



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 experience. Responsible for the region's long-range planning, prioritization and funding of regionally significant projects, the NVTA brings transportation solutions to Northern Virginia through an annual revenue stream provided through HB 2313, of \$283 million per year. In October 2017, Ms. Backmon led the NVTA in the adoption of TransAction, the first update to the long-range transportation plan, since HB 2313 was passed. In June of 2018, under Ms. Backmon's leadership, the NVTA adopted its first Six Year Program with 44 projects totaling \$1.3 billion. Through the implementation of the Six Year Program, and three previous funding programs, NVTA is advancing 94 projects totaling \$1.975 billion, for regional multimodal congestion relief. Given the relationship of transportation and the economy, Ms. Backmon led an external economic impact study of the Authority's \$1.975 billion investments, conducted by a nationally recognized firm. Ms. Backmon also oversees the distribution of \$83 million annually, to the Authority's nine member localities, 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 local governments, 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.

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



Stacey Craft

Associate Vice President, Mid-Atlantic Intelligent Transportation Systems Practice Leader, HNTB Corporation, and President, Intelligent Transportation Society of Virginia



@VirginiaITSVA



Stacey Craft offers a unique combination of ITS construction, operations and maintenance, design and planning experience. He has 33 years of holistic ITS experience in Virginia and across the Nation. He has constructed, maintained and operated, planned and designed many of Virginia's innovative and large-scale systems and projects for various owners and operators.

Stacey is an **Associate Vice President**, employee owner at **HNTB Corporation**. He is HNTB's Mid-Atlantic Transportation Technology Practice Leader and has enjoyed 20 years of employment at HNTB working on legacy ITS, tolling, managed lanes and emerging mobility solutions.

Prior to joining HNTB, Stacey was employed by VDOT and worked at the Northern Virginia Smart Traffic Center and worked at Dyna-Tran Electric constructing ITS in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia.

Stacey has served on the ITSVA Board of Directors since 2013 and is currently serving as ITSVA President.



Max Smith

Northern Virginia Reporter, Anchor and Editor, WTOP



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



Max Smith is **WTOP's** Northern Virginia reporter in addition to several other roles at the station.

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.



Andrew J. Meese, AICP Systems Performance Planning Director, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



@NatCapRegTPB



Andrew Meese is the **Systems Performance Planning Director** in the **Department of Transportation Planning** at the **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**, or COG. Andrew has been with COG since 1993.

His team at COG helps support the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, or TPB, the officially designated metropolitan planning organization for Washington, DC, Suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Andrew leads several transportation planning areas under TPB, including performance-based target development; congestion management; technology; safety; bicycles and pedestrians; public transportation; and freight.

Andrew also supports TPB's participation in the **Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination Program**, also known as "MATOC", a management and operations partnership of the Washington region's transportation agencies.

Prior to working at COG, Andrew was a transportation planner for the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Andrew earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Geography and Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.



Amanda Hamm

Connected and Automated Vehicle Program Manager, Office of Strategic Innovation, VDOT



@VaDOTNOVA



Amanda Hamm works for the **Virginia Department of Transportation's Office of Strategic Innovation** as **VDOT's Connected and Automated Vehicle Program Manager**. As CAV Program Manager, Ms. Hamm works on coordinating VDOT's CAV efforts, facilitating communications between VDOT and CAV stakeholders, and engaging in regional and national CAV discussions. Ms. Hamm previously worked for Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles' Legislative Services Division as a subject matter expert in connected and automated vehicles, vehicle insurance, legal presence, and licensing/identification. Ms. Hamm received her bachelor's degree from George Washington University and her J.D. from William and Mary Law School.



Jennifer B. DeBruhl, AICP, PMP
Chief of Public Transportation, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)



[@VirginiaDRPT](https://twitter.com/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 \$3.8 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, all from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, Leadership APTA Class of 2018, Vice Chair of the APTA State Affairs Committee, AASHTO Multi-state Transit Technical Assistance Program Steering Committee, WTS Central Virginia Board of Directors, and is a certified Project Management Professional.



