



THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Thriving Communities Convening Agenda

Day 1: October 10, 2024

Time	Session	Location
7:30-8:30 AM	Arrival/Registration	1200 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, DC 20590 Entrance
8:30-8:45 AM	Welcome & Logistics <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kala Wright, Director of Public Engagement, USDOT • Monica Guerra, Community Solutions Team Lead, USDOT 	West Atrium
8:45-9:15 AM	Welcome & Logistics <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Coes, Acting Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, USDOT • Samantha Silverberg, Deputy Assistant to the President for Infrastructure Implementation, The White House 	West Atrium
9:15-10:15 AM	Plenary #1 – Thriving Communities Network Plenary Learn about the Thriving Communities Network, place-based coordination across federal agencies, and opportunities to leverage technical assistance resources to help communities thrive <u>Moderator:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mariia Zimmerman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, USDOT <u>Panelists:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaishant Sharma, Senior Policy Advisor, National Economic Council, The White House • Ni'cholas Johnson, Community Development & Engagement Specialist, Rural Development, USDA • Karim Marshall, Senior Advisor, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, EPA • Jonathan Hui, Senior Program Officer, Kresge 	West Atrium
10:15-10:30 AM	Break	West Atrium
10:30 AM-12:00 PM	Cohort Breakouts	
	Food will be provided to community attendees by your capacity builder team. Lunches will be delivered to the following rooms. <i>Rural Community Assistance Partnership Incorporated: Main Streets</i>	Oklahoma Room
	<i>Abt Associates Inc.: Complete Neighborhoods</i>	Media Center

	<i>Conference of Minority Transportation Officials: Networked Communities</i>	Conference Rooms 8-9-10
	<i>Regional Cohorts – Peer to Peer Connections</i>	Conference Room 6
12:00-1:30 PM	<p>Thriving Communities Resource & Networking Fair DOT and TCN representatives available to provide information on different grant programs, resources, and opportunities to leverage TA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build America Bureau (BAB) • Department of Agriculture (USDA) • Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) • Department of Transportation / ROUTES Team • Economic Development Administration (EDA) • Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) / Bike and Pedestrian Resource Center • Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) • Federal Transit Administration (FTA) • General Services Administration (GSA) • National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) • Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) • Office of Tribal Transportation • Office of the Secretary Transportation Policy/Climate • Office of the Secretary Departmental Office of Civil Rights (DOCR) 	West Atrium
1:30-1:45 PM	Kahoot Activity	West Atrium
1:45-2:45 PM	<p>Plenary #2 – Power of Community Plenary Learn about meaningful public engagement, types of unique partnerships that drive community change, and how to advance, sustain, and catalyze transportation projects and local economies.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, Principal Deputy Director of Public Engagement, USDOT <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jocelyn Jones, Equity Coordinator, FHWA Office of Civil Rights • Veronica Vanterpool, Deputy Administrator, FTA • Arlando Teller, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Government Affairs, USDOT • Olatunji Oboi Reed, President & CEO, Equiticity Ventures 	West Atrium
2:45-3:15 PM	Leadership Remarks from Secretary Pete Buttigieg	West Atrium
3:15-3:20 PM	<i>Transition Break</i>	West Atrium
3:20-4:15 PM	<p>Plenary #3 – Community Wealth Building and Workforce Development Discuss community wealth-building, small business development, and workforce development opportunities that</p>	West Atrium

	<p>promote economic development for all people and all communities.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irene Marion, Director of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights, USDOT <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paige Shevlin, Strategic Advisor for Infrastructure Workforce Development, USDOT • Tyra Redus, Director, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, USDOT • April Rai, President and CEO, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials • LaKesha Hart, State Planning Manager, Louisiana Office of Planning and Budget 	
4:15-4:20 PM	<i>Transition Break</i>	West Atrium
4:20-4:30 PM	<p>Reflections & Closing Discussion</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kala Wright, Director of Public Engagement, USDOT • Brenda Mallory, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) 	West Atrium



THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Thriving Communities Convening Agenda

