutions, U.S. Department of Transportation 	West Atrium



THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Thriving Communities Convening Agenda

Day 2: December 1, 2023

Time	Session	Location
7:30-8:45 AM	Arrival/Registration	New Jersey Avenue, Entrance
8:45-9:30 AM	Welcome & Leadership Remarks <u>Moderator:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mariia Zimmerman, Strategic Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Solutions, U.S. Department of Transportation <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carlos Monje, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation Dr. Morteza Farajian, Executive Director, Build America Bureau, U.S. Department of Transportation Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome, Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer, White House Council on Environmental Quality 	West Atrium
9:30-10:15 AM	Community Wealth Building and Workforce Development Panel Discussion Discuss community wealth-building, small business development, and workforce development opportunities that promote economic development for all people and all communities. <u>Moderator:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irene Marion, Director, Departmental Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Transportation <u>Panelists:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tyra Redus, Deputy Director, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, U.S. Department of Transportation Paige Shevlin, Strategic Advisor for Infrastructure Workforce Development, U.S. Department of Transportation Beverly A. Scott, PhD, CEO, Beverly Scott Associates 	West Atrium
10:15-11:05 AM	Housing Plenary Discuss the current challenges and inequities in housing markets across the United States, the practical realities addressing issues of racial discrimination, segregation, and inequality, and innovative housing policy solutions. <u>Moderator:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mariia Zimmerman, Strategic Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Solutions, U.S. Department of Transportation <u>Panelists:</u>	West Atrium

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marion McFadden, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development • Danielle Arigoni, Managing Director of Policy and Solutions, National Housing Trust • Jeffrey Lubell, Principal Associate for Housing and Asset Building, Abt Associates 	
11:05-11:15 AM	Break	
11:15 AM-12:45 PM	<p>Breakout Sessions by Communities of Practice</p> <p>Continue to develop and establish relationships between the community members and the capacity builders. During these sessions, lunch will be delivered to each of the breakout rooms.</p>	
	The Ray: Networked Communities	Conference Room 6
	Rocky Mountain Institute: Complete Neighborhoods	Media Center
	Main Street Center, Inc.: Main Streets	Oklahoma Room
	WSP USA, Inc.: Complete Transit-Oriented Neighborhoods	Conference Rooms 8-9-10
12:45-1:00 PM	Break	
1:00-1:40 PM & 1:50-2:30 PM	<p>Breakout Sessions</p> <p>Participants may choose which sessions to attend. Each session is repeated twice.</p>	
	<p>Equitable Transit-Oriented Development</p> <p>Presenter: WSP USA, Inc.</p> <p>In this session, the team will present on the intersections of Land Use and Transportation in a “TOD 101” workshop. Attendees will receive an introduction to Transit-Oriented Development and the many faces of it across rural to urban communities. The workshop will also highlight how Equitable TOD enhances quality of life for underserved communities and the importance of threading equity into TOD planning. Attendees will leave the session with a stronger understanding of TOD, Equity in TOD, and related opportunities for funding to help realize TOD.</p>	Media Center
	<p>Transportation and Climate Change</p> <p>Presenter: RMI and DOT, Office of the Secretary</p> <p>The transportation sector is the single largest contributor to carbon emissions in the United States. For many local governments, it is also the most challenging to address, as it directly impacts how urban areas are designed and the livelihoods of the people living in them. This session will provide an overview of the critical strategies for addressing the emissions impacts of transportation—from vehicle electrification and micro-mobility to mode shift and land use reform. Through case studies and analysis, this session will identify opportunities for emissions reductions that can inform future transportation climate plans.</p>	Oklahoma Room
	<p>Leveraging the Main Street Approach in Transportation</p> <p>Presenter: Main Street America</p>	Conference Rooms 8-9-10

