

## PM 2: A New Transportation Paradigm for California?

*Magic Kingdom Ballroom 2*

### MODERATOR



#### **Steve Finnegan**

*Manager of Government and Community Affairs, Automobile Club of Southern California and Treasurer, Mobility 21*

Steve has over 25 years of experience in transportation, finance, business, and advocacy. His career includes work as a financial analyst with Bank of America, positions in planning and operations with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), serving as a management consultant, and leading government affairs, community relations and traffic safety for the Automobile Club of Southern California and affiliated AAA clubs providing service to 15 million members in 21 states.

At Metro, Steve was the planning director for the San Gabriel Valley, managed the County's \$12 billion, seven-year Transportation Improvement Program, and operated the nation's largest public motorist aid system. As a consultant, he completed management, performance and other studies for local governments and non-profit organizations.

Steve currently leads government affairs, community relations and public policy work for the Automobile Club of Southern California where he advocates for motorist and business issues, including improved mobility and traffic safety, effective and efficient use of transportation resources, adequate infrastructure for economic growth, and a healthy business environment.

Steve received a Master of Arts degree in urban planning from the University of California at Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Arts from Claremont McKenna College.

### PANELISTS



#### **Kome Ajise**

*Chief Deputy Director, Caltrans*

Kome Ajise is the Chief Deputy Director at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), responsible for overseeing the internal operations for approximately 19,000 employees and an annual budget that exceeds \$1.1 billion.

Kome began his career with in 1987 in District 6 (Fresno) and has served in various assignments at both the district and HQ offices. From February 2001, he served as the North Region Environmental Division Chief until April 2004 when he was appointed as the District 10 Director in Stockton, California. The eight-county District 10 covers the central Sierras, including four trans-sierra mountain passes, and northern San Joaquin Valley is a goods movement gateway from the valley into the Bay Area and north. Between the years 2009-2012, he served as Program Manager for the public private partnerships before being appointed Deputy Director of Planning and Modal Programs in 2012 in Sacramento.

Kome has a BS degree in Geography and Regional Planning from the University of Benin, Nigeria, and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from CSU Fresno.

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### **Darrell Johnson**

*CEO, Orange County Transportation Authority and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Darrell is the Chief Executive Officer of the Orange County Transportation Authority, leading an agency of 1,500 employees responsible for delivering projects, programs and services that improve mobility for the more than 3 million residents of Orange County.

Under the direction of OCTA's 17-member Board of Directors, Darrell is responsible for a \$1.02 billion annual budget and implementing the planning, financing and coordinating of Orange County's freeway, street and rail development as well as managing countywide bus services, commuter-rail services, paratransit service and operation of the 91 Express Lanes.

Since becoming CEO in early 2013, Darrell has focused on the early delivery of projects through Measure M – Orange County's voter-approved half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

Darrell has placed an emphasis on enhancing the efficiency and safety of OCTA bus and Metrolink commuter-rail operations that serve more than 1 million passengers each week. He's done this while ensuring OCTA remains a financially sound agency that safeguards taxpayer dollars.

Darrell represents OCTA on local, state and national issues related to transportation programs and policies and in 2012 he was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Public Transportation Association.

Darrell lives in Rancho Santa Margarita with his wife and two daughters.



### **Darren Kettle**

*Executive Director, Ventura County Transportation Commission and Vice Chair, Mobility 21*

Darren is the Executive Director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), a position he started in October 2007. The Commission consists of one elected official from each city in the County, the five County Supervisors, and two public members – yes, that means 17 bosses. In his service to VCTC, Darren leads a small but very capable staff with focused efforts on improved transportation planning to ensure the wise investment of transportation funds on a wide array of transportation projects programs, ranging from major highway and freeway projects to bicycle and pedestrian projects and bus and rail projects and operations. The Commission also serves commuters on a daily basis with a robust rideshare program and is Ventura County's intercity public transit operator, known as VCTC Intercity, serving nearly 1 million riders a year commuting within Ventura County and into Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties.

Darren has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Masters in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino. His professional career spans 25 years working for local government and regional transportation agencies. Prior to coming to VCTC he served in several senior positions with the county transportation agencies of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Darren and his wife Keri have been married for six years and when the "circus" is in town they have four kids with them in their home in Camarillo, California.

