

## **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**



**Doug Shupe**

*Corporate Communications Manager, Automobile Club of Southern California*

Doug is a Corporate Communications Manager for the Auto Club of Southern California, serving as a primary media spokesperson throughout the 13 southern counties of the Golden State. He also serves as the public relations lead on the Auto Club's anti-texting while driving campaign called, "Don't Drive Intoxicated. Don't Drive Intexticated." The goal of the multi-year initiative is to make smartphone use behind the wheel as socially unacceptable as alcohol-impaired driving. Prior to joining AAA, Doug was a television news reporter and anchor for 16 years in Florida and Texas. His experience covering traffic-safety related stories as a journalist brings real-world approaches to educating drivers about the potential dangers on our roads.

## **WELCOME REMARKS**



**Stephanie N. Wiggins**

*Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Chair, Mobility 21*

The Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) unanimously voted to hire Stephanie Wiggins as Metro's CEO on April 8, 2021. A lifelong trailblazer and champion of equity and inclusion, Wiggins is the first woman and African-American woman to lead the agency. As CEO of Metro, she oversees an agency that runs the third-busiest transit system in the United States, with an annual budget of \$9 Billion and 11,000 employees, and serves as the lead transportation planning, programming, financing, and construction agency for the 10.1 million residents of LA County. Before rejoining Metro as CEO in June 2021, Wiggins served as the CEO of Metrolink, the nation's third-largest passenger rail system covering 538 route-miles throughout Southern California.

Prior to serving as CEO of Metrolink, Wiggins was the Deputy CEO of Metro, where she assisted the CEO in providing leadership and achieving strategic public transportation objectives, including the passage in 2016 of Measure M, a half-cent sales tax approved by 71 percent of LA County voters. She also established the Women and Girls Governing Council. During her tenure at Metro, Wiggins also served as the Executive Director of Vendor/Contract Management, where she implemented procurement streamlining initiatives and greatly expanded Metro's contracting of small and historically underutilized businesses. Prior to that role, Wiggins was the Executive Officer and Project Director of the Congestion Reduction/ExpressLanes Program where she launched the first high occupancy toll lanes in LA County on the I-10 and I-110 which improved travel times, reduced pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, on two of the County's most congested freeway corridors.

With a deep and genuine commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, Wiggins strives to provide all people living in Southern California equal access to mobility to get to work, school,

healthcare and leisure activities. Achieving that goal depends on leading an organization that is as diverse and inclusive as the region it serves.



**Hon. Gene Hernandez**

*Chair, Orange County Transportation Authority and Mayor, City of Yorba Linda*

Mayor Gene Hernandez was elected to the Yorba Linda City Council in November of 2012 and served as Mayor from 2017 to 2018 and was again appointed Mayor for 2023. Orange County's City Selection Committee reappointed Hernandez as a city council representative to the OCTA Board of Directors in January 2022.

Mayor Hernandez is passionate about serving the community through hands-on community volunteerism and world humanitarian travel. Born and raised in Burbank, California, Mayor Hernandez is a third generation Californian and a resident of Yorba Linda for over three decades.

Prior to his retirement, Mayor Hernandez worked in law enforcement for 34 years, retiring as the Chief of Police for the City of Chino, a position in which he served from 1998 to 2006. Before serving the City of Chino, Mayor Hernandez served the City of Orange, where he attained the rank of Captain after serving the Department in a variety of capacities, including: Detective, Motor Officer, SWAT Team Member and Team Leader, Accident Investigator, and Project Manager for the then new Orange Police Facility. His law enforcement career began in the City of Fullerton.

Mayor Hernandez received a Master of Science Degree in Management from California State Polytechnic School, Pomona and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Administration of Criminal Justice from San Jose State University. He is a graduate of Class 15 of the California POST Command College and Class 154 of the F.B.I. National Academy.

Mayor Hernandez has been married for over 50 years to his wife, Louise, and has three children and five grandchildren; two families residing in the City of Yorba Linda and one in Orange.



**Hon. Fernando Dutra**

*2nd Vice Chair, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Mayor Pro Tem, City of Whittier*

Mayor Pro Tem Fernando Dutra was elected in April 2018 and re-elected in 2022 to represent District 4 for four years after being elected citywide in April 2014 to a four-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Dutra was initially appointed by the City Council in August 2012 to fill the remaining term of the Council seat vacated by Greg Nordbak.

Mayor Pro Tem Dutra and his wife, Mary, have three children—Sara, Megan, and Eric. The Dutras have lived in Whittier since 1987. Mayor Pro Tem Dutra is President of Allwest

Development Company and holds licenses for general building contractor and general engineering.

Mayor Pro Tem Dutra served as a Member of the Planning Commission for six years from 2006 to 2012 and has served as Chairman of the Commission. Prior to his term on the Planning Commission, he served for six years on the Design Review Board. He has chaired the Metro Light Rail Extension Project Washington Boulevard Coalition; sits on the Whittier YMCA Board of Directors; and has served on the St. Gregory Parish Board. On March 8, 2021, Mayor Pro Tem Dutra was appointed to the Los Angeles County Metro Board and is 2nd Vice Chair, serves on the Metro Executive Management Committee and is Chair of the MTA Construction Committee. He has also been appointed to the Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency and is Chair of the Gateway Cities Affordable Housing Trust Board.

