

AM 3: Microtransit is Changing the Future *Diamond 7-8*

MODERATOR



Laura Bliss
Staff Writer, CityLab

Laura Bliss is a staff writer at CityLab, covering transportation and the environment. She also authors MapLab, a biweekly newsletter about maps. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, The Atlantic, Los Angeles magazine, and beyond. She tweets: @mslaurabliss.

PANELISTS



Karina Macias
Transportation Planner, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation

Karina Macias was born and raised in Los Angeles and is a transportation planner with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. At LADOT, Karina is responsible for modernizing local transportation policies, regulations, and processes in response to major changes and trends, including travelers' evolving mobility expectations and preferences, local goals for sustainable growth, and advancements in technology. To inform her LADOT's planning and policy analyses, Karina is managing the City's first public-private partnership to test the feasibility of an on-demand microtransit service for Downtown Los Angeles.

Previously, Karina overhauled the Department's transportation impact study guidelines for the first time in nearly a decade, has built a number of data analysis tools to correspond major policy changes, managed the LADOT People St program, educated and engaged Angelenos on active transportation infrastructure, and conducted network analyses to study connectivity. Karina earned her Bachelor's degree in urban studies from the University of California, Berkeley and her Master's degree in urban and regional transportation planning from the California Polytechnic University, Pomona.



Rani Narula-Woods
Senior Director, Special Projects, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Rani Narula-Woods is a seasoned program director with experience in the design and implementation of new mobility products and services. She serves as the Sr. Director, Special Projects, in LA Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation. In this capacity, she leads the agency's research, testing, and evaluation of demand-response technology with a focus on the integration of user experience (UX) and user interface (UI) design into transit service planning and operations. Under the leadership of LA Metro's Chief Innovation Officer, Rani has been tasked with the delivery and evaluation of a new on-demand service. The pilot project may offer the largest public deployment of demand-responsive service in the U.S. to-date.

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In 2016, Rani co-authored the Los Angeles County Shared Mobility Action Plan which set targets for the deployment of new technology enabled services and identified local, regional, and federal financing opportunities. The Plan is referred to as a national model for DOTs and transit agencies alike.

Rani previously established the Shared-Use Mobility Center's California programming and directed transportation research and funding strategies for the local federation of the AFL-CIO.



Lloyd Sullivan

Department Manager, Information Systems, Orange County Transportation Authority

Lloyd Sullivan is a Department Manager in Information Systems for the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and has over 20 years of transit experience. Over the past year, Lloyd has worked closely with OCTA's newly created Office of Innovation to improve mobility and accessibility in Orange County through partnerships with academic and private sector communities. One of the first major initiatives realized from the Office of Innovation is an on demand microtransit pilot branded as OC Flex.

Lloyd's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Bryant University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Hampshire and an Advanced Master Certificate in Project Management from the George Washington University. Lloyd is also certified by the Project Management Institute as a Project Management Professional (PMP).

Lloyd is actively involved with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and is a 2015 graduate of their Leadership program where he co-published a white paper titled, Collaborative Mobility.



John Urgo

Senior Transportation Planner, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

John Urgo is a senior transportation planner with AC Transit, where he brings experience in emerging mobility solutions and service planning to help the District provide safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation to all residents of the San Francisco East Bay. John is the project manager for AC Transit Flex, a bus service conceived to provide on-demand public transit to low density neighborhoods. John has a dual Master's of City Planning and Transportation Engineering degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a BA in environmental analysis from Pomona College.