



2010 Community Transportation Summit Speaker Biographies

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D., was sworn in as Commissioner of Education for the state of New Hampshire on June 1, 2009. Dr. Barry has over 27 years of experience in education as a teacher, leader, tenured university professor, and provost and vice president of academic affairs. Dr. Barry is deeply committed to collaborative leadership and works closely with the school and business communities to create open communication among stakeholders and create a culture of innovation and excellence.

Doug Birnie is the team leader of the interagency United We Ride initiative of the Federal Transit Administration. This initiative, sponsored by the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility, seeks to coordinate federal assistance programs that provide mobility assistance to transportation-disadvantaged populations, including persons with disabilities, older adults, youth, and low income persons and families. He is co-chair of the Council's Work Group on Policy and Regulatory Relief, and has been active in shaping FTA's system change mobility management strategies. Doug was also instrumental in the creation of FTA's Job Access and Reverse Commute Program and the public transportation human service transportation coordination planning process.

Scott Bogle is a senior transportation planner with the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving 27 towns in coastal and southeast New Hampshire. RPC was a partner in the development of two Regional Coordinating Councils: Region 9 (Derry-Salem) and Region 10 (Southeast NH). Through RPC, Scott has also been closely involved in the development of other community transportation initiatives, including the CART transit system and the TASC volunteer driver program.

Tom Burack is Commissioner of the NH Department of Environmental Services, serving as Commissioner since 2006. Prior, he was a private practice attorney representing a wide range of businesses, institutions, and individuals in environmental, health and safety, and energy matters. Tom was also active in the NH Business and Industry Association's environmental programs and served as chair and a member of the boards of directors of the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

Cyndy Carlson is a doctoral candidate at the University of New Hampshire. She is investigating the connections between the built environment, transportation decisions, and public health. Her current research investigates how the built environment can encourage or discourage physical activity. For example, the built

environment can encourage physical activity by improving the “walkability” of neighborhoods through increased access to sidewalks, increased connectivity, and increased perception of destination availability. For the past 10 years, Cyndy has been working as an environmental engineer investigating the intersection of engineering and public health.

Patty Cotton directs Innovation Facilitators (IF), a new service initiative offering educational programs, facilitation services, and professional development related to creative planning, strategic visioning, and consumer and family-directed service designs. Patty works jointly with the Institute on Disability and the Browne Center for experiential learning at UNH. Since joining the Institute on Disability in 1989, she has coordinated numerous federally-funded projects with a particular focus on model demonstration and system-change in adult services. Patty has extensive background in process facilitation, service brokering, and the development of natural support strategies.

Sönke Dornblut is a clinical assistant professor at the University of New Hampshire’s Institute on Disability. Sönke's primary motivation lies within a deeply held belief that society must be accessible at all levels to all people in order to fulfill its promise as a democratic society. His current work focuses on access through transportation for people with disabilities and others who do not drive, especially in rural areas. Sönke is also spearheading Transportation Solutions New Hampshire (TSNH), which is a new coalition that will initiate policy changes towards a sustainable transportation system in New Hampshire.

Kerrie Diers is the executive director and chief fiscal officer of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. She is responsible for the business operations of the Commission and for developing and implementing NRPC’s programs. Prior, she served as the executive director for Central NH Regional Planning Commission and as the director of planning and development for the Town of Pembroke. Kerrie has been appointed to the SCC by the Transportation Commissioner to represent the New Hampshire Regional Planning Commissions.

Carol Gulla came to TASC (Transportation Assistance for Seacoast Citizens) in the summer of 2006 as a part-time program coordinator whose background was in education and community service. Carol's primary responsibility was to recruit volunteer drivers, and with six volunteer drivers signed up, TASC gave its first ride in November 2006. That December, about 40 one way trips were provided. Since then, TASC has 45 active drivers providing an average of 400 one-way trips a month.

Rebecca Harris is founding executive director of Contoocook Valley Transportation Company (CVTC). She has a background in mathematics, physics, software engineering, and image research. Rebecca’s interest in transportation stems from a

lifelong commitment to the environment and a desire to break down barriers to community participation, regardless of age or ability.

