PM 4: Positions Available: 50,000 Transportation Jobs Open Now!
Diamond 9-10

MODERATOR

Paul Granillo
*President & CEO, Inland Empire Economic Partnership and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Paul Granillo became President and CEO of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership in 2010. He serves on the board of Mobility 21, a coalition that pursues regional solutions to transportation challenges. Additionally, Paul serves on the Southern California Association of Governments Global Land Use and Economics Committee, the Board of Directors for The Community Foundation serving Riverside and San Bernardino counties, Cal State San Bernardino’s Foundation Board, the Leonard Transportation Center Advisory Board, Regional Economic Alliance Leaders of California, KVCR Foundation Board, Campaign for College Opportunity Board, Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation, and the California Stewardship Network Board.

A native of the Inland Empire, Paul was born and raised in Redlands. He received a B.A. from California State University San Bernardino, a Master of Divinity from St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo and a Licentiate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

PANELISTS

Mike Aparicio
*Executive Vice President, Skanska*

Mike has 38 years of experience in transit and heavy civil construction industry. He has significant large-scale design-build experience, including the management of more than $5 billion in design-build projects since 1990. Mike has an excellent track record for successfully managing contractor, designer, subcontractor and owner interests on design-build light rail transit contracts.

He is especially skilled at developing and managing effective third party coordination programs, and has worked successfully with the California Public Utilities Commission, the city of Los Angeles, Caltrans and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). He is experienced at working with diverse stakeholder groups and has successfully navigated through numerous community, business, political, aesthetic, and third-party dynamics and challenges. Mike has a successful track record of building team approaches and consensus as well as a solid reputation for excellence in the design-build industry.
Michael Blomquist
*Toll Program Director, Riverside County Transportation Commission*

Michael Blomquist is RCTC’s Toll Program Director, having been with the agency since 2007. He has over 26 years in the transportation infrastructure field.

Michael is responsible for the toll program which currently features the development from planning through construction of two freeway corridors on State Route 91 and Interstate 15 at a cost of $2 billion, including 25 miles of tolled Express Lanes. Responsibilities also include managing the operations and maintenance of these express lane facilities and the planning of future RCTC toll facilities. Prior to his public sector role at RCTC, Michael worked in the consulting engineering arena in various roles on large freeway and design-build projects in California, Utah and Oregon.

Michael has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters Degree in Business and is a registered professional engineer in the State of California.

Michael is a husband and father of two teenagers and enjoys snow skiing, hiking, home improvement projects, and is a home brewer.

John Hakel
*Executive Director, Southern California Partnership for Jobs and Advisory Board Member, Mobility 21*

John Hakel is the Executive Director at Southern California Partnership for Jobs, a partnership comprised of 2750 constructions firms who employ more than 90,000 union workers in the 12 counties of Southern California. Their mission is to engage elected officials and educate the public on the need for continued infrastructure funding creating thousands of career constructions jobs in our communities.

He is a member of the Southern California Associations of Governments; Inland Empire Economic Partnership; Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce; Orange County Business Council; Advisory Board Member of Mobility 21 and is currently serving on the Los Angeles Community College District Oversight Committee. Since 2016, John has established personal working relationships with the California Transportation Commission, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and Riverside County Transportation Commission. He was among the top leaders in the local passage of Measure M (LA County), which created 485,000 jobs and decades of work for the construction industry. He was involved with the passage of SB1, the statewide transportation initiative to create 5.2 billion dollars of infrastructure improvements that will provide construction careers for our men and women throughout California for over the next 10 years.

Under John’s leadership, Southern California Partnership for Jobs has grown from a newly established organization to a name that elected officials and the top leaders in the infrastructure world have come to recognize and want to be involved with.
John lives in Downey with his beloved wife Gwen. He has 2 children; Ryan Hakel and his wife Krissy, his first granddaughter Sawyer, and daughter Lauren and her husband John Chambers. When not working, you can find John walking his dogs Trooper and Scout or on the golf course enjoying a good cigar. John’s sense of humor is his trademark quality, one in which anyone who has met him can testify to!

Maggie McJilton
Executive Director, Human Resources and Organizational Development, Orange County Transportation Authority

Maggie McJilton is the Executive Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development for OCTA, where she leads professionals in Health, Safety and Environmental Compliance, Human Resources, Employee and Labor Relations, Learning and Development and Risk Management.

Maggie completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and received a Master's in Human Resources and Organizational Development from the University of San Francisco. She also holds a Six Sigma Black Belt certification.

For over 25 years, Maggie has specialized in Human Resources, safety and providing leadership in the transportation industries including cargo and passenger modes. Focused on developing the leaders of tomorrow, Maggie has implemented programs that are geared towards ensuring employees have a successful career in transportation. Maggie also holds memberships with the Society for Human Resource Management and the Human Capital Institute and is a Board Member for the Lexington Foundation dedicated to raising money for public schools.

Stephanie Wiggins
Deputy CEO, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Stephanie Wiggins, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Metro, assists the Chief Executive Officer in providing overall leadership of Metro in formulating and achieving strategic public transportation objectives. With more than 24 years of experience in transportation, Stephanie plays an integral part in making it easier for residents of Los Angeles County to get from A to B. She helps to lead Metro on local, state and national issues related to transportation programs and policies. Stephanie also plays a key role as the lead coordinator for the newly formed Women and Girls Governing Council (WGGC) established by Metro CEO Phil Washington. The WGGC serves to impact, advance, and empower women and girls in LA County by applying a gender lens in three areas: Metro as an employer, Metro as a service provider, and Metro as a catalyst for economic development.

Stephanie has responsibility for overseeing the management activities for the following departments: Congestion Reduction, Human Capital & Development, Management and Audit Services, Systems Security & Law Enforcement, and Vendor/Contract Management.
Previously, Stephanie served as the Executive Director of Vendor/Contract Management for Metro, where she implemented procurement streamlining initiatives and greatly expanded Metro’s utilization of small and historically underutilized businesses. Prior to that role, Stephanie was the Executive Officer and Project Director of the Congestion Reduction/ExpressLanes Program for Metro where she launched the first high occupancy toll lanes in LA County, the I-10 and I-110 Express Lanes, which improved travel times and travel reliability on two of the County’s most congested freeway corridors. Prior to Metro, she served as Regional Programs Director for the Riverside County Transportation Commission and oversaw transit, commuter rail, rideshare, goods movement and rail capital projects.

Her achievements have resulted in being highly regarded in the areas of innovation, change agent, and collaboration among both the public and private sector. She is the recipient of many awards including COMTO’s prestigious 2018 Women Who Move the Nation Award. Stephanie serves on the Board of the American Public Transportation Association and is the founding president of the Inland Empire Chapter of WTS.

Stephanie is a member of:
- Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)
- Transportation Research Board (TRB)-Board of Directors
- TRB Research, Technology Coordinating Committee and Congestion Pricing Committee