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### **Anne Mayer**

*Executive Director, Riverside County Transportation Commission and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Anne is the Executive Director for the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC). RCTC is the Riverside County's primary transportation planning and funding agency. She leads an organization with 45 employees (49 budgeted positions) and an annual budget exceeding \$902 million. RCTC also oversees the Measure A program approved by voters in 1988 and 2002. Prior to joining RCTC as Deputy Executive Director in May 2005, Anne was the District 8 Director for the California Department of Transportation. Anne, who holds a civil engineering degree from Michigan State University, is a Registered Civil Engineer.



### **Phillip A. Washington**

*CEO, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Phil, formerly of Denver's Regional Transportation District, was unanimously selected CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) by the Metro Board of Directors on March 12, 2015.

Phil comes to Los Angeles at a time when Metro has several major rail, plus highway projects, under construction – together representing the largest modern public works program in the United States.

In his position as Metro CEO, Phil oversees an agency that transports 1.4 million boarding passengers on an average weekday, riding on a fleet of 2,000 clean-air buses and six rail lines. Metro also is the lead transportation planning and programming agency for Los Angeles County. As such, it is a major construction agency that oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects.

Phil came to Los Angeles from Denver, where he was Assistant General Manager for nearly 10 years, prior to being named CEO in 2009.

In Denver, Phil implemented the FasTracks program, one of the largest voter-approved transit expansion programs in the country. He was responsible for a total agency budget appropriation of \$2.8 billion and managed more than \$5 billion in active transit expansion projects. Under his management, Denver's West Line Rail was completed under budget and eight months earlier than scheduled, and the award-winning Denver Union Station was completed five months ahead of schedule.

Also in Denver, Phil spearheaded implementation of the first-of-its-kind \$2.2 billion transit Public-Private Partnership (P3). His emphasis on measuring and managing agency performance led the agency to a nearly 90 percent on-time bus and rail service and 96 percent ADA on-time performance. In 2012, Washington's emphasis on safety training led to a 40 percent decrease in preventable bus accidents.

Phil has had numerous prestigious assignments and honors. He was appointed by the Mayor of Denver in 2007, to head the Host Transportation Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention. In 2009, he was appointed by Governor Bill Ritter to serve on the State of Colorado's Workforce Development Council to help the State create a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. Washington was named 2013-2014 Outstanding Public Transportation Manager of the Year in North America by the

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American Public Transportation Association (APTA). In 2014, he was selected by the editors of Engineering News-Record for special recognition as one of the Top 25 Newsmakers of 2013. He has testified before U.S. Congressional Transportation Subcommittees and was awarded a White House Transportation Innovators Champion of Change award in 2012.

Originally from the south side of Chicago – the Chicago Housing Projects of Altgeld Gardens – Phil is a 24-year active duty veteran of the United States Army where he held the rank of Command Sergeant Major, the highest non-commissioned officer rank an enlisted person can achieve. He is a disabled veteran and retired from active duty being awarded the prestigious Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM) for exceptional service to his country. He holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Columbia College and an M.A. in Management from Webster University. He is immediate past chair of APTA.



### **Dr. Raymond Wolfe**

*Executive Director, San Bernardino Associated Governments and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Dr. Wolfe is the Executive Director of the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), the Council of Governments and Regional Transportation Planning Agency for San Bernardino County. He joined SANBAG in April, 2012 after spending more than 20 years with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). At Caltrans, Dr. Wolfe served in many capacities, including Director for District 8, covering both

San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

As the Executive Director of SANBAG, he manages a Budget of \$485.6 million for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Dr. Wolfe oversees the delivery of planning, design and construction of freeway improvements, bridges and railroad crossings; operation and expansion of commuter rail and transit services countywide; management of air quality programs and freeway service patrol; implementation of alternative fuel and energy programs; and, advocating for countywide interests at both the State and Federal levels.

Dr. Wolfe received his Doctorate in Civil Engineering from the University of Southern California, a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California. He is a Registered Civil Engineer and a Registered Mechanical Engineer in the State of California.

Dr. Wolfe is married and has three young children.