Patrick Herlihy is the transportation coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. He is responsible for the Department's transportation brokerage initiative and is the Department's lead person for the statewide community transportation coordination effort currently being developed in New Hampshire. Prior to this position, Patrick was the bureau administrator for the Bureau of Homeless and Housing for two years and was the Community Development Block Grant program manager at the Office of State Planning. He also currently serves as the vice chair of the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation.

Rhett Lamb is the planning director of the City Of Keene. He performs a broad array of planning and development tasks including the development of comprehensive plans, drafting of zoning ordinances and subdivision/site plan regulations, and review of development proposals. He is also involved in the implementation of management systems and computer mapping to support planning functions and municipal decision making. Rhett served on the New Hampshire Governor's Climate Change Policy Task Force and has been working on the City of Keene's Climate Initiative since 1998.

Todd Litman is founder and executive director of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, an independent research organization dedicated to developing innovative solutions to transport problems. His work helps expand the range of impacts and options considered in transportation decision-making, improve evaluation methods, and make specialized technical concepts accessible to a larger audience. His research is used worldwide in transport planning and policy analysis. Among his many achievements, Mr. Litman authored the *Online TDM Encyclopedia*, a comprehensive internet resource for identifying and evaluating mobility management strategies. He was a major contributor to the Convergence Partnership's recent federal policy advocacy efforts to address public health issues in the United States through transportation and the pending federal transportation bill.

Christopher Morgan is the administrator of the Bureau of Rail and Transit for New Hampshire DOT, serving since 1994. The Bureau of Rail and Transit oversees the state's public transit, railroad, rideshare, and bicycle-pedestrian programs, including the state rail program and state-administered Federal Transit Administration programs, commuter/intercity bus programs, and other alternative modes. He previously served as administrator of the Bureau of Public Transportation for the department from 1988–94, responsible for the state-administered FTA programs.

Stephen A. Norton is the executive director for the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies. Steve joined the Center in October 2005. Between 1998 and

2006, Steve worked for the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services in a variety of capacities. As Medicaid director, he focused on efforts to modernize the Medicaid program through the use of private sector best practices. Prior to that role, he directed the Office of Policy and Analysis and the Department's efforts to use information in decision-making. Between 1990 and 1998, Steve worked as a research associate at the Urban Institute in Washington DC where he conducted health services research and published extensively on a variety of topics.

Michael P. Pillsbury is the Deputy Commissioner for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). Mr. Pillsbury has over 30 years of experience in the field of construction and engineering management. He is responsible for the strategic planning and development of financial, administrative and human capital programs, policy development, and is NHDOT's liaison with the Department of Information Technology. Mr. Pillsbury is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering and is a licensed professional engineer in New Hampshire.

Beverly Raymond has been the transportation director of Tri-County Community Action Program since 2004 and has worked for Tri-County CAP since 1985. Her focus is in adult day care, nutrition, and transportation. She is responsible for overseeing the operations of two public transit routes, demand response elderly and disabled transportation, and a volunteer driver program for long distance non-emergency medical transportation covering northern Grafton and Coös County. Beverly is a Certified Community Transportation Manager and trainer for Passenger Assistance Training and Emergency Evacuation for human service transportation providers in the North Country.

James B. (Jim) Reed directs the Transportation Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures — the nonprofit bipartisan organization regarded as the nation's leading authority on state legislative issues. Jim has authored numerous papers, articles, and books about various transportation topics. One of his most popular books is *Coordinated Human Service Transportation: State Legislative Approaches*. Prior to his 22 years at NCSL, Mr. Reed worked for the Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and for former U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen.

Fred Roberge is vice president of transportation for Easter Seals New Hampshire and its affiliated operating states. He has over 30 years experience in community transportation design and implementation of both specialized and public services. Fred currently manages and oversees a specialized transit system for Easter Seals, providing service to human service organizations, medical facilities, and the general public. He currently serves as an officer on the NH State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation and is a member of the governor's Commission on Disabilities.

