

## **MODERATOR**



**Sarah L. Catz**

*Researcher, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Irvine and Advisory Board Member, Mobility 21*

Sarah L. Catz is a Researcher in the Institute of Transportation Studies at University of California, Irvine as well as a lecturer. She joined the Mobility 21 Advisory Board in 2015.

For over two decades, Sarah has been a leading transportation/ infrastructure and public policy expert and has played a key role in critical transportation and infrastructure projects, both at the local and state levels. She has served as the state's acting Deputy Secretary of Transportation as well as the project manager for The Commission on Building for the 21st Century, a California infrastructure commission that included projects within water, transportation, housing, facilities and technology areas. While with the state of California, Sarah also helped secure state funding for critical infrastructure projects, including major rail projects in Southern California.

Sarah spent 10 years on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Transportation Authority and served as Chairman of the Board and was a founding member and two-term chairperson of the Board of Directors of Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink). Sarah is a past chair of the Orange County Forum, a nonpartisan current affairs organization convening the Orange County civic community to exchange ideas and discuss public policy issues with distinguished speakers and national leaders. She is also a Senior Partner at Vectis Strategies.

Sarah has been recognized by The League of Women Voters of Orange County with the "OC Woman of Achievement" Award and by OC Metro Magazine as one of "10 Women Making a Difference in Orange County." Additionally, Sarah is the recipient of the California Transportation Foundation Tranny Award for "Citizen of the Year" and has been named "Woman of the Year" three times by the Orange County Chapter of WTS.

Sarah received her law degree from the University of Santa Clara and her bachelor's degree from George Washington University.

## **PANELISTS**



**Conan Cheung**

*Chief Operations Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority*

Conan Cheung serves as Metro's Chief Operations Officer. In this capacity, he is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the Metro bus and rail system, ExpressLanes, Metro Micro and bikeshare. He also oversees capital project start up, resource and service planning, scheduling, ITS and Highway programs. Conan previously served as the Executive Officer of Finance and Budget and the Senior Executive Officer of Service Development, Scheduling, and Analysis. Prior to Metro, he was the Director of Planning and Scheduling with San Diego Metropolitan Transit System and also worked in the

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San Francisco Bay Area for various transportation planning organizations. Conan received a Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning and Public Administration from the University of Southern California (USC), and a Master of Arts in Urban Planning from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



**Johnny Dunning Jr.**

*Chief Operating Officer, Orange County Transportation Authority*

Johnny Dunning, Jr is a career transit professional with over 25 years of experience in transit system planning and operations at small and large multimodal properties. He joined the OCTA team in February 2017. As the Chief Operating Officer and a bus rider, Johnny is responsible for leading OCTA's operations teams, including bus, rail (commuter and streetcar), paratransit, microtransit, mobility management and vehicle and facilities

maintenance.

Prior to arriving at OCTA, he served as the Manager of Service Implementation with the North County Transit District (NCTD) and as the Senior Director of Transit System Planning with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA).

Johnny's experience includes overseeing expansion plans, service planning and scheduling for bus and rail services, policy development, community outreach/engagement, special projects, and contract oversight of ADA paratransit service. He holds advanced degrees in Civil Engineering and City Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia where he also gained his appreciation for public transportation as transit-dependent student.



**Darren Kettle**

*Chief Executive Officer, Metrolink and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Darren Kettle is the Chief Executive Officer of Metrolink, Southern California's regional passenger rail provider that offers a safe, easy, affordable, and stress-free alternative to car travel for the more than 18 million residents of the six-county mega-region. He became the Metrolink CEO in September 2021.

Darren has more than 30 years of experience with local and regional government agencies. Before joining Metrolink, Darren was the Executive Director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) for 14 years. Previously, Darren was with the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), now the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, from 2000 through 2007. Early in his SANBAG tenure, Darren was Director of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs for both SANBAG and the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC).

Darren has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master's in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino.



**Kristin Warsinski**

*Chief Executive Officer, Riverside Transit Agency*

Kristin Warsinski is the CEO of RTA, a role she has held since December 2021. With over thirteen years of experience in the public transit industry. Kristin, a Riverside County native, has made significant contributions to RTA's growth and success. As the Director of Planning, she oversaw the development of routes, schedules, and short-range transit plans, as well as securing grants from federal, state, and local sources.

Under Kristin's leadership, RTA has embarked on ambitious projects, including the construction of a transit hub in Riverside, the launch of microtransit service in San Jacinto and Hemet, and the transition to a zero-emission bus fleet. Her expertise was crucial in spearheading RTA's Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan and ensuring the Agency's competitive edge in securing grant funding through successful audits.

Kristin's public service commitment runs deep, stemming from her family background in city government. With a Master of Public Administration degree from California Baptist University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from UC Irvine, she brings a unique blend of knowledge and empathy to her role.

Outside of work, Kristin enjoys spending time with her husband Kyle and their two sons, Grayson (7) and Avery (3).