Day 2: October 11, 2024

Time	Session	Location
7:30-8:30 AM	Arrival/Registration	New Jersey Avenue, Entrance
8:30-9:15 AM	<p>Welcome & Leadership Remarks</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kala Wright, Director of Public Engagement, USDOT <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Zimmerman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, USDOT • Polly Trottenberg, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, USDOT • Dr. Basil Gooden, Under Secretary for Rural Development, USDA • Kristin White, Acting Administrator, FHWA 	West Atrium
9:15-10:15 AM	<p>Plenary #4: – Transportation and Housing - Catalyzing Opportunity</p> <p>Discuss the current opportunities and challenges to promoting housing construction and transportation infrastructure in rural and urban communities across the country, the practical realities faced by communities addressing issues of racial discrimination, segregation, and inequality, and innovative housing policy solutions.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harriet Tregoning, Senior Advisor for Land Use, USDOT <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duane Callender, Acting Executive Director, Build America Bureau • Aaron Shroyer, Housing Lead, National Economic Council, The White House • Ricki Wells, Advisor for Policy and Program Implementation, USDOT • Ross van Dongen, Director, Infrastructure & Intergovernmental Affairs, Accelerator for America 	West Atrium

10:15-10:45 AM	<i>Networking Break</i>	
10:45 AM-12:15 PM	Community Workshops – Understanding Technical Assistance	
	<i>Attendees self-select 1 session to attend to learn about the type of supported provided by the Thriving Communities Program other resources and opportunities provided by federal government.</i>	
	Workshop 1: Rural Transportation Infrastructure + Small Business Assistance	Oklahoma Room
	Workshop 2: Transportation Safety + Complete Streets	Media Center
	Workshop 3: Federal Funding + Transit-Oriented Development	Conference Rooms 8-9-10
	Workshop 4: Trucks, Rail, and Clean Energy	Conference Room 6
12:15 PM-2:30 PM	<i>Cohort Breakouts</i>	
	Food will be provided to community attendees by your capacity builder team. Lunches will be delivered to the following rooms.	
	<i>Rural Community Assistance Partnership Incorporated: Main Streets</i>	Oklahoma Room
	<i>Abt Associates Inc.: Complete Neighborhoods</i>	Media Center
	<i>Conference of Minority Transportation Officials: Networked Communities</i>	Conference Rooms 8-9-10
	<i>Concurrent Session: Regional Cohorts – Peer to Peer Connections</i>	Conference Room 6
2:30-3:00 PM	Reflections and Closing Discussion <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica Guerra, Community Solutions Team Lead, USDOT • Kala Wright, Director of Public Engagement, USDOT 	West Atrium



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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.



Polly Trottenberg

Deputy Secretary of Transportation, USDOT

Polly Trottenberg is Deputy Secretary at the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). As the number two official and Chief Operating Officer, she supports Secretary Buttigieg on providing leadership, strategic vision, and management for USDOT. Trottenberg has helped lead the agency's implementation of the landmark Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which created over 40 new programs to invest in all modes of transportation, including the creation of a national EV charging network. She also helps lead the agency's efforts on roadway safety, technology, and cybersecurity.

In 2023, Trottenberg also served as the Acting Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, helping to oversee the agency and form a new leadership team while focusing aviation safety, air traffic control staffing, and increased investments in the agency's infrastructure and technology.

Trottenberg served as New York City's Transportation Commissioner for seven years, where she ran a complex 5,800-person agency responsible for the safe, efficient, and equitable operations of New York City's transportation network. In NYC, she helped implement the landmark Vision Zero program, the first in the U.S., taking a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to significantly reduce traffic fatalities and injuries. She also led the NYCDOT through COVID-19 response and recovery, prioritizing transforming City streets to promote livability, sustainable transportation, and economic recovery.

Trottenberg served at USDOT in the Obama Administration as the Assistant Secretary and Under Secretary for Policy. She also served in the Senate for 12 years for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Majority Leader Charles Schumer, and Senator Barbara Boxer. Trottenberg graduated from Barnard College and received her Master's in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.