	<p>Main Street America is a movement that has helped over 2,000 communities across the country through preservation-based economic development in historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. The Main Street Approach, based on the Four Points of Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization, offers a practical, adaptable framework for district transformation that is tailored to local conditions. In this session, participants will learn about the Main Street Approach, hear stories about communities that used it to shape transportation projects, and practice applying the Main Street Approach to a transportation scenario.</p>	
	<p><i>Multi-Disciplinary Panel - Layer Cake Approach to Planning and Developing Integrated Infrastructure</i> <i>Presenter: The Ray</i> In this session, panelists will share insights and best practices for navigating the complex world of integrated infrastructure projects. Attendees will gain valuable perspectives on the strategic planning, collaboration, and innovative approaches required to successfully develop infrastructure systems that harmonize various components for maximum efficiency and sustainability. The panelists will discuss real-world examples and offer actionable guidance to inspire thoughtful and effective infrastructure planning and development.</p>	Conference Room 6
	<p><i>Innovative Finance Workshop</i> <i>Presenter: DOT, Build America Bureau</i> Learn about innovative ways to finance transformative projects in your community and access grants to expand your team's innovative finance capacity. For example, if your community is a rural community (less than 150k population), you could have access to loans at half the federal rate to finance your project! You could also apply for the Bureau's next round of Regional Infrastructure Accelerator grants that can help your region expand capacity to plan, finance, and deliver transformative projects.</p>	Conference Room 4
2:30-2:40 PM	Break	
2:40-3:00 PM	<p>Reflections and Closing Discussion <u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mariia Zimmerman</i>, Strategic Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Solutions, U.S. Department of Transportation • <i>Monica Guerra</i>, Community Solutions Team Lead, Build America Bureau 	West Atrium



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Speaker Biographies



Pete Buttigieg

U.S. Secretary of Transportation

Pete Buttigieg serves as the 19th Secretary of Transportation, having been sworn in on February 3, 2021.

His focus as Secretary is to deliver the world's leading transportation system for the American people and economy. He has worked to achieve organizational excellence in the department's operations, and to focus the department on five policy goals: safety, jobs, equity, climate, and innovation. In his first year at the Department, he prioritized supporting the development and passage of President Biden's signature Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Since the law's passage, Secretary Buttigieg and his team have focused on effectively delivering the investments

provided by this legislation, enabling the most significant improvements in U.S. transportation infrastructure in over half a century.

The Secretary has also focused on intervening to support American supply chains dealing with shockwaves from the pandemic, including measures to help cut in half the long-dwelling container congestion at America's largest ports. Other major initiatives in his early tenure have included a comprehensive national roadway safety strategy to reduce deaths and serious injuries; delivery of emergency COVID-19 relief funds to transit agencies across America; and awards of over \$9.5 billion in discretionary funding to enhance transportation through over 800 projects in communities across America.

The first openly gay person confirmed to serve in a president's Cabinet, Secretary Buttigieg previously served two terms as mayor of his hometown, South Bend, Indiana, where he worked across the aisle to transform the city's future. Household income grew, poverty fell, and unemployment was cut in half. His work on transportation as mayor was nationally recognized, including an award for innovative streetscape design from the U.S. Department of Transportation where he now serves.

He also served for seven years as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, taking a leave of absence from the mayor's office for a deployment to Afghanistan in 2014.



Danielle Arigoni

Managing Director of Policy and Solutions, National Housing Trust

Danielle Arigoni is an urban planner and community resilience expert. She currently serves as Managing Director for Policy and Solutions at National Housing Trust, where she provides strategic direction for the organization's sustainability and resilience policy efforts, oversight and guidance for NHT's state and local advisory services, and leadership for NHT's fundraising and communications teams. She is also author of *Climate Resilience for an Aging Nation* (Island Press, October 2023) which explores the impacts of climate change on a rapidly growing demographic – people over 65 – and the need for community-scale solutions to reduce risk for all. Danielle holds a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University, and serves as a Board Member for the League of American Bicyclists and Smart Growth America.



Shailen Bhatt

Administrator, Federal Highway Administration

On January 13, 2023, Shailen Bhatt was sworn in by U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg as the 21st Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In this role he oversees over 2,700 FHWA employees in all 50 States, U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia, and provides executive leadership on strategic initiatives and policy. Bhatt brings a record of successful project and program delivery needed in this once-in-a-generation level of infrastructure investment in which the impacts of FHWA policy and funding choices will last for generations, and will make people safer, reduce the emissions in our air while implementing resilient transportation systems for our changing climate, create a fairer transportation system, and strengthen our economy. Bhatt graduated summa cum laude from Western Kentucky University with a degree in Economics.