David Snyder
Councilmember, City of Falls Church, Authority Member, and Chair,
Transportation Technology Committee



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



David F. Snyder is Vice President, International Policy, for the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) in which capacity he covers international and domestic insurance regulatory and trade issues. He represents PCI members before numerous international, federal and state legislative and regulatory bodies, having made presentations in Amman, Basel, Beijing, Buenos Aires and Paris, among others. He is a member of the U.S. delegation to the OECD's Insurance and Private Pensions Committee and chairs the governance working group of the Global Federation of Insurance Associations.

Mr. Snyder graduated Magna Cum Laude from Dickinson College and earned his law degree from the George Washington University Law School. He is admitted to law practice in three jurisdictions and received the Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter designation. His state and federal government experience includes appellate and civil litigation as well as administrative law. He worked for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the Insurance Department as legislative liaison and hearing officer, later as a Deputy Attorney General in Torts Litigation and finally as General Counsel of the Commerce Department.

Mr. Snyder is serving his sixth term as a **Falls Church, Va. City Council Member**, having served as mayor and vice mayor. He chairs the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council, an umbrella group that helps set and assess regional emergency preparedness priorities, and has chaired Washington, DC metropolitan regional transportation and environmental boards. When he was recently chairman of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, it was announced that the region had made significant progress in improving air quality and achieved compliance with a key EPA standard. He received the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments regional leadership award in 2010. He is also President of the Virginia Transit Association.

Mr. Snyder is the second longest serving **Northern Virginia Transportation Authority** member, joining in 2003, and was elected Chairman of the Authority in 2004, serving two years in the position. He is currently Chairman of the Transportation Technology Committee.



George D. Thomas

Vice President of Innovation & Strategic Initiatives, Connected DMV



@gdthomas23 or @connectedDMV



George Thomas is a thought leader and adviser to public and private sector organizations in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. With more than twenty years of experience, George has held a variety of sales, strategy and consulting roles. A dynamic leader and team builder, George has helped clients develop successful strategies and execute transformational projects in business operations, capital improvement, enterprise processes and applications, organizational change management and strategic planning.

George is a recognized industry expert at the intersection of technology and business in areas such as Cognitive Computing, Deep Analytics, Autonomous and Robotics, Optimization & Simulation, Smarter Cities, Serious Games, Blockchain, the API economy, Internet of Things, and Cloud Computing. George is a founding member of the Smarter Cities Council, a member of the US NIST Executive Committee for Global City Teams Challenge, and a Senior Advisor at the Center for Innovative Technology for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a Committee Member on Leadership & Resiliency subcommittees for Standards, American Society of Civil Engineers. George is a mentor, board member and coach to several start-ups and innovative companies. He is a regular speaker at conferences and events including at the C40 Mayor's Conferences, TEDx, Chambers of Commerce, the American Institute of Architects, Smart City Expo, US Infrastructure Week, the World Bank, and the United Nations.

George founded New Urban Informatics in 2016, a strategic advisory firm, providing expertise to some of the most innovative companies and governments focused on disruptive technologies analytics and Smart Cities. Key clients included Hatch, a major Engineering firm, where he served as Global Director, Smart Infrastructure, where he led Hatch's efforts in helping clients create new smart and digital value across Infrastructure and Urban Solution domains. George also serves as Vice President of Innovation & Strategic Initiatives for Connected DMV, the Smart Region Movement for Greater Washington. Connected DMV is creating a framework to enable an inclusive, trusted, secure, and sustainable digital environment for Greater Washington that improves how the region lives, works, connects, and prospers. George also co-founded and serves as Chief Growth Officer for New Urbana, a co-innovation foundry focused on disruptive advancements for the critical infrastructure ecosystem.

