



## **2018 Regional Leadership Conference: March 14-16, 2018 “Takin’ It to The Streets”**

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### **Speaker Biographies**

#### **Vince Bertoni** **Planning Director, City of Los Angeles**

Vince Bertoni is the Planning Director for the City of Los Angeles. With more than 28 years of professional planning experience, Vince leads the largest city planning department in the nation. He is charged with developing policies that shape the future of the City and guide development decisions for a diverse and dynamic metropolis of over 4 million people. Prior to arriving in Los Angeles, Vince was the Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Pasadena where he successfully managed Pasadena’s city planning program through a General Plan update, a comprehensive visioning process that happens just once every 20 years. He has also served as Deputy Director for the City of Los Angeles and held lead planning posts for the cities of Beverly Hills, Santa Clarita, and Malibu.

Vince is a member of the California Planning Roundtable and has held several leadership positions with the California Chapter of the American Planning Association including President, Vice President for Policy & Legislation, Director of the Los Angeles Section, and Co-Chair of the American Planning Association’s 2012 National Planning Conference. In addition, he has served on the Board of Directors of the League of California Cities and as President of the League’s Planning & Community Development Department. Vince has been active on statewide legislation, having served on the Housing Element Reform Working Group formed by the State Assembly and Senate and testified before the State Senate on infill real estate development strategies.

Vince has a Bachelor’s Degree in Transportation and Urban Geography from San Diego State University and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

## **Susan Bransen**

### **Executive Director, California Transportation Commission**

Ms. Bransen serves as the California Transportation Commission's (Commission) Executive Director, reporting to the thirteen-member Commission. As the primary advisor to the Commission, she has a major role in affecting the outcome of all policies and actions adopted by the Commission.

Ms. Bransen directs the affairs of the Commission including responsibility for programming and allocating billions in transportation funding annually for the construction of highway, passenger rail, transit and active transportation improvements throughout California. Most recently, she has led the effort to implement provisions of Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. Through her leadership, the Commission is positioned to invest, in the spring of 2018, more than \$24 billion in state and federal funding to projects throughout California, including more than \$10 billion in funds generated through enactment of SB 1.

Ms. Bransen also serves as a liaison on behalf of the Commission with the Legislature and the California State Transportation Agency Secretary in formulating and evaluating policies, plans, and funding for California's transportation programs. She also serves as a member of the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee and the California Transportation Financing Agency.

## **Dr. Frances Edwards**

### **Deputy Director, National Transportation Safety & Security Center**

#### **Mineta Transportation Institute**

Frannie Edwards, M.U.P., Ph.D., CEM, is professor and director of the Master of Public Administration program at San Jose State University. She is also Deputy Director of the National Transportation Safety and Security Center at the Mineta Transportation Institute. She is a Certified Emergency Manager with over 20 years' experience in California. She is co-author with Dan Goodrich of *Introduction to Transportation Security*, twelve major publications for MTI, and over 30 articles. She provides emergency management plan writing, review and training for Caltrans, and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority.

## **Fran Inman**

### **Chair, California Transportation Commission Senior Vice President, Majestic Realty Company**

Fran Inman directs government relations and community affairs activities for Majestic Realty Co., one of the nation's largest privately held real estate development companies. With a real estate portfolio totaling approximately 84 million square feet of commercial properties, Majestic Realty has offices in Los Angeles; Atlanta; Bethlehem, Dallas, Denver, Fort Worth, Las Vegas and Laredo.

Ms. Inman has served on the California Transportation Commission since 2010 and currently serves as incoming Chair. In 2013, Inman was also appointed as a founding member of the National Freight Advisory Committee and co-chaired the sub-committee on project delivery and operations.

Ms. Inman served as the chair of the board of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and serves as vice chair for the California Business Properties Association (CBPA). She is the former chair of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership (SGVEP) and is also a founding board member of FuturePorts and a board member of Inland Action and the California Business Roundtable.

## **Darren Kettle**

### **Executive Director, Ventura County Transportation Commission**

Darren Kettle 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 staff focused on improving transportation planning to ensure wise investment of transportation funds on a wide array of transportation projects programs, 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 Masters in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino. His professional career spans 28 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 7 years and when the "circus" is in town they have four kids with them in their home in Camarillo, California.

