

MODERATOR



Janet R. Gonzalez

Transportation Director of Consulting Services, HDR

As HDR's Transportation Director of Consulting Services, Janet oversees the development and growth of HDR's consulting service teams. She was most recently responsible for HDR's Sustainable Transport practice across a spectrum of infrastructure services and was especially focused on advancing sustainability initiatives and helping clients address challenges surrounding infrastructure vulnerability and resiliency.

Janet's background provides for a diverse approach to resilient development and implementation of community planning, land use, and transportation projects for federal, state, local, private and non-for-profit clients. Her experience includes transportation infrastructure program management, early planning and design oversight, and she frequently leads the dialogue to help clients define their sustainability goals while building on organizational programs and supporting stakeholder participation in program implementation.

Janet currently chairs APTA's Sustainability Committee, and is a member of the APTA Board of Directors. Earlier in 2020, she accepted the honor of sitting on the APTA COVID-19 Recovery and Restoration Task Force, focused on leading the long-term planning recommendations around funding, financing, and economics efforts for a long-term resilient public transport future.

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. He has three decades of experience in regional planning and transportation, most recently serving 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 managing 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.



James E. Davis
Chief Deputy Director, Caltrans

Governor Gavin Newsom named Jim Davis Chief Deputy Director of Caltrans in September 2019. James oversees all operations comprising 21,000 employees, a \$15.5 billion budget, the massive SB 1 infrastructure program, major efficiency efforts, and leadership development.

A Caltrans veteran of 32 years, James was previously Special Advisor to the Caltrans Director, and from 2013 to 2018, he served as Division Chief of Project Management & Capital Outlay Support managing half of Caltrans operations. This immersed him in the policy and budget aspects of project delivery, where he oversaw innovative new project estimating and delivery efficiencies. His teams managed 3,200 capital projects worth more than \$40 billion and took 70 Caltrans buildings solar through the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program.

His project delivery expertise made him a natural to oversee and coordinate all aspects of California's landmark Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act (SB 1). Passed in 2017, SB 1 invests an additional \$5 billion annually to fix state roads, highways and bridges and puts more dollars toward mass transit and safety. By 2027, the program is expected to repair or replace more than 17,000 lane miles of pavement, 500 bridges, 55,000 culverts, and 7,700 traffic operating systems. In its first fiscal year, the program achieved \$133 million in new cost and efficiency savings and is on track to exceed that this year.

James possesses a passion for developing organizational leaders and expert problem-solvers, especially as the transportation industry enters one of its most transformative eras. He has championed and advanced internal leadership training curriculum and mentored many current Caltrans leaders. His own professional development included exchanges with top corporations such as Cisco, Disney and Intel, and foreign delegations from Japan, South Korea, Sweden and Taiwan.

In addition, James has served as District 4 Director for the Bay Area and sat on many regional, state and national transportation boards and committees. This included serving as Vice Chair of AASHTO's Project Management Technical Committee from 2016 to 2018.

He graduated in 1988 from the University of Kansas with a B.S. in civil engineering. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Project Management Institute and WTS International.

He has also served multiple years as president, board member, coach and volunteer for youth sports in Davis, California. He and his wife Lori have two children.



Patrick Harder

Chair, Infrastructure Practice Group, Nossaman LLP

Patrick Harder, chair of Nossaman's Infrastructure Group, is widely known for leadership in the field of public-private partnerships (P3s) and other innovative project delivery methods such as design-build and construction manager at-risk. Public agencies actively seek his guidance in procuring some of the largest, most important projects in the country. Clients have confidence that Patrick can mitigate risks, solve problems and advance their projects smoothly and successfully – often through cutting-edge approaches. For example, he advised the Los Angeles World Airports to secure the first automated people mover procured through an availability payment public-private partnership delivery model. He is Chambers-rated nationally and globally in the field of P3s and AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Before joining the firm, he served as general counsel and executive manager for two of the world's largest construction and engineering firms, both based in Japan. He also worked as a legal and business advisor on dozens of public and private construction and infrastructure projects around the world including the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – two of the world's tallest buildings.



Katie Sloan

Director of eMobility, Southern California Edison

Katie Sloan is director of eMobility and Building Electrification at SCE, one of the nation's largest electric utilities. Katie is responsible for SCE's vehicle and building electrification programs and services, with a planned budget of over \$1 Billion. The team's mission is to help California get 7 million EVs on the road and convert one-third of space and water heating in buildings by 2030. Her team includes three groups: strategy & program development, business development & partnerships, and operations.

Previously, Katie held roles of increasing responsibility at SCE & Edison International focusing on clean energy policy, strategy, and analysis. She has also worked at First Solar, a large solar panel manufacturer, developing global public policy.

Katie was named one of "40 under 40" people to watch by Pasadena Magazine and a Woman of Achievement by the San Gabriel Valley YWCA for her work at SCE and non-profits. Katie currently serves on the board of CALSTART, with the mission to build a high-tech clean-transportation industry that creates jobs, cuts air pollution and oil imports and curbs climate change. She also serves on the board of Beyond the Block, a non-profit focused on expanding global awareness and increasing intellectual curiosity of at-risk youth.

Katie holds a master's degree in regulatory economics and bachelor's degree in business administration from New Mexico State University.