



Monica Backmon

Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority



@NVTAAuthority



Monica Backmon, has served as the Executive Director of the **Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)** since May 2014, bringing more than 20 years of public and private sector transportation planning experience. Responsible for the region's long-range transportation planning, prioritization and funding for transportation projects, the NVTA brings transportation solutions to Northern Virginia through an annual revenue stream mostly provided via HB 2313, of \$283 million per year. In October 2017, as Executive Director, Ms. Backmon lead the Authority in the adoption of TransAction, the first update to the region's long-range, multimodal transportation plan, since HB 2313 was passed. Because of the adoption of TransAction update, in June of 2018, under Ms. Backmon's leadership, the Authority adopted its first Six Year Program (FY 2018 – 2023) with 44 projects totaling \$1.3 billion. Through the implementation of the Six Year Program, NVTA is bringing 122 projects worth \$1.975 billion to Northern Virginia for regional multimodal congestion relief. In addition, the NVTA oversees the distribution of \$83 million per year to the four counties and five cities in Northern Virginia for their local transportation priorities.

Ms. Backmon served as Prince William County's Regional Transportation Planner for a decade. She has established herself as a leader in the region through her collaborative work with the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and transit agencies such as the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Virginia Railway Express and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. Prior to coming to Virginia, Ms. Backmon worked for the Atlanta Regional Commission working with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority and local bus systems facilitating the programming of federal funds.

Ms. Backmon holds a B.S. in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Champaign, IL. She lives in Northern Virginia with her husband and daughter.



Blanche (Bee) Buergler
President, Intelligent Transportation Society of Virginia, and
Transit Capital Program Manager, Arlington County



[@ArlingtonVA](#) or [@VirginiaITSVA](#)



Bee Buergler is President of the **Intelligent Transportation Society of Virginia**. She has worked for **Arlington County** in the Transportation Division since 2005, where she is involved in the development and implementation of new transit facilities, technology, and infrastructure improvements for Arlington. Her experience includes working in the fields of public transportation since 1978 and advanced transportation technology since 1992. She was a consultant to the transportation industry before joining local government.

She has a Bachelor's degree in urban planning from Virginia Tech and a Master's degree from Indiana University in geography, with a concentration in public transportation.



Max Smith Northern Virginia Reporter, WTOP



[@amaxsmith](https://twitter.com/amaxsmith)



Max Smith is **WTOP's** Northern Virginia and transportation reporter.

Since 2010, he has been covering breaking news and other stories at WTOP including court cases like the corruption case against former Va. Gov. Bob McDonnell, inauguration days, transportation projects, Metro and other transit issues, OccupyDC, devastating storms, community events and the real impacts of local and national politics.

He came to WTOP from CBS Radio News in New York, where he worked to coordinate live hits with CBS correspondents and stations across the country, as well as reaching out to cover breaking news stories from around the country and around the world.

Prior to joining CBS, Max was the play-by-play broadcaster and video producer for the Clermont Mavericks of the Florida Collegiate Summer League, and covered the NBA's Orlando Professional Summer League for Philadunkia, an ESPN TrueHoop blog.

Max graduated from The George Washington University, where he worked on PBS's "The Kalb Report," created, produced and hosted several shows for the campus television station, GWTV, and did play-by-play and color commentary for Colonials men's and women's basketball and Bowie Baysox baseball.



Andy Schaudt
Project Director, Automated Vehicle Systems,
Virginia Tech Transportation Institute



[@VTTINews](#) or [@Andy_Schaudt](#)



Andy Schaudt is the Project Director for the Center for Automated Vehicle Systems at the **Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI)**. For VTTI he plans, coordinates, and manages the projects, programs and marketing efforts for all automated vehicle initiatives. He has significant experience in human factors, usability, systems design, business strategy and marketing having managed contracts the past 16 years for both federal and private sector organizations across numerous industries, most notably transportation and medical.

Schaudt earned his M.B.A. from Virginia Tech, and his M.S. in Human Factors Psychology from the University of Idaho. His work has been featured in TV and digital media outlets including Wired, USA Today, CNN, Washington Post and various others.



Paul Mackie

Director of Research and Communications, Mobility Lab



@MobilityLabTeam



Paul Mackie is Director of Research and Communications at Mobility Lab, where he's worked since 2012. He specializes in research strategy and communications outreach, and speaks about how places can become vibrant through public-transportation initiatives.

For the eight years prior to joining Mobility Lab, he was Climate Change Communications Director at The Nature Conservancy and Director of Media Relations at the World Resources Institute.

He has also been a daily newspaper journalist at various outlets in the St. Louis area; a freelancer for the Chicago Tribune, National Geographic, and other media organizations; and a writer at the National Association of Counties. Paul has been quoted on transportation issues by USA Today, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Washington Post, NPR, and many others; has spoken at many conferences, including MIT's Disrupting Mobility, Innovate Raleigh, and various state and national transportation events; and received the 2015 Excellence in Advocacy Award and 2013 Presidents Award from the Association of Commuter Transportation.

Paul is currently serving on the "Safe Routes to Healthy Foods Taskforce" of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and on a panel that provides direction and guidance for disseminating research produced by the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP), a collaboration of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA); the Academies and its Transportation Research Board (TRB); and the Transit Development Corporation, an educational and research arm of the American Public Transit Association (APTA). He is also a member of the Surface Transportation Communicators of DC.