George previously served as Global Director of Strategy & Markets for IBM's Government Industry vertical. In this role, he was responsible for the strategy and execution of new innovations and solutions to assist governments globally in delivering improved services to their citizens. From 2013 to 2014 he was the Director of Smarter Cities for IBM Greater China, based in Beijing, PRC; and from 2010 to 2012, he was the Global Director for Smarter Cities Sales Strategy & Execution. Prior roles have included US Sales Director responsible for IBM's services portfolio in State & Local Government, Education & Public Healthcare segment and Partner responsible for IBM's US SAP State, Local and Education Practice. George has successfully delivered several complex, mission-critical transformation consulting engagements in the public sector which include innovative and breakthrough projects in technology, process and people transformation. Prior to joining IBM in 2000, George held senior positions with the management, business consulting and engineering practices of PSINet; Metamor; and Mott MacDonald respectively. In these roles, he was involved in global multi-million-dollar engagements covering complex implementations in finance, human resources, supply chain, reengineering, process improvement, and core engineering projects.

George holds a master's degree in Engineering and Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia.



Ronit Dancis
Director, Transportation Management Association,
Tysons Partnership, Inc.



[@RonitADancis](#) or [@tysonspartners](#)



The **Tysons Partnership** is a non-profit association of Tysons stakeholders dedicated to the transformation of Tysons into a great American city.

As **Director of the Transportation Management Association**, **Ronit Aviva Dancis** leads the Partnership's transportation work accelerating Tysons' transition to a transit-based, walkable and bikeable city. She develops and promotes services focused on improving connectivity and mobility throughout Tysons & the region. Ronit works with businesses and government to

increase transit ridership, carpooling and vanpooling and to promote biking and walking in Tysons.

The Tysons Transportation Management Association is responsible for reducing single-occupancy vehicle travel by the 120,000 employees and 25,000 residents of Tysons. It provides Transportation Demand Management services throughout Tysons.

She has a degree in chemistry from Brandeis University, and has been a lifelong resident of the Washington, D.C. area.



Dan Schlaff
Director, Strategy and Business Development,
Via



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



Dan Schlaff is a **Director of Strategy and Business Development at Via**, where he works to bring Via's technology to city governments and transportation authorities around the world.

Dan previously worked at Deloitte, where he helped launch and grow the company's mobility consulting practice, advising automotive, technology and public sector clients on transportation innovation and growth. He also spent a number of years as an urban policy and social innovation researcher at MDRC, a think tank in New York.

Dan holds an MBA from Columbia Business School and an MA in International Affairs from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.



Ryan Westrom Head of Mobility Engagement – East Coast, City Solutions, Ford Mobility



@Westy33



Ryan Westrom is Head of Mobility Engagement for the East Coast within **Ford Mobility's City Solutions group**, with a focus on supporting ongoing AV testing happening in Miami and Washington, DC. Prior to this role, Ryan was Mobility Partnerships Lead at D-Ford Palo Alto who, through human-centered design, are exploring the future of mobility for Ford. Before coming to Ford, he was a transportation planner and engineer at the District Department of Transportation (or DDOT) in Washington, DC. A licensed Professional Engineer and certified Professional Transportation Planner, Ryan holds undergraduate degrees in civil engineering and urban planning from the University of Illinois and a Master of Science in Transportation from MIT and has over 18 years of experience in the realm of transportation. A native of Minnesota, he has also worked in Boston and Chicago. He's a husband and father of three girls. Ryan is a city dweller, basketball junkie, news reader (538, Kottke, The Ringer, NYT...), sports enthusiast, politico, and traveler, in pursuit of livable places and social justice.



Jason Stanford

Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance



@NVAlliance



Jason Stanford is the **Executive Director** of the **Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance**. He oversees the day-to-day operations of the Alliance including long-term planning, transportation policy analysis, advocacy, and community outreach.

Before leading the Alliance, Jason spent six years and seven legislative sessions as the Chief of Staff to a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. During that time, he worked on numerous public policy issues including multimodal transportation, small business economic development, sustainable energy infrastructure, and housing affordability.

Jason is focused on applying his experience in the Virginia General Assembly to unite regional stakeholders and prioritize key transportation projects that will keep our region moving forward for decades to come.

Jason earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley.