

## **CEO ROUNDTABLE: EQUITY AND RECOVERY**

### **MODERATOR**



**Charles T. Brown, MPA, CPD, LCI**

*Senior Researcher, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center and Adjunct Professor, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey*

Charles T. Brown, MPA is one of the nation's leading voices in transportation equity and justice. He is a senior researcher with the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) and adjunct professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, both at Rutgers University. He also serves as a 2020 Fellow within the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication in

Partnership with The OpEd Project.

With more than 15 years of public and private sector, military, and academic experience, he has gained international attention for helping to create safe, healthy and livable communities. His recent and notable contributions through research and practice include understanding barriers to biking and walking for women and minorities; analyzing the impact of crime on walking frequency and propensity; centering and prioritizing equity in transportation planning and decision-making; analyzing barriers to accessing parks and open spaces; and, serving as an instructor for the Smart Growth America (SGA), National Transit Institute (NTI), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and CDC's Walkability Action Institute.

He serves as a member of the Global Safety Advisory Board at Lime (micromobility), member of the Board of Directors with America Walks, and member of the Franklin Township Planning Board (NJ). He is also a member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Pedestrian Safety Committee, Bicycle Transportation Committee. His work has been published in international journals and featured by various national outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Vice and CityLab. He is a military veteran and a recipient of the Mississippi Commendation Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

### **PANELISTS**

**Closing General Session**  
*Friday, September 18, 2020 (10:00 AM to 11:00 AM)*



**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.



**Mark Baza**

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

In May 2010, Mark Baza was appointed as the Executive Director of the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC). ICTC is the Regional Transportation Planning and Transit Agency for Imperial County. ICTC was established as a County Transportation Commission in 2009 under Senate Bill 607 (Ducheny) and became a new agency effective January 1, 2010. Under the direction of the Commission, Mark has led the development of the new agency's organizational structure, staffing and work programs. ICTC is one of six County Transportation Commissions within the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region.

Additionally, ICTC administers the County's "Measure D" half-cent sales tax program. As one of twenty-four "Self Help Counties" in California, ICTC distributes the lion's share of the Measure D funds to each of the seven cities and County of Imperial to: complete local road pavement rehabilitation projects, improve pedestrian and bicycle access, improve access as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and local road operational improvements. The Measure D program also provides local contributions to state highway and transit projects.

Mark has 29 years of experience in the transportation planning and engineering industry. Prior to his position at ICTC, Mark began his career with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 11 for over 21 years.

Mark earned a bachelor's degree in urban & rural planning studies from the University of California, San Diego and completed a post-graduate certificate program in transportation planning for air quality at the University of California, Riverside.

**Closing General Session**  
*Friday, September 18, 2020 (10:00 AM to 11:00 AM)*



**Hasan Ikhata**

*Executive Director, San Diego Association of Governments and  
Advisory Board Member, Mobility 21*

Considered one of the preeminent transportation planning experts in the nation, Hasan Ikhata is the Executive Director of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). SANDAG is the leading research, planning, and transportation agency for the San Diego region. Hasan has more than 30 years of experience in the arena of Transportation Planning in the Southern California Region, in both the private and public sector.

As Executive Director of SANDAG, Hasan directs day-to-day operations of the agency and implements policies set by its governing board. In addition, he is the Chief Executive Officer of the SANDAG Service Bureau, the nonprofit public benefit corporation chartered by SANDAG.

Hasan holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in civil and industrial engineering from Zaporozhye University in the former Soviet Union, a master's degree in civil engineering from UCLA, and a PhD Candidacy in urban planning and transportation from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Hasan is an adjunct professor in the business school at California State University, Northridge.

Prior to joining SANDAG in 2018, Hasan worked for Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).



**Darrell E. Johnson**

*CEO, Orange County Transportation Authority and Vice Chairman,  
Mobility 21*

Darrell E. Johnson is the Chief Executive Officer of the Orange County Transportation Authority, 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 \$1.4 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.

More than \$3 billion in OCTA projects are 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.

**Closing General Session**  
*Friday, September 18, 2020 (10:00 AM to 11:00 AM)*

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.



**Darren Kettle**

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

Darren is the Executive Director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), a position he started in October 2007. The Commission consists of one elected official from each city in the County, the five County Supervisors, and two public members – yes, that means 17 bosses. In his service to VCTC, Darren leads a small but very capable team of transportation professionals focused on improving transportation planning and making data driven decisions to ensure the smart investment of transportation funds on transportation projects, ranging from freeway and highway projects to bicycle and pedestrian projects and bus and rail projects. The Commission also operates Ventura County's intercity public transit system, known as VCTC Intercity, serving public transit riders commuting within Ventura County and into Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties.

Darren has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, San Bernardino. His professional career spans 30 years working for local government and regional transportation agencies. Prior to coming to VCTC he served in several senior positions with the county transportation agencies of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Darren and his wife Keri have been married for 10 years and when the "circus" is in town they have four kids with them in their home in Camarillo, California.

**Closing General Session**  
*Friday, September 18, 2020 (10:00 AM to 11:00 AM)*



**Anne Mayer**

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

As the Executive Director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, Anne Mayer leads a staff of 54 with an annual budget of \$1.3 billion. 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 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 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. 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.



**Phillip A. Washington**

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

As Metro's CEO, Phil manages a balanced budget in excess of \$7 billion, is responsible for overseeing between \$18- \$20 billion in capital projects, and provides oversight of an agency with 11,000 employees that transports 1.2 million boarding passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean-air buses and six rail lines. 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 is also engaged and partnering in all facets of transportation and infrastructure in LA County, including aviation, goods movement, freight/railroads, water, public works, housing and transit-oriented communities (TOCs).

Phil was a key leader in the 2016 successful effort to pass Measure M, a half-cent sales tax in LA County (the most populated county in the United States), which garnered 71.15% 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. Measure M has no sunset and will only end if voters vote to end it. Phil came to Los Angeles from Denver, where he served as the CEO of Denver Regional Transportation District between

**Closing General Session**  
*Friday, September 18, 2020 (10:00 AM to 11:00 AM)*

2009 and 2015. He was previously the 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 West Corridor 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 now realizing tremendous revenue and value capture from the surrounding development. Also in Denver, Phil implemented the nation's first and only \$2.2 billion transit public-private partnership (P3), which opened in 2016 and is in operation and exceeding ridership estimates. His emphasis on measuring and managing agency performance led to 90%+ on-time bus and rail service and 96% ADA on-time performance.

Phil has received numerous prestigious assignments and honors. In 2019, he testified before the full U.S. Congressional Transportation and Infrastructure committee, was honored with the Eddy Award for Outstanding Leadership in Economic development and was awarded the prestigious CORO Crystal Eagle Award for a "Legacy of Leadership." In 2018, he was awarded the Honorable Ray LaHood Award (former U.S. Secretary of Transportation) by the national 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 presented with the Judge Harry Pregerson Public Service Award for his service to U.S. military veterans and was honored with the Norman Mineta Award for exceptional leadership in the transportation industry.

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 also named 2013-2014 Outstanding Public Transportation CEO of the Year in North America by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). In 2012, President Obama named him a White House Transportation Innovators Champion of Change.

In 2009, he was appointed by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter to serve on the State of Colorado's Workforce Development Council to help the state create a 21st century workforce. And, 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 rank an enlisted soldier can achieve. He retired from active duty, is 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 and a former member of the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board and the Eno Center for Transportation.

**Closing General Session**  
*Friday, September 18, 2020 (10:00 AM to 11:00 AM)*



**Stephanie N. Wiggins**  
*CEO, Metrolink and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Stephanie Wiggins was named chief executive officer of Metrolink by a unanimous vote of the board of directors in December 2018. Stephanie assumed leadership in January 2019 and leads the 258-employee strong commuter railroad with a budget of \$793 million.

As CEO, Stephanie directs an agency that operates a commuter rail network on seven routes across a six-county, 538 route-mile system. Stephanie has held high-level positions at three of the five-member agencies that comprise Metrolink and is well-known as a customer-focused leader who finds solutions from a regional perspective.

Stephanie earned a Master of Business Administration from the USC Marshall School of Business in 2007. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration from Whittier College in 1992.

Stephanie is the founding president of the Inland Empire Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). She is the recipient of many awards including the WTS Orange County Chapter's 2019 Woman of the Year Award and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials 2018 Women Who Move the Nation Award. She is a Board Member of the Los Angeles Chapter of Friends of the Children, the LA Division of the American Heart Association, the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the American Public Transportation Foundation, the Los Angeles Speech & Language Therapy Center, and an Advisory Board Member for the UCLA Lewis Center.



**Dr. Raymond Wolfe**  
*Executive Director, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and Immediate Past Chair, Mobility 21*

Dr. Raymond Wolfe is the Executive Director of the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority. He joined SBCTA in April 2012 after spending more than 20 years with Caltrans. At Caltrans, Dr. Wolfe served in many capacities, including Director for District 8, covering both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Currently, Dr. Wolfe manages a budget of nearly \$1 billion dollars and oversees the delivery of planning, design, and construction of freeway improvements, bridges, and railroad crossings; expansion of commuter rail and transit services countywide; management of air quality programs and freeway service patrol; implementation of alternative fuel and energy programs; and advocating for countywide interests at both the state and federal levels.

Dr. Wolfe received his Doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Southern California, a Master of Science in civil engineering from the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, and a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California. He is a Registered Civil Engineer and a Registered Mechanical Engineer in California.

## **Closing General Session**

*Friday, September 18, 2020 (10:00 AM to 11:00 AM)*

In 2019, Dr. Wolfe was recognized by USC's Department of Civil Engineering with the Distinguished Alumni Award. He has twice been awarded the prestigious Secretary Ray LaHood Award by WTS: once in 2016 by the WTS-Inland Empire Chapter, and again in 2018 by the WTSOrange County Chapter.