## **TRANSPORTATION UPDATE UPDATE**



**Hon. Robert Rivas**  
***Speaker, California State Assembly***

Speaker Robert Rivas was first elected to the State Assembly in 2018. During his first term, he was appointed as the Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee and elected as Vice-Chair of the influential Latino Legislative Caucus. A lifelong resident of the 29th Assembly District, Rivas previously served two terms on the San Benito County Board of Supervisors prior to becoming an Assemblymember.

Rivas was raised in Paicines, California, where his grandfather was a farmworker at Almaden Vineyards. Rivas and his brother grew up in farmworker housing, cared for by their single mother and beloved grandparents, who emigrated from Mexico in the 1960s in search of the California Dream.

As a child, Rivas watched his grandfather stand side-by-side with Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and the UFW as a leader in the fight to win fair contracts for farmworkers. Rivas' grandfather was known for his passionate advocacy on behalf of his fellow workers, but also for his ability to work with owners to negotiate contracts acceptable to both sides.

Through his grandfather, Rivas learned that you could fight fiercely for your beliefs, while respecting those with whom you disagreed. Still, it seemed unlikely that Rivas would become a community leader, at least not if doing so required public speaking. For much of his childhood he struggled to overcome a severe stutter, a condition he continues to contend with today.

Rivas' childhood experiences – growing up in a farmworker community, struggling to overcome a disability – gave him a direct understanding of the challenges faced by many residents as they struggle to build better lives for themselves and their families. His efforts on behalf of those who have faced similar and other challenges is apparent in his legislative work.

During his tenure in the Assembly, Speaker Rivas has championed legislation to improve California's supply of affordable housing, increase workplace health and safety protections, create the Golden State Teacher Grant Program, and secure the first-in-the-nation COVID-19

## Opening General Session

### *Grand Ballroom*

Farmworker Relief Package, which included critical efforts related to access to PPE and testing, temporary housing, and healthcare.

A long-time champion of the environment, Rivas won bipartisan support for the Oil Transportation Safety Act, which improved the state's preparedness to protect coastal regions after a potential spill of non-floating oil. Further, Rivas has led efforts to accelerate the construction of renewable energy and ensure the state explores all options to use public lands and oceans to effectively sequester carbon.

Rivas attended local public schools in San Juan Bautista and Hollister. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Government from CSU Sacramento and later earned a Master's in Public Administration from San Jose State University. Speaker Rivas lives in Hollister with his wife Christen and their daughter Melina.

### **Hon. Laura Friedman** ***Chair, California State Assembly Transportation Committee***



First elected to the California State Assembly in November 2016, Laura Friedman represents the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Los Angeles, as well as the communities of La Crescenta, Lake View Terrace, Montrose, North Hollywood, Shadow Hills, Sherman Oaks, Sunland-Tujunga, Studio City, Toluca Lake, and Valley Village.

Laura's legislative work is focused in three primary areas: addressing the housing affordability and homelessness crisis, combating climate change, and protecting vulnerable communities. She has authored a package of bills to create new avenues for communities to tackle the affordable housing crisis, encourage water conservation, strengthen environmental sustainability, protect communities against devastating wildfires, improve access to higher education and health care, and ensure that California's foster youth have the support that they need as they transition to adulthood.

During her time in the Assembly, Laura has secured over \$60 million in funding for key projects across the district, including: \$30 million in funding for the completion of the Glendale Riverwalk Project, \$9 million in active transportation and safety improvements in and around Griffith Park, \$6 million to refurbish the Glendale Central Library, \$6 million for improvements along the Verdugo Wash, \$5 million for infrastructure and active transportation improvements in Burbank, and \$5 million to improve safety along the LA River in North Atwater Village.

Laura has been tapped for several leadership roles in the legislature, including the Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, Assistant Speaker pro Tempore for the Assembly, the Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, the Assembly Select Committee on Urban Development to Combat Climate Change, and the Chair of the Joint Rules Subcommittee on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response where she led a historic bicameral and bipartisan reform of the legislature's response to sexual harassment that's become a model for other states and local governments to follow.

Long recognized as a steadfast advocate for the environment, sustainable communities, and active transportation, in 2020 she was appointed to serve as the Chair for the Assembly Committee on Transportation. Her appointment as Chair marks a shift towards forward-thinking

policies such as investing in mass transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, zero-emission vehicles, road safety, and sustainability. She has championed data-driven transportation policy that focuses on the link between housing and transportation, and improving road safety for all users, including landmark legislation to provide local communities with greater flexibility to set speed limits on their roadways.

In addition to her role at the helm of the Assembly Transportation Committee, Laura also serves as the Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Biodiversity, Chair of the bicameral Environmental Caucus, and as the Policy Chair of the Progressive Caucus. She serves as a member of the Assembly Committees on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism; Budget; Natural Resources; Water, Parks, and Wildlife; and the Budget Subcommittee on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation.