Samantha Silverberg

Deputy Assistant to the President for Infrastructure Implementation, White House

Samantha Silverberg serves as Deputy Assistant to the President for Infrastructure Implementation at The White House, where she collaborates with more than a dozen federal departments and agencies to drive implementation of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). She previously served as Special Assistant to the President for Transportation and Infrastructure on the National Economic Council. Before joining the Administration, Silverberg served on the Biden-Harris transition team on the domestic and economic policy team and on two Agency Review Teams. She previously served in

multiple capacities at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, leading the development of the authority's \$8 billion Capital Investment Plan. Silverberg began her public service as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Office of Management and Budget and U.S. Department of Transportation. Silverberg is a graduate of the University of Virginia and holds a Master in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Originally from Queens, NY, she currently resides in Maryland with her husband and two sons.



Christopher Coes

Acting Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, USDOT

Christopher Coes serves as the Acting Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy in the Office of the Secretary. Prior to this he served 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.



Mariia Zimmerman

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, USDOT

Mariia Zimmerman serves as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). Prior to this she served as the Department's Senior Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Solutions. Before joining the Administration, Mariia was Founder and Principal of MZ Strategies, LLC; and held previous positions at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, on Capitol Hill, and with national non-profit organizations in addition to serving as visiting faculty with Virginia Tech, and an appointed Board Member of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and on the Shared Use Mobility Board in addition to serving in leadership positions with the American Planning Association, the American Public Transportation Association, and Women's Transportation Seminar.



Kala Wright

Director of Public Engagement, USDOT

Kala Wright joins the Office of Public Engagement after serving as Director of External Affairs at Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Previously, Kala worked at New York City where she served as the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Policy and External Affairs for the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, in that capacity she implemented large-scale outreach initiatives to taxi licensees, industry members and elected officials. Kala spearheaded TLC's relief efforts for New York City's COVID-19 response, including Get Food NYC, Citi-Field Vaccine Recruitment and the Vaccine Initiative for Homebound New Yorkers. Her work in External Affairs has allowed her to connect with diverse communities of people, understand the challenges that shape their lives and craft systems of improvement.

Kala has worked in city service for fifteen years and looks forward to continuing her public service with the Biden-Harris administration. She has a degree in education from Tufts University and degree in illustration from Pratt Institute.



Raffi Freedman-Gurspan

Principal Deputy Director of Public Engagement, USDOT

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan is the Principal 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 (NCTE) 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. A graduate of St. Olaf College in Minnesota, Raffi was adopted from Honduras and grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts.



Jocelyn Jones

Equity Coordinator, Federal Highway Administration

Jocelyn Jones has worked at FHWA for 20 years, currently serving as an Equity Policy Analyst in the Office of Civil Rights. In this role, Ms. Jones coordinates and advances equity-related activities with offices across the Agency. Before this new position, she worked at the Resource Center delivering training and technical assistance for planning, freight, and asset management programs. Prior to FHWA, Ms. Jones was a planner for the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and worked for several years in the private sector. She holds a Masters of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan and a business

degree from Carnegie-Mellon University. She is a member of the TRB Standing Committee on Disaster Response, Emergency Evacuations, and Business Continuity (AMR20) and a board member private sector industry group, the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, Baltimore chapter.



Veronica Vanterpool

Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration

Veronica Vanterpool is the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Deputy Administrator, serving in that role since May 2022. She first joined FTA as Senior Advisor in August 2021. As Acting Administrator, Veronica helps advance the goals of the Biden-Harris Administration related to equity, climate, innovation, safety and workforce development. She oversees policy priorities and objectives along with day-to-day operations of the 700-person agency.

Veronica came to FTA from Delaware Transit Corporation, where she served as the agency's first Chief Innovation Officer. Her previous roles include being the Deputy Director of the national Vision Zero Network, executive director of the New York City based Tri-State Transportation Campaign and board member of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority. She is a member of the first cohort of the Biden Administration's Presidential Leadership Workshop and a 2023 Awardee of COMTO's Women Who Move the Nation.



Arlando Teller

Assistant Secretary for Tribal Government Affairs, USDOT

Arlando Teller serves as the Assistant Secretary for Tribal Government Affairs at the US Department of Transportation. Prior to this role, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs at the Department.

Arlando entered the aviation industry as the first Native American graduate from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He interned with the City of Mesa, Falcon Field Airport and advanced in his career as an airport planner for the City of Phoenix's Aviation Department, later as the Aviation Management Intern for Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Teller then moved to Walnut Creek, California where he worked on multimodal transportation projects as a transportation planner and tribal liaison for the California Department of Transportation. Returning home to the Navajo Nation in 2009, Teller served as Senior Transportation Planner for the Navajo Nation's Division of Transportation, promoted to Program Manager for the Department of Airports Management and eventually promoted to Deputy Division Director.