## **Marjie Kirn**

### **Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments**

Marjie Kirn is the Executive Director of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Regional Transportation Planning Agency and Local Transportation Authority for Santa Barbara County.

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments is responsible for managing a \$1.5 billion 30-year transportation improvement program with 19 employees. Prior to joining SBCAG, Ms. Kirn was the Executive Director of the Merced County Association of Governments for the past four years. She was Deputy Director for the agency for 12 years prior to being promoted to Executive Director.

Ms. Kirn holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication from the University of California, San Diego. She is married and has three children.

## **Larry Kosmont**

### **President & CEO, Kosmont Companies**

Mr. Larry J. Kosmont, CRE, is President and CEO of Kosmont Companies, which he founded in 1986. Kosmont Companies is an industry leader in public/private real estate transactions and economic development. In 1990, he founded Kosmont Realty Corporation, a real estate brokerage firm. In 2015, he launched Kosmont Transactions Services which sources financing for public/private projects, P3 initiatives, and infrastructure funding. He is a co-principal, California Golden Fund, an EB-5 Regional Center.

Mr. Kosmont's 40-year career encompasses public/private financial structuring, negotiation, development, and management of real estate and public finance transactions exceeding \$12 billion. Mr. Kosmont has assisted hundreds of local government agencies in public finance and real estate matters ranging from large-scale economic development programs to site-specific real estate strategies and projects. He has guided over 1,000 private sector projects in obtaining public approvals, structuring deal terms, and securing public/private financing.

Mr. Kosmont served as Interim City Administrator for the City of Montebello, CA from May 2011 to March 2012 as part of a financial turnaround assignment awarded to Kosmont Companies. From 1975 to 1986, Mr. Kosmont served as a City Manager, Director of Community Development, and Redevelopment Director in the cities of Santa Monica, Seal Beach, Bell Gardens, and Burbank.

## **Wes Lujan**

### **Vice President of Public Affairs, Union Pacific Railroad**

Wes Lujan is the Vice President of Public Affairs for Union Pacific Railroad in the Western Region. He leads a team that represents America's largest class one freight railroad before the legislatures and communities in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and Montana. Before his most recent position, he served as Director of Public Affairs in Northern California and Nevada from 2007 to 2010, and from 2010 to 2012 was the Director of Public Affairs for Illinois, and Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Metra Contract Management from 2012 to 2015. Prior to his work for the Union Pacific, Lujan served as a contract legislative advocate at Advocation, Inc.

Lujan holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California (1999), Bachelor of Arts in History with Honors from Chico State University (1997), and completed the University of Chicago's Executive Development Program (2011). The Sacramento Business Journal named him an inaugural member of the "40 Under 40" list of young professionals in 2010. In 2015, he was chosen to represent the United States on an international delegation to Turkey with the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). In his free time, Lujan enjoys spending time with his wife Jenn, son Caleb, and daughter Molly, and walking his two Great Danes.

## **Matthew Luhn**

### **Author, Storytelling & Branding Expert, Keynote Speaker**

Matthew Luhn is an accomplished storyteller, instructor, keynote speaker, and story consultant, with over 20 years' experience creating stories and characters at Pixar Animation Studios. Alongside his story work in Hollywood, Matthew works with Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurs, and other professionals how to craft and tell stories that bridge the gap between business and heart to build stronger brands and business communication.

Matthew's most recent clients include Adidas, Facebook, BBC, Microsoft, Sony, Warner Brothers, Apple, Google, Clorox and many more. Matthew's story credits include Toy Story, Toy Story 2, Toy Story 3, Monsters Inc., Monsters University, Finding Nemo, UP, Cars, Ratatouille and other films currently in development.

With over 20 years experience creating and developing dozens of films, TV shows, and video games, at Pixar, The Simpsons, ILM, and other studios, Matthew Luhn knows what it takes to create memorable stories with enduring characters. From filmmaking to business, Matthew's story talks are beneficial to anybody wanting to improve their story skills or learn the persuasion of great storytelling. In Matthew's story seminar, he will share his process for creating new ideas and characters, how to develop great stories and story structure, and how to realize your story ideas from script to storyboards to finished product.

## **Jim Madafer**

### **Principal, Madaffer Enterprises**

A native San Diegan, Jim's civic service spans over three decades. He served two terms as Chief of Staff to a City Councilmember and was elected to the San Diego City Council in 2000 and reelected in 2004. Jim is Past President of the League of California Cities.