Will Rodman is New Hampshire's Mobility Manager and a principal at Nelson\Nygaard. He has been a vested partner in the Granite State Mobility effort since the mid-1990s when he contributed to the Office of State Planning's coordination plan. When the Governor's Task Force on Coordinating Community Transportation was convened, the state turned to Will for help, and it was Will's recommendations that culminated in the legislation that formed the State Coordinating Council and the state's coordination infrastructure. On the national front, Will has been deeply committed to community transportation efforts for 32 years, developing coordinated systems and strategies for statewide and regional efforts in 16 other states.

Shannon Rogers is a doctoral candidate and research assistant at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). She is pursuing a doctorate of philosophy in natural resources and environmental studies and a minor in college teaching. Her dissertation research explores how social capital interacts with the built environment and transportation behaviors in communities, specifically the New Hampshire municipalities of Manchester and Portsmouth. Shannon's education is currently supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Graduate Fellowship and the Environmental Research Group at UNH.

Jeanne C. Ryer is a program director at the Endowment for Health where she manages a portfolio of grants, projects, and policy initiatives addressing economic and geographic barriers to health. Before joining the Endowment, Jeanne served as senior program officer for the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and as senior staff for the Lakes Region Charitable Foundation, a regional division of NHCF. Prior to working for the NHCF, she founded a consulting firm specializing in community health and human services planning and primary health care access focusing on the needs of the underserved in rural areas. Jeanne currently serves as chair for the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation.

Dianne Smith is the manager of coordination planning and operations at COAST, the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation. Through COAST, Dianne staffs the Southeast NH Regional Coordinating Council, also known as the Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT). In addition to administrative support of ACT, she is responsible for implementing the community and coordinated transportation projects supported by the RCC. Prior to her role in SE NH, Dianne was the Administrator of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority in western Massachusetts where she revamped the fixed route service, expanded the number of towns in the RTA, began a collaborative arrangement with local Councils on Aging, and led the development of the new intermodal transportation center in downtown Pittsfield for passenger rail, local bus, intercity bus, and taxi services.

Jeffrey H. Taylor is founder and president of Jeffrey H. Taylor & Associates, Inc. Prior, from 1989 to 2003, he served as the director of the New Hampshire Office of

State Planning under Governors Judd Gregg, Stephen Merrill, and Jeanne Shaheen. Jeff's planning career began in Berlin, New Hampshire in 1977, where he led major downtown development initiatives, public works construction projects, and economic development efforts. Jeff has been the recipient of many honors and awards.

Nicholas A. Toumpas is Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the largest state agency in New Hampshire with a \$2 billion budget and 3,300 employees in more than 55 locations. Nick began serving in this role in August 2007 when he was appointed acting commissioner, followed by his appointment as commissioner in January 2008. As commissioner, Nick actively encourages collaboration and transparency among staff and leads the department in its mission of "helping join families and communities in achieving opportunities for improving health and independence." With the knowledge and strong management skills he gained working in the private sector, Nick has coordinated the DHHS' network of operating systems and use of information technology to better improve productivity and efficiency across the department's many diverse divisions, programs, and services.

Beverly Ward is the United We Ride coordination ambassador for Region 1: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. As ambassador, she works with regional, state and local officials, transit operators, and mobility advocates to improve coordinated human service and public transportation. Beverly's experience in the transportation field ranges from operating a coordinated system to working as assistant director of a state transit association to working on local, state, and national research projects on public transportation, welfare reform, affordable and public housing, and disaster management.

Janet Kingsbury Warren is currently serving as the chief development officer for the regional Red Cross. She is a Vision 2020 Champion working with a coalition of agencies to make Cheshire County the healthiest community in our country by 2020. She has worked closely with community transportation initiatives in Sullivan, Cheshire, and Hillsborough Counties for the past 15 years. Working with **Gary Welch**, Transportation Coordinator, the Red Cross provides dispatch services for a variety of local agencies including veterans organizations and the American Cancer Society. Together Gary and Janet serve on three Regional Coordinating Councils and have been recognized by the American Red Cross for their coordination of veteran transportation initiatives.