He was elected State Representative for District 7 in the Arizona House of Representatives in November 2018. He sat on the Transportation Committee and the Land & Agriculture Committee. He also served as the Vice Chair for Indigenous

Peoples Caucus and a member of the Aviation/Aerospace Caucus and represented as Co-Chair for the Arizona Aerospace Association.



Olatunji Oboi Reed

President & CEO, Equiticity Ventures

Olatunji Oboi Reed's passion lies at the intersection of community, culture, and health. 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.

Oboi serves as the founding President & CEO of Equiticity, a racial equity movement, programming and advocating for racial equity, increased mobility, and racial justice to improve the lives of Black and Brown people across the United States. Equiticity's vision is a mid- to large-sized U.S. city where racial equity is fully integrated at the policy and legislative levels into every function, department, budget, and resource associated with the city's operations, services, and programs.

Oboi co-founded and recently served as the President & CEO of the Slow Roll Chicago bicycle movement. Slow Roll Chicago is working to build an equitable, diverse, and inclusive bicycle culture in Chicago, by organizing community bicycle rides and advocating for bicycle equity.

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 is a member of 2018 Grist Fixers cohort, Chicagoland Equity Network's Steering Committee, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Human and Community Development Committee, and PolicyLink's Transportation Equity Caucus. He served as a Community Representative Member of the City of Chicago Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council and as a member of the Board of Directors of Streetsblog Chicago. He is a frequent speaker, panelist, and facilitator at conferences around the world.



Irene Marion

Director, Departmental Office of Civil Rights, USDOT

Irene Marion serves as the Director of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights. Marion has served in roles in the nonprofit, philanthropy and government sectors, including the U.S. Student Association, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, Congressional Black Caucus, Coalition for a Livable Future and the Funders Committee for Civic Participation. Most recently, Marion served as Equity and Inclusion Manager for the City of Portland's Bureau of Transportation. Marion is a proud graduate of Howard University.

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. Under Director Marion's leadership, DOCR is leading equity initiatives specific to Workforce Equity, Economic Justice, Gender Justice and Public Engagement. Director Marion also serves as senior liaison to the White House Initiative on HBCUs and the White House Gender Policy Council.



Paige Shevlin

Strategic Advisor for Infrastructure Workforce Development, USDOT

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.



Vaishant Sharma

Senior Policy Advisor, White House National Economic Council

Vaishant serves as a Senior Policy Advisor at the National Economic Council. Prior to joining the White House, Vaishant supported the Executive Director at the Beek Center, as well as the Board of Directors, on strategic projects that are key to accomplishing the Beek Center's goal of creating impact at scale. Before joining the Beek Center, Vaishant was an Associate Consultant at boutique management consultancy firm, Capco. As a part of the Financial Services practice, he was part of teams that established strategies and frameworks to increase revenue and streamline operations at large financial institutions in New York City. In the Impact Consulting practice, he worked with social enterprises on financial analysis, market entry, and digital strategy. Prior to Capco, Vaishant worked for the Albright Stonebridge Group, a Commercial Diplomacy firm, conducting non-US market research and analysis for Fortune 500 firms. Vaishant graduated from American University with a major in International Development and minor in Finance. Throughout college Vaishant interned for the New Jersey court system, a technology start-up in India, and a financial advisory firm in Washington D.C.



Ni'cholas Johnson

Engagement Specialist, Rural Partners Network, USDA

Over 7 years of government service with USDA Rural Development in different capacities such as Single-Family Housing, Multi-Family Housing, Community Programs and Wastewater. Ni'cholas has worked in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Georgia. His last role on the state level was with Georgia's Rural Partners Network as a Community Development Liaison for the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Network. Now he works with Rural Partners Network

National Office Team as the Engagement Specialist for all 11 U.S. states and territories within RPN.

Ni'cholas holds a Master of Urban Planning with a concentration in Housing and Community Development from Alabama A&M University. He is currently a candidate for the doctoral degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Jackson State University where his major research topic is "Engaging Marginalized Residents in the Planning, Policy and Local Decision-Making Process".