Laura got her start in the private sector working as a film and television executive and producer after receiving her B.A. from the University of Rochester, New York. Building on her years of community service, she was elected to the Glendale City Council in 2009, served as Mayor from 2011 through 2012 and was re-elected in 2013.



**Toks Omishakin**

*Secretary, California State Transportation Agency*

Toks Omishakin was appointed the 4th Secretary of Transportation for the state of California by Governor Gavin Newsom in February of 2022. As Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency (CALSTA), he has oversight of 8 State Departments, Boards and Commissions that, combined, have more than 42,000 people and a budget that exceeds \$30 billion annually. Safety, Equity, Climate Action, and Economic Prosperity—the Core Four—are the top transportation priorities established for the state. Prior to his appointment as Secretary, he was Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) where, as the chief executive of the department, he managed a \$17.5 billion budget and more than 22,000 employees that oversee 50,000 lane miles of highways, maintain more than 20,000 bridges, provide permitting of more than 250 public-use airports, fund 3 of Amtrak's busiest intercity rail services and provide transit support to more than 400 local and regional transit agencies. In 2020, he and the Caltrans executive team established a new strategic direction for the department prioritizing partnerships and community engagement to accomplish its goals to create a cleaner, safer, more equitable and connected transportation system for California.

Toks came to Caltrans following eight years as Deputy Commissioner with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). There, he successfully established environmental and multimodal local and national groundbreaking planning policies and programs, including a new Multimodal Access Grant program and new Office of Community Transportation. Prior to that, he served as Director of Healthy Living Initiatives in the Nashville Mayor's Office. In that capacity, he led development of Metro Nashville's Complete Streets Policy and helped establish a more balanced approach to transportation planning and design for the city. This included spearheading the creation of two bicycle sharing programs.

In 2019, Toks became Chair of the Council on Active Transportation for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). This came after two years



## Opening General Session

### Grand Ballroom

serving as Vice Chair as well as serving as Inaugural Chair of AASHTO's Multimodal Task Force. He served for 10 years on the board of America Walks and is now an emeritus advisor to the national organization. He also serves on boards at the Mineta Transportation Institute, Veloz and has advised the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis through its Transportation Council Board. In work with institutions, he serves on the advisory board at Tennessee Tech University for Civil and Environmental Engineering and at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Institute for Transportation studies.

In October of 2020, Toks was appointed to then-President-elect Biden-Harris Transportation Transition Team. In December of 2020 he was recognized with the Excellence in Leadership award by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) NorCal and named Person of the Year by the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) in May of 2021.

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, Toks and his wife have two children. He has a Ph.D. in Engineering Management from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Jackson State University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering Technology from Mississippi Valley State University.



**Tony Tavares**  
*Director, Caltrans*

Tony Tavares was appointed the 34<sup>th</sup> Director of the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) by Governor Gavin Newsom and sworn in June 2022. Tony manages a nearly \$20 billion budget and more than 22,000 employees who oversee 50,000 lane miles of highway, maintain approximately 20,000 bridges, provide permitting of more than 400 public-use airports, fund three of Amtrak's busiest intercity rail services and provide transit support to more than 200 local and regional transit agencies.

Tony's transportation vision for California addresses critical climate issues and advances a safe, equitable, accessible, sustainable, and multimodal transportation system that builds on strong partnerships and robust stakeholder engagement. He fosters a people-first culture built on the principles of Safety, Equity, Climate Action, and Economic Prosperity -- furthering a California for all. He encourages innovation and intelligent risk-taking, as transformative innovation will be needed to achieve zero traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2050 and reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) by 40% by 2030.

Tony's most recently served as Director of Caltrans District 7, which encompasses expansive Los Angeles and Ventura counties. As District 7 Director, he oversaw transportation systems in a dynamic region that boasts 25% of California's population; an annual construction program of more than \$2 billion; and some of the most innovative solutions to help move people and goods through Southern California, part of the 5th largest economy in the world.

Prior to overseeing District 7, he served as Caltrans Bay Area Director (District 4) where he was instrumental in implementing California's landmark Senate Bill 1 (SB1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act. Tony also progressed Caltrans' goals as he served on several boards of regional transportation planning agencies, joint powers authorities and transit development.

## **Opening General Session**

*Grand Ballroom*

From 2010 to 2018, Tony served as the statewide Division Chief for Maintenance. There, he directed 7,000 multi-disciplinary professional employees with an annual budget allocation of almost \$2.2 billion. In the first year of SB1, he also delivered over \$1 billion in pavement, bridge and culvert projects.

Tony has also held executive leadership roles at Caltrans as the Division Chief for Right of Way and Land Surveys; North Region Deputy Director for Structure Construction; Deputy Division Chief for Construction; and District 10 Director. In 2013, Tony was awarded the Pavement Pioneer Award from the National Asphalt Pavement Association for his contribution in perpetual pavement projects.

Tony is a graduate of University of California, Davis, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a Professional Engineer (PE) and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).