Helen Chin

President, Communities First

Helen Chin is the President of Communities First which is housed at Amalgamated Foundation. Under Helen's leadership, Communities First is transforming how federal, state, and local governments invest public dollars in low-wealth and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities by implementing a relationships-first approach to community-driven solutions that centers frontline communities' leadership, innovation, and priorities.



Christopher Coes

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation

Christopher Coes serves as the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy. Coes previously served as Vice President for Land Use and Development at Smart Growth America (SGA), Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute, Professor at George Washington University, and Deputy Director and Senior Advisor for the Transportation for America campaign. Coes earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in politics and government from St. John's University



Raffi Freedman-Gurspan,

Deputy Director of Office of Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Transportation

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan is the Deputy Director of Public Engagement at the United States Department of Transportation. She was previously a Deputy States Director for the All on The Line campaign of the National Redistricting Action Fund and oversaw work in the Midwest and East Coast. Raffi also has extensive experience in LGBTQ and gender justice community advocacy. Her experience includes serving as Director of External Relations at the National Center for Transgender Equality and Senior Associate Director for Public Engagement, and Outreach and Recruitment Director for Presidential Personnel at the White House during the Obama Administration, where she was the first openly transgender staffer in history to work

at the White House.



Ariel Gold

Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the Under Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation

Ariel Gold is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Office of the Undersecretary for Transportation Policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). In this capacity, she drives development and implementation of policies and programs to advance transportation equity, accessibility, and innovation, including the Department's Equity Action Plan and Disability Policy Priorities. She serves as a member of the Department's Equity Management Team, working to institutionalize equity Department-wide through the Secretary's Equity Council. Prior to joining USDOT, Ariel managed the open data program at Amazon Web Services (AWS)

and led the launch of public data projects in partnership with organizations such as the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and International Computer Science Institute (ICSI).



Dr. Morteza Farajian

Executive Director, Build America Bureau, U.S. Department of Transportation

Dr. Morteza Farajian has served as a senior executive leading the Build America Bureau at USDOT (the Bureau) since April 2019. He is responsible for credit programs and loan guarantees with \$29 billion in the existing portfolio and more than \$22 billion allocated, issued or pending in private activity bonds that support development of large-scale and multimodal transportation infrastructure. The Bureau also promotes innovative project financing solutions and helps state and local governments develop and finance Public-Private Partnership (P3) transactions for transportation facilities. Prior to this position, Dr. Farajian served as acting Deputy Secretary of Transportation and Director of Public-Private Partnerships (P3) Office in

Virginia. He received his Ph.D. and M.Sc. degrees in Project Management from the University of Maryland. He also has a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering.



Mitch Landrieu

Senior Advisor to the President and White House Infrastructure Coordinator

Mitch Landrieu serves as Senior Advisor to the President and White House Infrastructure Coordinator where he is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including the most significant and comprehensive investments in roads, bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, safe water, clean energy, and high-speed internet in generations.

Landrieu served as the 61st Mayor of New Orleans from 2010 to 2018. When he took office, the city was still recovering from Hurricane Katrina and in the midst of the BP Oil Spill. He kick-started the city's recovery by fast-tracking over 100 projects and securing billions in federal funding for schools, hospitals, parks and critical infrastructure. In 2015, Landrieu was named "Public Official of the Year" by Governing, and in 2016 was voted "America's top turnaround mayor" in a Politico survey of mayors. He also served as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.



Jeffrey Lubell

Principal Associate for Housing and Asset Building, Abt Associates

Jeffrey Lubell is a Principal Associate for Housing and Asset Building at Abt Associates where he oversees and provides senior-level guidance on a range of projects related to affordable housing, financial capability, asset-building, and community development. Among other topics, he has a particular interest in the intersection of housing and other policy domains, including health, education, transportation, energy and the environment. From 2006 through August 2013, Mr. Lubell was the Executive Director of the Center for Housing Policy, a nonprofit research organization affiliated with the National Housing Conference. He has also served as Director of the Policy Development Division in HUD's Office of Policy Development

and Research, as a housing policy associate at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and as an independent consultant.



[Irene Marion](#)

[Director, Departmental Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

Irene Marion serves as the Director of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights. As leader of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights, Director Marion oversees USDOT's enforcement of civil rights laws and regulations, which prohibit workplace discrimination in employment and the provision of government services. DOCR's core programs areas include Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) initiatives and employee complaint processing; Title VI; Disability; and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. Director Marion also serves as co-lead of the USDOT-wide Equity Taskforce and is responsible for strategy and implementation across equity initiatives.