Tyra Redus

Director, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, USDOT

Tyra 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.



April Rai

President & CEO, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials

April Rai joined the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials in December 2021 as President & CEO with nearly 20 years of management experience across the public, private, and non-profit sectors. With the mission as a focus, April works to build upon COMTO's 50+year history of ensuring transportation meets the needs of all users across 40 chapters in North America. Previously, April served as Deputy Executive Director for WTS International advocating for the advancement of women's leadership in transportation. Prior roles include CEO for a National Transportation Safety coalition and leading government affairs for the University of Maryland, School of Nursing. April serves on several transportation related boards, including an appointment by Secretary Buttigieg

in 2022 to the board of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).



Brenda Mallory

Chair, Council on Environmental Quality

Brenda Mallory was confirmed by the United States Senate on April 14, 2021, and sworn in as the 12th Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). She is the first African American to serve in this position. As Chair, she advises the President on environmental and natural resources policies that improve, preserve, and protect public health and the environment for America's communities. She is focused particularly on addressing the environmental justice and climate change challenges the nation faces while advancing opportunities for job growth and economic development.

Chair Mallory became the first in her family to attend college, graduating from Yale College with a double major in history and sociology and then from Columbia Law School as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. She began her environmental law career in private practice, where much of her work involved helping local governments secure federal environmental approvals for economic development projects. She eventually chaired the law firm's Natural Resources Practice Group. Through this work, she gained valuable experience in the application of the National Environmental Policy Act, the bedrock statute that created CEQ in 1969 and which the agency administers. In 2000, she joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, commencing an almost 20-year career in Federal service.

Chair Mallory served in a number of senior roles throughout her federal career at EPA and CEQ. She was involved in major Clean Water Act jurisdictional actions, including signature Supreme Court cases and the development of the 2015 Clean Water Rule. She served as EPA's representative on a White House Task Force on Energy Project Streamlining with a focus on Clean Water Act permitting. She led EPA's Pesticide and Toxic Substances Law Office as the agency tackled lead in renovations, lead and mercury in products, and early efforts to reform the Toxics Substances Control Act and address PFAS contamination.

As the ranking career official in EPA's Office of General Counsel (OGC), Chair Mallory served as the chief operating officer for OGC and led operational efforts focused on Environmental Justice and diversity initiatives. She supported the development of OGC's EJ Legal Tools report, which outlines opportunities within EPA's legal authorities for advancing environmental protection of low-income and communities of color. She helped reform the EPA Office of Civil Rights to enable more effective processing of Title VI complaints. In addition, she guided the legal teams working on implementation of initiatives designed to integrate environmental justice considerations into EPA permitting and rule writing.

Now having returned to CEQ, Chair Mallory is looking to reinvigorate CEQ's important environmental policy role in service of President Biden's agenda. She is committed to working with all stakeholders to advance efficient permitting approaches that engage affected communities and that help avoid, minimize, or mitigate the environmental impacts of decisions. Chair Mallory will see that CEQ's expertise is applied to the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to helping communities prepare for the increased flooding, more frequent hurricanes and wildfires, and other impacts of climate change that are already occurring. She will work to protect our nation's natural treasures, and she will ensure that the voices of low-income and people of color are heard as we tackle the environmental and public health crises our nation faces.

Chair Mallory and her husband Mark live in Rockville, MD. They have three adult children. The family enjoys visiting the parks and other natural treasures that reflect the environmental values she has worked to protect.



Karim Marshall

Senior Advisor, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, EPA

Karim Marshall serves in the Biden Administration as the Senior Advisor for the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As the inaugural Senior Advisor, he advances OEJECR's mission to coordinate implementation of EJ priorities across the agency's programs and across other federal agencies. He is also charged with implementing President Biden's policy goals that include, implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Justice40, and other equity-driven initiatives.

Prior to this role, Karim held various roles at the Government of the District of Columbia, including as an Energy & Environmental Legislative Director, Chief of Environmental Justice, and Sustainable & Equitable Development Manager. Karim earned his J.D. from American University Washington College of Law, and B.A. from Dartmouth College.