In 2014, Jim was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the California Transportation Commission and he chairs CTC's Road Charge Task Force which is tasked to create a program that might eventually replace the gasoline tax. A published author, self-described futurist and serial entrepreneur, Jim speaks frequently to groups, conferences and organizations around the world about the future of transportation, technology innovation and numerous leading-edge technologies. Jim has two sons in college. He and his wife Robin live in the San Diego with their two English Bulldogs Ruby and Red.

## **Adnan Mahmud**

### **Founder and CEO, LiveStories**

Adnan Mahmud is passionate about using data and technology to tackle the world's biggest challenges. Adnan is Founder and CEO of LiveStories, an online data communication platform with a civic data library. LiveStories customers span public and private sectors, including the Gates Foundation, Americans for Non-Smokers' Rights, California Health and Human Services Agency, UCLA, and ShotSpotter. Prior to founding LiveStories, Adnan worked for over 8 years at Microsoft, where he managed their largest data pipelines and received multiple patents in data analysis and visualization. Additionally, he has presented around the world as an Envoy for the U.S. State Department. Adnan is also Co-founder of Jolkona, a non-profit that provides mentorship and training for social entrepreneurs.

## **Bill Pellman**

### **Partner, Nossaman LLP**

Lloyd W. "Bill" Pellman is a Partner at Nossaman LLP. Bill has extensive experience in municipal law, governmental litigation, land use, and mediation. Prior to joining Nossaman, he served as the ninth County Counsel of Los Angeles County. His 31 years with the County Counsel's office covered a myriad of responsibilities and legal areas. These included being legal advisor to the Board of Supervisors, County Districts, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, County Superintendent of Schools, the Superior Courts, and special districts. For 20 years, Mr. Pellman was the advisor to the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission. Subsequent to his service as the County Counsel of Los Angeles, he assisted and advised public agency clients and private clients regarding a variety of government law issues.

## **Therese McMillan**

### **Chief Planning Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

Therese McMillan assumed the position of Chief Planning Officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“LA Metro”) in April 2016. In that capacity, she provides executive leadership for Metro’s planning, grant funding, and real estate functions. Key initiatives include the agency’s proposed sales tax ballot measure and related long-range plan strategy; implementation of county “active transportation” programs; strategic fund program development; and emerging community initiatives such as public health and transportation access.

Prior to joining LA Metro, McMillan served as the Acting Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of the US Department of Transportation. During her almost 7 years at FTA, McMillan led reforms in transit safety, emergency response and resiliency investment; capital planning and oversight, and civil rights program development and oversight, including Title VI and ADA.

Before her career at FTA, McMillan was Deputy Executive Director of Policy at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the regional planning and funding agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay area. During her time with MTC, Therese was an instructor in transportation funding and finance at the Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State University.

## **Habib Shamskhov**

### **President, Advance Mobility Group**

Habib Shamskhov is a recognized authority on emerging advanced technologies in transportation with expertise in safety, mobility and program management. He pioneered several innovative transportation ITS projects in past 25 years. Early in his career he conducted first precursor system analysis for automated highway system for FHWA and from 1992-1998 he was one of the program manager of Automated Highway System (AHS) program. The National Automated Highway System Consortium was a \$200 million program in partnership with US Department of Transportation led by General Motors that concluded successfully in summer of 1998 by demonstration of first generation of hand-off, feet-off driving on I-15 in San Diego.



## **Charles “Muggs” Stoll**

### **Planning Director, San Diego Association of Governments**

Charles Stoll, more commonly known as "Muggs", is the Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) in San Diego, California. He directs a team of over 30 professionals in developing critical land use and transportation planning initiatives for the San Diego region, such as the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and the first Sustainable Communities Strategy pursuant to Senate Bill 375 in the State of California. Previously, Stoll was the *TransNet* Program Manager for SANDAG. *TransNet* is the half-cent regional sales-tax transportation program for San Diego County which involved developing strategies for securing matching transportation funds, the development of new performance measurement systems and implementation of an innovative regional environmental mitigation program. He also had the interim responsibility as SANDAG's Communications Director for four months until the position was permanently filled in 2007.