[Ana Mascareñas](#)

[Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Climate Change, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Ana Mascareñas serves as senior advisor for environmental justice and climate change to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Health, Admiral Rachel Levine. Ana has dedicated her career to centering equity and justice for marginalized communities within multiple levels of government, and across academic and nonprofit organizations. From 2015 to 2021, she was the first assistant director for environmental justice at the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control. From 2008 to 2013, she was a membership coordinator, then policy and communications

director at Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles. Ana graduated from Brown University with bachelor's degrees in human biology and sociology and received an MPH in environmental health sciences from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health in 2015. Her dedication to pursuing social justice stems from her family roots: California farmworkers, five generations in New Mexico, and being the proud daughter of public school educators.



[Marion McFadden](#)

[Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

Marion Mollegen McFadden serves as HUD's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. In this role she oversees the administration of federal financial assistance to assist communities in ending homelessness, creating, and preserving affordable housing, strengthening local economies, and disaster recovery and mitigation. Before joining the Biden-Harris Administration, PDAS McFadden served as Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Senior Advisor for Resilience at Enterprise Community Partners where she led affordable housing policy development, research, and advocacy to create

healthy, green affordable housing and to support natural disaster resilience planning.



[Carlos Monje](#)

[Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

Carlos Monje Jr. serves as Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy in the Office of the Secretary. Monje managed the agency review process for domestic agencies for the Biden-Harris Transition. Monje previously served as Acting Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy for the U.S. Department of Transportation where he oversaw implementation of surface transportation programs, the discretionary grant programs, and efforts to promote equity and economic development. Monje is the first in his family born in the United States. His family is from Argentina.



[Tyra Redus](#)

[Deputy Director, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

Tyra Redus currently serves as Deputy Director of the Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization at the US Department of Transportation, where she creates policies and promotes the inclusion of a diverse range of businesses, including minority, women-owned, small, and disadvantaged, ensuring a fair and inclusive environment to support a more diverse landscape. Formerly, Tyra served as Senior Advisor to the Director of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights for the Department of Transportation, where she led implementation of initiatives related to civil rights compliance, monitoring, and cross-cutting equity commitments

in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Tyra coordinated with the Office of Transportation Policy to deliver DOT-wide technical assistance to states, Tribal governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and local communities. She ensured the infusion of equity in the business of transportation, making sure the community work on the bill created wealth so there is generational wealth in historically excluded communities.



[Olatunji Oboi Reed](#)

[President & CEO, Equiticity Ventures](#)

Olatunji Oboi Reed serves as the founding President & CEO of The Equiticity Racial Equity Movement. He works globally as a racial equity tactician, increased mobility advocate, and racial justice activist. With an extensive background in both nonprofit management and corporate social responsibility, he is most proud of his work to create a diverse coalition of people, organizations, and businesses all working together to achieve racial equity and mobility justice across the City of Chicago. Equiticity is a racial equity movement, operationalizing racial equity by harnessing our collective power through research, advocacy, programs, Community Mobility Rituals, and social enterprises, to improve the lives of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people in our society.

In 2015, Oboi was awarded The White House Transportation Champion of Change award by The White House and the United States Department of Transportation, under the administration of President Barack Obama. Oboi serves as Co-Chair of the Transportation Equity Network, Steering Committee Member of PolicyLink's Transportation Equity Caucus, and Steering Committee Member of the Free To Move Coalition.



[Beverly A. Scott, PhD](#)

[CEO, Beverly Scott Associates](#)

Beverly A. Scott, PhD is the CEO of Beverly Scott Associates where she advocates for sustainable, equity-centered infrastructure, and provides infrastructure-focused executive management consulting, specializing in “people-readiness” and advancing practical approaches and solutions to challenging situations that advance equity and inclusion and help achieve positive outcomes for all people and communities. In 2018, she founded Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure, Inc. (“iyai+”), a national non-profit dedicated to inspiring, educating, and actively engaging today’s youth to be tomorrow’s “community builders” – with a focus on increasing the participation of historically under-represented people and communities in the nation’s critical infrastructure sector careers. Her career in the public transportation industry spans forty years, including four appointments as CEO/General Manager – Boston (MBTA), Atlanta (MARTA), Sacramento (SRTD), and Rhode Island (RIPTA). Dr. Scott holds a doctorate in political science from Howard University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Fisk University (Phi Beta Kappa; magna cum laude).