Jonathan Hui

Senior Program Officer, The Kresge Foundation

Jonathan Hui is a Senior Program Officer at The Kresge Foundation. He supports the Detroit Program's work in early childhood and neighborhood development. He joined the foundation in 2017.

Previously he served as Director of Strategy and Planning at the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan, where he was involved with leading talent recruitment, development/evaluation efforts, organizational strategic planning and systems design at the state-run school district. Jonathan started his career as a social studies teacher at Denby High School in Detroit, Michigan, as a Teach for America corps member and later led community initiatives on behalf of the school, where his work focused on the intersection of education and community development.

He earned his Master of Public Policy from Harvard University, and his B.A. in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Michigan.



Dr. Basil Gooden

Under Secretary for Rural Development, USDA

Dr. Basil I. Gooden was confirmed by the United State Senate to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development on Monday, February 26, 2024.

Prior to his confirmation as Under Secretary, Gooden served as Director of State Operations for Rural Development. In this role, he led and supported USDA's team of 47 Rural Development State Directors who extend USDA's state-level leadership and help ensure the department's investments reach all rural communities. From 2016-2018, he served as the 3rd Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Prior to that, Dr. Gooden served as the Virginia State Director for Rural Development at USDA. He has

previously held roles as the Chief Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development,

as a Cooperative Extension Specialist at Virginia Tech, and as a Farm Service Agency County Committee member. Dr. Gooden holds a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech, a master's degree in social work from Syracuse University, and a master's degree in Public Health and a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a native of Buckingham County, Virginia, where he and his family still own and operate a cattle farm.



Kristin White

Acting Administrator, FHWA

Kristin White currently serves, since September 11, 2024, as the Acting Federal Highway Administrator at the USDOT, helping to lead an organization that is dedicated to making transformational investments in improving safety, mobility and innovation for the millions of people who use our nation's roads, bridges, and highways. Appointed in May 2024 as Deputy Administrator, Kristin brings a passion for serving the American people and a commitment to building a better and brighter future, while advancing the priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration and delivering a world-class system that advances safe, efficient, equitable, and sustainable mobility voices for all while strengthening the Nation's economy.

Prior to her current role as Deputy Administrator, Kristin joined the Agency in July 2023 as FHWA Chief Counsel, playing a pivotal role in advising FHWA senior leadership and staff in advancing key FHWA programs and initiatives as part of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. As FHWA Chief Counsel, she oversaw all aspects of FHWA's legal work to advise the federal-aid highway program and USDOT leadership on matters relating to the 2,900-person agency and its \$71 billion annual budget. In this role, Kristin served as part of the FHWA senior leadership team and led professionals in four offices across the country, providing legal advice and strategic guidance on grant and program administration, federal legislation, regulatory affairs, environmental compliance, and all related litigation.



Harriet Tregoning

Senior Advisor for Land Use, USDOT

Harriet Tregoning is Senior Advisor for Land Use at the US Department of Transportation. She served as 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.



Duane Callender

Acting Executive Director, Build America Bureau

Duane Callender manages the Credit Programs Office within the Build America Bureau which houses the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) and the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) credit programs. He directs a staff responsible for all aspects of underwriting, portfolio monitoring and risk management. Mr. Callender oversees a portfolio that encompasses over \$31 billion in Federal credit assistance to intermodal, highway, transit, rail, TOD and airport projects totaling more than \$100 billion of infrastructure investment in the U.S. Previously, he held positions in DOT's Office of Budget and Programs where he was responsible for oversight of the Maritime Administration budget, in DOT's Inspector General's Office and the Budget Office of the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department.

A New York native, Mr. Callender holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Connecticut College (1994) and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from American University (1998).



Aaron Shroyer

Senior Policy Advisor, White House National Economic Council

Aaron Shroyer currently serves as a senior policy advisor at the White House National Economic Council. In this role, he leads the development and implementation of the Biden-Harris Administration's housing policy agenda. Earlier in the Administration, he served as a senior policy advisor at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and a policy advisor at the Domestic Policy Council. Before working in the Biden-Harris Administration, Shroyer worked at the Urban Institute, where he advised governments and foundations on policy and grantmaking strategies related to housing and community development. Prior to that, he worked on housing and economic development for the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Shroyer has a bachelor's degree in government and a master's degree in leadership and public policy, both from the University of Virginia.