Stoll joined SANDAG in April 2007 after spending over twenty years with the California Department of Transportation in their San Diego District Office where he gained experience in many functional units including project development and environmental analysis. He was the Project Director for the South Bay Expressway, a toll road developed through a public-private partnership arrangement. He began his involvement in the Transportation Research Board (TRB) while at Caltrans and has continued his activities as a member of the TRB Environmental Analysis in Transportation Committee (ADC10), where he assumed the Chair in 2009.

Stoll received a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Civil Engineering in 1983 and a Master's degree in Business Administration (M.B.A.) in 1985. Both degrees were earned at San Diego State University. He has been a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of California since 1988.

Stoll is a “native” southern Californian and has lived in San Diego since 1980. He and his wife of over 25 years, Julie, have two teen-age sons – Alex, 19 and Daniel, 16.

## **Tanisha Taylor**

### **Director of Sustainability, California Association of Councils of Governments**

Tanisha Taylor is the Director of Sustainability for the California Association of Councils of Governments. Ms. Taylor is a proud graduate of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, one of the nation's esteemed historically black colleges and universities.

She is responsible for statewide coordination efforts between the state's 18 MPOs and numerous state agencies. Her current work efforts include work on the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines and SB 375 implementation efforts. Tanisha is also partial to skittles.



## **Brian Tisdale**

### **Council Member, City of Lake Elsinore**

Brian Tisdale is the past Chair for the Western Riverside Council of Governments Executive Committee. He is currently Council Member for the City of Lake Elsinore where he has lived for the last 18 years. Brian has served as an elected official on the City Council for the City of Lake Elsinore since 2010. Brian is also a Legislative Assistant for Riverside County Supervisor Chuck Washington. His areas of responsibilities include: Public Safety and Emergency Response, Law Enforcement agencies, Fire Departments, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Courts System, and Health.

## **Eric Thronson**

### **Chief Consultant, California Assembly Transportation Committee**

Eric Thronson is the Chief Committee Consultant for the Transportation Committee in the California Assembly. As a principal policy advisor, Mr. Thronson is responsible for formulating policy recommendations for the Assembly and the Chair of the Committee related to all transportation matters.

Prior to his position in the Assembly, Mr. Thronson served as the Deputy Director of Finance & Legislation for the California Transportation Commission. At the Commission, Mr. Thronson was responsible for developing advice and recommendations for all financial policy and performance matters that fall within the purview of the Commission, including the Commission's role in innovative finance mechanisms. In addition, Mr. Thronson advised the Commission in the initiation and development of State and Federal legislation that seeks to improve the statewide transportation programs.

Previously, Mr. Thronson worked for as a Principal Consultant to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing. In addition, Mr. Thronson worked as a Fiscal and Policy Analyst at the California Legislative Analyst's Office where he focused on high-speed rail, mass transportation, transportation planning, and housing-related issues.

Mr. Thronson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Tulane University in New Orleans and Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School in the University of Texas at Austin.

## **Kiana Valentine**

### **Senior Legislative Representative, California State Association of Counties**

Kiana Valentine is a Senior Legislative Representative with the California State Association of Counties for housing, land use, transportation, and tribal gaming issues. In this capacity, Ms. Valentine performs legislative and budget advocacy on behalf of California's 58 counties at the state and federal levels as well as provides technical expertise on related implementation and administrative issues. She also staffs the County Engineer's Association of California and works closely with county public works departments to inform legislative, budget, and administrative proposals.

Kiana holds her Master of Public Policy and Administration from CSU, Sacramento and attended CSU, Chico to earn her undergraduate degree in Political Science and International Relations. Kiana has experience working with Congress, both in Washington D.C. and in California district offices, the State Legislature, and California's counties.

## **Bill Higgins**

### **Executive Director, California Association of Councils of Governments**

Bill Higgins is the Executive Director of the California State Associations of Governments, a member-based organization that serves councils of governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional transportation planning agencies. Mr. Higgins joined CALCOG as its executive director in 2011. Previously, he spent 11 years as a senior staff attorney, program manager, and legislative representative for the League of California Cities and its nonprofit affiliate, the Institute of Local Government.

He has been an adjunct professor at Sonoma State University and teaches periodic classes through the UC Davis and UCLA Extension Programs. Mr. Higgins obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture & Resource Economics from Oregon State University and a law degree from the University of Minnesota.