[Paige Shevlin](#)

[Strategic Advisor for Infrastructure Workforce Development, U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

Paige Shevlin is a strategic advisor for infrastructure workforce development at the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DoT). Prior to joining the DoT, Ms. Shevlin was the Director of Policy and National Initiatives at the Markle Foundation. She is a former economic development policy advisor for King's County, Washington, and was a special assistant to the president for economic policy and a senior policy advisor at the White House during the Obama Administration. She has also been the special assistant to the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors at the White House, as associate policy director on The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institute, special assistant to the chief economist at the U.S. Department of Labor, and an assistant analyst at the Congressional Budget Office. She has a masters of public administration in policy and economics from Princeton University.



[Matthew S. Tejada, PhD](#)

[Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

Matthew S. Tejada is the Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) for Environmental Justice within EPA’s national program office for Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR). Matthew joined EPA in March of 2013 as a career senior executive and director of the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), a position he held until the reorganization of OEJ into OEJECR in September of 2022. As DAA, Matthew provides leadership for EPA’s EJ portfolio, including the integration of EJ throughout all of EPA’s policies, programs, and activities, coordination and alignment of EJ priorities with the external civil rights programmatic priorities, in addition to leading EJ efforts with other federal agencies, states, Tribes, local governments, and other stakeholders. Before his career at EPA, Matthew spent over five years as executive director of the environmental justice advocacy Air Alliance Houston in the Houston and Texas Gulf Coast area. Matthew received his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Oxford where he was a member of St. Antony’s College and a BA in English from the University of Texas at Austin, then served two years in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria. Matthew is a native of Ft. Worth, Texas, lives with his wife Andrea in Silver Spring, Maryland and is the proud father of Nia Tejada.



Lynda Tran

Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Transportation

Lynda Tran serves as Director of Public Engagement and Senior Advisor to the Secretary. A longtime organizer and communicator with over two decades experience in policy, advocacy, and campaigns, Lynda returns to DOT after co-founding 270 Strategies, where she developed public engagement strategies for clients across the globe – including the Environmental Defense Fund, Oxfam America, United Way Worldwide, FAMM, the Black Economic Alliance, and the Economic Security Project. Recently, she was a senior strategist for Bill Gates’ Breakthrough Energy and served on the Board of Advisors for Higher Ground Labs and

Battleground Texas. A CBS News Political Contributor through the 2020 cycle, she previously led teams for Organizing for America, then-Governor Tim Kaine, and SEIU.



Harriet Tregoning

Director, NUMO

Harriet Tregoning is Director of NUMO, the New Urban Mobility alliance, a collaborative effort aimed at harnessing disruptions in urban transportation to make cities more sustainable, livable and just. NUMO is currently working to ensure that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act funds have the greatest possible impact on the health and prosperity of communities, increasing their affordable access, resilience, and low-carbon connections to jobs and daily needs, as a founding partner in the Communities First Infrastructure Alliance.

Harriet was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Community Planning and Development at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Obama Administration where she initiated \$1 Billion National Disaster Resilience Competition and supported communities in building strong and resilient economies. As Director of the D.C. Office of Planning, Harriet helped to make the nation’s capital more walkable, bikeable, equitable and globally competitive. As Maryland Secretary of Planning, she helped the state wield its budget to encourage local governments to direct their growth to existing built areas, near transit, and avoiding locations that would impact the Chesapeake Bay. She was previously at EPA where she founded the national Smart Growth Network.



Veronica Vanterpool

Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration

Veronica Vanterpool was appointed Deputy Administrator in May 2022 after serving as Senior Advisor since August 2021. She works directly with the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration and as a member of the FTA team to advance the policy objectives and goals of the Biden-Harris Administration. Vanterpool came to FTA from Delaware Transit Corporation, where she served as the agency’s first Chief Innovation Officer. During her time at the agency, she launched the state’s first on-demand microtransit service in a rural community and oversaw the autonomous transit shuttle demonstration program. Vanterpool has 16 years of experience in advocacy, policy, media communications, public outreach, coalition building and

issue campaigns. She is also a member of the first cohort of the Biden-Harris Administration Presidential Leadership Workshop.



[Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome,](#)
[Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer, White House Council on Environmental Quality](#)

Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome joined the Biden-Harris Administration in June 2022 as the Senior Director for Environmental Justice at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Under her leadership, the Environmental Justice Team is working to deliver on President Biden's ambitious environmental justice agenda, including implementing the recently signed Environmental Justice Executive Order, releasing the first-ever Environmental Justice Scorecard, advancing the Justice40 Initiative, and launching the White House Campaign for Environmental Justice. Dr. White-Newsome became the first-ever Federal Chief

Environmental Justice Officer in 2023.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Dr. White-Newsome has tackled environmental challenges from a wide range of positions and perspectives, including in the grassroots environmental justice movement, environmental philanthropy, state government, private industry, and academia. Dr. White-Newsome earned a Ph.D. in environmental health sciences from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, a master's degree in environmental engineering from Southern Methodist University, a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern University, and a certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University. She is a proud wife and mother of her daughters.



[Mariia Zimmerman](#)
[Strategic Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Solutions, U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

Mariia Zimmerman serves as the Strategic Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Solutions at the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). In this role, Mariia is helping to coordinate efforts across the Department of Transportation to enable communities to access design, develop and deliver transformative infrastructure projects. She brings deep experience leading a range of technical assistance and research projects focused on transportation's role in supporting equitable community development. Mariia has previously held other senior positions in the federal government including with the US Department of Housing and Urban

Development and started her federal career at the Federal Transit Administration during the Clinton Administration before working extensively in the private and non-profit sectors. Mariia has advanced degrees from Pennsylvania State University and the University of Minnesota.



THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

List of Capacity Builders and Team Members

Rocky Mountain Institute (Lead) and American Council for Energy-Efficient Economy, CivicWell, Equitable Cities, ioby, Nelson/Nygaard, and Shared-Use Mobility Center

Complete Neighborhoods

Town of Atlantic Beach, SC
Big Sky Economic Development, MT
City of Decatur, IL
City of East Orange, NJ
City of Indianapolis, IN
Municipality of Isabela (Puerto Rico)
City of Lansing, MI
City of Lima, OH
City of Providence, RI
City of Roanoke, VA
Santa Cruz County RTC, CA
St. Louis County, MO
Suffolk County, NY
Sumter Area Transportation Study, SC
City of Waukegan, IL

Main Street America (Lead) and E.L. Robinson, Equiticity, National Association of Development Organizations, Project for Public Spaces, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and Rural Community Assistance Partnership Center.

Main Streets

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, MN
City of Cedartown, GA
Town of Elizabethtown, NC
First Tennessee Rural Planning Organization, TN
Forest County Potawatomi Community, WI
County of Henry, VA
City of Independence, OR
Village of Indiantown, FL
City of Macomb, IL
City of McAlester, OK
City of Milford, DE
Mineral County, NV
City of Monroe, LA
North Central Regional Planning Commission, KS
City of Rexburg, ID
Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, WA
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, ND
Trinidad Rancheria, CA
City of Villisca, IA
City of York, AL

WSP USA (Lead) and Accelerator for America, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners

Complete Transit-Oriented Neighborhoods

City of Albuquerque, NM
Anaheim Transportation Network, CA
Baltimore City Department of Planning, MD
City of Brockton, MA
Broward MPO, FL
City of Charlotte, NC
City of Cleveland, OH
City of Glens Falls, NY
Hinds County, MS
Lower Connecticut River Valley COG, CT
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, NE
Pierce County Public Transportation BAC, WA
City of Tempe, AZ
VIA Metropolitan Transit Agency, TX

The Ray (Lead) and Arcadis, InfraStrategies, and Beverly Scott Associates

Networked Communities

City of Brownsville, TX
Charleston Area Transportation Study, SC
Chester Economic Development Authority, PA
City of Detroit, MI
City of Doraville, GA
City of Douglas, AZ
Kearns Metro Township, UT
City of Montgomery, AL
Nisqually Indian Tribe, WA
Osceola Port Authority, AR
Borough of Pottstown, PA
City of Saint Paul, AK
City of San Luis, AZ
Upper Kanawha Valley Strategic Initiative Council, WV
City and Borough of Wrangell, AK