Ricki Wells

Advisor for Policy and Program Implementation, USDOT

Ricki Wells serves as Advisor for Policy and Program Implementation in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, where she focuses on transit-oriented development, equity, and mobility. Wells comes to DOT from the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART), where she worked on state and federal policy, grant development and advocacy. Wells previously worked as a Legislative Analyst at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Legislative Assistant for the California State Assembly, and Deputy Executive Director at the California NAACP.



Monica Guerra

Community Solutions Technical Assistance Lead

Dr. Monica Guerra is the Community Solutions Technical Assistance Lead at the Department of Transportation. She brings an extensive background leading technical assistance, research and planning efforts for diverse public, private, and non-profit partners. Mostly recently, she has work in California, advising local governments on opportunities to align housing, public health, climate change, and economic inclusion strategies to advance comprehensive community development investments and policies.



LaKesha Hart

State Planning Manager, Louisiana Office of Planning and Budget

LaKesha Hart serves as the State Planning Manager with the Louisiana Office of Planning and Budget within the Division of Administration. She has over 20 years of engineering, project management and planning experience across the public and private sector. In her current role, Hart is responsible for administering, directing and coordinating a portfolio of planning and policy initiatives in Louisiana and for coordinating with officials of federal, state and local agencies to promote and manage joint programs and activities. Hart works closely with the Governor's Office staff assisting state agencies and local stakeholders with implementing planning-related programs and projects.



NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDERS

Rural Community Assistance Partnership Incorporated (Lead) and Community Engineering Corps, Communities Unlimited, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, Midwest Assistance Program, National Association of Development Organizations, RCAP Solutions, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Main Streets

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation
 The City of Green River, UT
 City of Estacada
 City of Chamberlain South Dakota
 City of Hinckley
 Tunica County, Mississippi
 Sumter County Board of Commissioners
 Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
 Garrett County Government
 Winston County, Mississippi
 Midcoast Council of Governments
 Smyth County, Virginia
 City of Socorro
 City of Ellsworth
 Town of Camp Verde
 Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments

Abt Associates Inc. (Lead) and EPR, P.C., Equitable Cities, Morgan State University, Nelson\Nygaard, Safe Routes Partnership, and Smart Growth America

Complete Neighborhoods

City of Lexington, North Carolina
 City of Dayton
 City of Bridgeport
 City of New London
 City of Garden City
 City of Arlington, Texas
 City of Philadelphia
 Cape Girardeau County Transit Authority (CTA)
 City of Santa Rosa
 City of Durham
 City of Ogden
 Central Virginia Planning District Commission (CVPDC)
 City of West Memphis
 City of New Bedford
 City of Fairfield
 Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
 Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA)
 City of North Miami
 Madison County

Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (Lead) and Accelerator for America, AECOM, Intelligent Transportation Society of America, MWDBE Training Academy, Inc., ReConnect Rondo, and Two Degrees

Networked Communities

Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization
 City of Buchanan
 City of Centralia
 City of Crete, Nebraska
 Mercer County Fiscal Court
 City of Sumas
 City of Vancouver
 Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc.
 Pioneer Square-International District Community Preservation and Development Authority, dba Historic South Downtown (HSD)
 Gateway Cities Council of Governments
 Tulare County Resource Management Agency

Delta Agricultural Research Sustainability District
City of Raton
City & Borough of Juneau
City of Syracuse
City of Selma

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDERS

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (Lead) and Alaska Municipal League

State of Colorado Office of Economic (Lead) and Recovery Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development

Louisiana Division of Administration Planning Office (Lead) and Center for Planning Excellence; Louisiana Main Street, Division of Historic Preservation; Grey Engineering, LLC; Place + Main Advisors, LLC; Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development; Louisiana Economic Development

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (Lead) and Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission and the Nature Conservancy in NH

New York State Department of Transportation (Lead) and New York State Department of State (Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure and Division of Local Government Services) and ICF Incorporated, LLC

Fayette-Raleigh Metropolitan Planning Organization (Lead) and Regions I, IV, and VII Planning & Development Councils; West Virginia University (Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative); and Mon Forest Towns Partnership