PM 1: What’s the Big Deal with Big Data?

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MODERATOR

Anita Vandervalk
Associate Vice President, Iteris

Anita Vandervalk-Ostrander, PE, PMP serves as an Associate Vice President for Iteris' Transportation Systems division. She has extensive experience managing transportation programs and projects in the disciplines of planning, engineering, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and data management. She is nationally recognized for her research and application of transportation data governance across the country. She is Past Chair of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee, Past President of ITS Florida and currently serves as Vice President of Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) in Tallahassee, Florida. She has a BS in Civil Engineering from Queen’s University in Ontario Canada.

PANELISTS

Darin Chidsey
Interim Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments

Darin Chidsey is currently serving as the Interim Executive Director for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 million residents. Darin has been at SCAG for more than 13 years, and previously served as the Chief Operating Officer as well as the Director of Strategy, Policy and Public Affairs.

Darin holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Southern California’s Marshall School of Business and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Energy Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. He is an alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government’s Senior Executive in State and Local Government program and was a fellow in the Southern California Leadership Network’s California Connections and Leadership Southern California programs.

Barbara Cohn
Chief Data Officer, Colorado Department of Transportation

Barbara Cohn is the Chief Data Officer at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). A leader in Open Data, and an expert in public policy, Barbara has held leadership roles in both state and local government. Barbara previously served as New York State’s first Chief Data Officer (CDO). In 2016, Barbara was recognized as one of Government Technology Magazine’s Top 25 Doers, Dreamers & Drivers. She has an extensive background in advancing the utilization of data as a strategic asset with the objective of turning raw data into actionable knowledge; maximizing business value and insight; cultivating collaboration between business and IT within and across organizations; developing governance policies and
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standards; and facilitating interoperability and analytics. As New York State CDO, Barbara was the chief architect of New York State’s acclaimed open data portal, Open NY, and principal drafter of the NYS Open Data Handbook and the NYS Dataset Submission Guide. Prior to serving as NYS Chief Data Officer, Barbara worked for NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg where she advanced implementation of HHS Connect, a cutting-edge data sharing initiative breaking down information silos to optimize client care and outcomes. HHS Connect transformed the delivery of health and human services by providing a holistic/client centric approach to the delivery of care. Barbara is the author of the Law Journal article, Data Governance: A Quality Imperative in the Era of Big Data, Open Data, and Beyond, (Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Winter 2015), and co-author of Legal Issues for Integrated Delivery Systems (IDS) Use: Finding a Way Forward, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy, Expert Panel Report, 2017. Barbara holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Union College in Schenectady, New York, and a Juris Doctor degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School.

Therese McMillan
Chief Planning Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Therese McMillan assumed the position of Chief Planning Officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“LA Metro”) in April 2016. In that capacity, she provides executive leadership for Metro’s planning, grant funding and real estate functions. Key responsibilities include implementing the agency’s “Measure M” transportation sales tax Ordinance; developing the countywide long range transportation plan; strategic fund program administration; and focused initiatives in transportation equity, “active transportation” planning and projects, and Metro’s contributions to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Prior to joining LA Metro, Therese served as the Acting Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation. During her almost seven years at FTA, McMillan led reforms in transit safety, emergency response and resiliency investment; capital planning and oversight, and civil rights program development and oversight, including Title VI and ADA.

Before her career at FTA, Therese was Deputy Executive Director of Policy at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the regional planning and funding agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay area. During her time with MTC, Therese was an instructor in transportation funding and finance at the Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State University. She earned her B.S. degree in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning at UC Davis, and joint Master’s degrees in City and Regional Planning, and Civil Engineering Science at UC Berkeley.

Steve Smith
Director of Planning, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority

Steve Smith serves as the Director of Planning for the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority. The group he oversees provides multi-modal planning, modeling and Geographic Information System (GIS) support for all SBCTA departments. In his 15 years with SBCTA, Steve has led the development of the Measure I Strategic Plan, the
Countywide Transportation Plan, and technology-focused initiatives positioning SBCTA and its partner agencies to take advantage of emerging tools for multi-modal transportation management. Prior to joining SBCTA, Steve spent 28 years in the private sector focusing on transportation planning, traffic operations and research.

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