

## PM 1: Rising Above the Fray: 2020 State and Federal Priorities *Magic Kingdom 1*

### MODERATOR



#### **Stephen Finnegan**

*Manager, Public Affairs and Government Relations, Automobile Club of Southern California and Immediate Past Chair, Mobility 21*

Stephen Finnegan leads public affairs, government relations, media communications, community programs, and traffic safety efforts for the Automobile Club of Southern California (AAA). He advocates for motorist and business issues, including improved traffic safety and mobility, effective and efficient use of transportation resources, adequate infrastructure for economic growth, and a healthy business environment.

Steve has experience in transportation, finance, business and advocacy. His career includes work as a financial analyst with Bank of America, leadership positions in planning and operations with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and serving as a management consultant to public agencies and nonprofit organizations.

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**

*Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Kome Ajise is the new executive director of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). He has three decades of experience in regional planning and transportation, most recently as the Director of Planning at SCAG. Prior to working at SCAG, Kome was the Chief Deputy Director at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), where he was responsible for internal operations, overseeing more than 18,000 employees and a budget in excess of \$1.1 billion. Previously, he was Caltrans' Deputy Director of Planning and Modal Programs and oversaw the Aeronautics, Mass Transportation, Rail, Transportation Planning, Local Assistance, and Research Innovation and System Information Divisions. Kome has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography and Regional Planning from the University of Benin, Nigeria and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from California State University, Fresno.

## PM 1: Rising Above the Fray: 2020 State and Federal Priorities

*Magic Kingdom 1*



### **Darrell Johnson**

*CEO, Orange County Transportation Authority and Treasurer, Mobility 21*

Darrell Johnson is the Chief Executive Officer of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), leading an agency of 1,400 employees responsible for delivering projects, programs and services that improve mobility for more than 3 million county residents.

Under the direction of OCTA's 17-member Board of Directors, Darrell is responsible for a more than \$1.2 billion annual budget, 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 2013, Darrell has focused on utilizing innovative financing methods to maximize Measure M, Orange County's voter-approved half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

By 2020, more than \$3 billion in OCTA projects will be under construction, including the \$1.9 billion I-405 Improvement Project and 405 Express Lanes, the largest ever undertaken by the agency, and the OC Streetcar, Orange County's first modern streetcar.

In addition, Darrell is reinventing Orange County's transit system by delivering services and programs that improve efficiency, enhance the passenger experience and better match market demands. This effort includes an overhaul of the bus system, adding community-based transit services, exploring innovative technology solutions, private-sector partnerships and piloting on-demand transportation projects.

Darrell represents OCTA on local, state and national policy issues related to successfully planning, financing and delivering transportation programs.

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



### **Anne Mayer**

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

As the Executive Director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), Anne Mayer leads a staff of 54 with an annual budget of \$878 million. RCTC is the regional transportation agency for Riverside County, the nation's tenth most populous county with a geography roughly the size of New Jersey. Under Anne's leadership, RCTC has delivered on promises made to the voters of Riverside County's Measure A half-cent sales tax measure and ensured that transportation projects and programs support quality of life and the economy in Riverside County. Anne spearheaded the initiation of inland Southern California's first innovative finance and innovative project delivery efforts, which are coming to fruition on State Route 91 and Interstate 15. She has also led the successful delivery of the first FTA Small Starts project in the

## PM 1: Rising Above the Fray: 2020 State and Federal Priorities

### *Magic Kingdom 1*

region: The Perris Valley Line Metrolink Extension, a historic expansion of commuter rail service in Southern California.

Anne is past chairwoman and current board member of the Self-Help Counties Coalition, and Mobility 21, Southern California's public-private transportation advocacy coalition. She is the recipient of the WTS-Inland Empire Chapter's Woman of the Year award and the Athena of Riverside women's leadership award, in addition to numerous other recognitions.

Prior to joining RCTC in 2005, Anne was the Caltrans District 8 Director where she supervised the operations, maintenance and engineering of the largest territory of any Caltrans district in California. Anne is a graduate of Michigan State University and is a Registered Civil Engineer with over 35 years of service in the transportation profession.



### **Phillip A. Washington**

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

Phillip A. Washington was unanimously selected CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) by the Metro Board of Directors on March 12, 2015.

As Metro CEO, Phil manages a total balanced budget of \$7.2 billion for FY20, is responsible for overseeing \$18+ billion in capital projects, and provides oversight of an agency with nearly 11,000 employees that transports 1.2 million boarding passengers daily riding on a fleet of 2,000 clean-air buses and six rail lines. LA Metro is the lead transportation planning, programming and financing agency for LA County. As such, it is a major construction agency that oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related infrastructure projects – together representing the largest modern public works program in North America.

Phil was a key leader in the 2016 successful effort to pass a new half-cent sales tax in Los Angeles County, which garnered 71.15 percent voter approval. Measure M will allow Metro to build 40 major highway and transit projects over the next 40 years, create 778,000 jobs and provide \$133.3 billion in economic impact for the region.

Phil came to Los Angeles from Denver where he served as the CEO of Denver Regional Transportation District since 2009, after serving as assistant general manager of RTD for nearly 10 years before being named CEO.

In Denver, Phil led and implemented the FasTracks program, one of the largest voter-approved transportation expansion programs in the country. Under his leadership, Denver's WestCorridor Rail Line project was completed under budget and eight months earlier than scheduled, and the award-winning Denver Union Station project was completed five months early and is realizing tremendous revenue/value capture from the surrounding development.

Also, in Denver, Phil implemented the first and only \$2.2 billion transit public-private partnership (P3), which is still in operation. His emphasis on measuring and managing agency performance led to a nearly 90 percent on-time bus and rail service, and 96 percent ADA on-time performance.

## **PM 1: Rising Above the Fray: 2020 State and Federal Priorities**

*Magic Kingdom 1*

Phil has received numerous prestigious assignments and honors. In 2019, he testified before the U.S. Congressional Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In 2018, he was awarded the Honorable Ray LaHood Award (former U.S. Secretary of Transportation) by the Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) for his outstanding contribution in promoting opportunities to advance and advocate for women in the transportation industry. In 2017, he was awarded the Judge Harry Pregerson Public Service Award for his service to U.S. military veterans. In 2016, he was chosen by the National Safety Council as one of the CEOs Who “Get It” – an honor bestowed on CEOs who demonstrate leadership in safety at the highest levels. In 2014, he was selected by the editors of *Engineering News-Record* as one of the Top 25 Newsmakers of 2013. Phil was named 2013-2014 Outstanding Public Transportation CEO of the Year in North America by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). In 2012, he was awarded a White House Transportation Innovators Champion of Change Award. In 2009, he was appointed by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter to serve on the State of Colorado’s Workforce Development Council helping the state create a 21st century workforce. In 2007, he was appointed by the mayor of Denver to head the Host Transportation Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

Originally from the South Side of Chicago – the Chicago housing projects of Altgeld Gardens – Phil is a 24-year veteran of the United States Army, where he held the rank of Command Sergeant Major, the highest non-commissioned officer ranks an enlisted soldier can achieve. He retired from active duty, as a disabled veteran and was awarded the prestigious Defense Superior Service Medal for exceptional service to his country. He holds a B.A. in Business from Columbia College, an M.A. in Management from Webster University, and is a graduate of the Harvard University Kennedy School for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. He is also a past chair of APTA.