Paul obtained his master's degree in media studies and political science from Georgetown University and his bachelor's in English literature and journalism from Southern Illinois University. On a personal level, he enjoys writing at his blog [Pop Culture Lunch Box](#), tennis and other sports, playing and listening to music, and traveling with his wife Rachel, son Jackson, and daughter Zoey.

His first car was a Chevy Chevette. Now he bikes through three states to get to work. And his bike is a lot nicer than the Chevette.



Ben LaRocco Senior Manager of State Policy, Lime



@limebike



Ben LaRocco currently leads 50 State Policy for **Lime**. He has more than 15 years of experience in government relations and public policy working on Capitol Hill and in state capitols across the country as a staffer, communicator and lobbyist in tech, transportation, manufacturing and consumer products.

His work has been featured in the New York Times, Boston Globe, Baltimore Sun, Columbus Dispatch, and was tweeted about by Jeff Bezos.



Scott Zuchorski Senior Director, Fitch Ratings



@FitchRatings



Scott Zuchorski is a Senior Director in **Fitch's Global Infrastructure and Project Finance Group** where he serves as a co-lead of the North American Transportation & P3 Group. Scott covers a variety of transportation and infrastructure transactions including airports, seaports, toll roads, privately financed sports stadiums, and public-private partnerships (P3s).

Prior to joining Fitch, Scott was a First Vice President at Ambac Assurance Corporation where he was responsible for the credit oversight and remediation of a \$250 billion municipal bond portfolio.

He began his career as a management consultant with Arthur Andersen LLP's Government Services Practice in Washington DC.

Scott received his Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and his Masters of Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. In addition, he is a member of the Municipal Analysts Group of New York (MAGNY) and currently serves on the Advisory Council for Cornell University's Program in Infrastructure Policy (CPIP). Scott is also a member of the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Revenue and Finance Committee.



Dr. Lei Zhang
Director, Maryland Transportation Institute,
University of Maryland



@UMDCivil



Dr. Lei Zhang is the Herbert Rabin Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering and **Director of the Maryland Transportation Institute (MTI) at the University of Maryland – College Park (UMD)**. Dr. Zhang's research focuses on innovative mobility solutions, travel behavior, and next-generation transportation modeling and decision-support tools that are large-scale, real-time, and driven by big data. Dr. Zhang has published more than 250 peer-reviewed papers, 10 books and book chapters, and numerous technical reports, with more than \$34 million of research funding support from NSF, US DOT, US DOE, FHWA, other federal and state agencies and private foundations. Dr. Zhang is a recipient of the prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the TRB Fred Burggraf Award, and the U.S. Department of State APEC Science Prize.



Amanda Stout

Deputy Chief of Staff, District Department of Transportation



@DDOTDC



Amanda C. Stout is **DDOT's** Deputy Chief of Staff, after having served for two years as DDOT's Special Assistant for Economic Development in the Office of the Director. Stout has more than 12 years of experience in transportation planning and public policy. She came to DDOT from STV, Incorporated, where she focused on transportation planning and

policy for state and municipal transportation agencies and metropolitan planning organizations in the mid-Atlantic region. She previously spent four years working for the City of Newton, Mass., advancing economic development and long-range planning for this Boston suburb and serving as the Mayor's liaison to the business community.

Ms. Stout holds a bachelor's degree in history and environmental studies from Williams College and a master's degree in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As a Rappaport Public Policy Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, she worked for the City of Somerville, Mass., to address parking and economic development challenges.

Earlier in her career, she worked for Parsons Brinckerhoff on land use and transportation planning projects for the New Jersey Department of Transportation. She also worked on college campus master planning at Sasaki Associates and interned at the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Ms. Stout holds a certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners.



Jennifer DeBruhl

Chief of Public Transportation, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)



@VirginiaDRPT



Jennifer DeBruhl, AICP serves as the Chief of Public Transportation for the **Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)**, providing leadership in the evaluation, development, and execution of a \$2.9 billion portfolio of public transportation, commuter assistance, and congestion management programs throughout the Commonwealth.

Ms. DeBruhl joined DRPT in 2016 following over 20 years of distinguished public service to the transportation community, at the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Ms. DeBruhl has an undergraduate degree in Urban Studies, a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning, and a Certificate in Public Management from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, Leadership APTA Class of 2018, AASHTO Multi-state Transit Technical Assistance Program Steering Committee, and is a certified Project Management Professional.



Cathy McGhee
Director, Research and Innovation, Virginia Department of
Transportation



@VaDOT



Cathy McGhee has been with **VTRC, the Research Division of the Virginia Department of Transportation** since 1993, becoming its Director in December of 2016. She has led VDOT's research program on connected and automated vehicles and works with VDOT staff and University partners to develop, test, and deploy equipment and applications within the Virginia Connected and Automated Corridors to advance VDOT's mission of delivering safe and efficient mobility.

In December 2018, Cathy became the Director of Research and Innovation, picking up responsibility for leading the Office of Innovation within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. In this capacity, she is encouraging the deployment of innovation and technology across the transportation modal agencies. Current focus areas include data and analytics, Automated Virginia, and broadband deployment.