California Transportation Commission, Senate Bill 1 – Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017, Implementation Kickoff Forum – Biographies

Bob Alvarado, Chair, California Transportation Commission
http://www.catc.ca.gov/Commissioners/Alvarado_060617.pdf

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. She has a major role in affecting the outcome of all policies and actions adopted by the Commission including the programming and allocation of several billion dollars annually for the construction of highway, passenger rail, transit and active transportation improvements throughout California. Ms. Bransen’s career spans more than 25 years in transportation. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Bransen served as the Commission’s Chief Deputy Director responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Commission, serving as the chief of staff and policy advisor to the Commission’s Executive Director. In addition to positions held with the Commission, she previously served as the California Department of Transportation’s Director of Audits and Investigations. In this position she was responsible for managing a complex and comprehensive audit and investigative program with responsibility for advising on the integrity of activities performed by a workforce of more than 20,000 and annual expenditures in excess of $12 billion.

Senator Jim Beall
http://sd15.senate.ca.gov/biography

Assembly Member Jim Frazier
https://a11.asmdc.org/article/biography

Secretary, Brian Kelly, California State Transportation Agency
http://calsta.ca.gov/executive-profile/brian-p-kelly/

Malcolm Dougherty, Director, California Department of Transportation
http://www.dot.ca.gov/excbios/bio-dougherty.html

Ben Metcalf, Director, California Department of Housing and Community Development
On February 29, 2016, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. appointed Mr. Metcalf as Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). HCD provides leadership, policies, and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians. This includes ongoing direct oversight of approximately one thousand multifamily affordable properties, more than 3,600 mobilehome parks, and review of housing element plans for 539 California jurisdictions. In addition, HCD is responsible for revising and updating the CalGreen building standards and awarding approximately half a billion dollars per year to support new affordable housing.

In addition, an in-depth Statewide Housing Assessment titled “California’s Housing Future: Challenges and Opportunities” was also released under Mr. Metcalf’s leadership. This draft report was the first of its kind in more than 15 years and revealed California’s far-reaching housing challenges and offered a full suite of possible policy responses.

Prior to HCD, Mr. Metcalf worked at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington, D.C., where he served, most recently, as an appointee of President Barack Obama in the role of Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Multifamily Housing Programs. Prior to HUD, Mr. Metcalf worked with
BRIDGE Housing Corporation, a California-based real estate development company that focuses on affordable housing and public/private partnerships.

Mr. Metcalf was a Center for Redevelopment Excellence Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, and in 2006 was named “Young Leader of the Year” by Affordable Housing Finance. Mr. Metcalf earned his Bachelor of Arts in history from Amherst College and his Master in public policy and urban planning from Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government. Mr. Metcalf serves on the board of directors of the California Housing Partnership Corporation, the California Housing Finance Agency, and the California Housing Consortium.

Joe Myers, Chair, Native American Advisory Committee
JOSEPH A. MYERS, a Pomo Indian of northern California, is the Executive Director of the National Indian Justice Center (NIJC), a non-profit corporation in Santa Rosa, California. He founded the NIJC in 1983, as an independent resource for tribal governments and their courts. NIJC creates and conducts legal education, research, and technical assistance programs aimed at improving the administration of justice in Indian country. From 1976 to 1983 Mr. Myers served as associate director of the American Indian Lawyer Training Program, creating and managing its tribal court advocate training project. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), School of Law at Boalt Hall. Mr. Myers has contributed significantly to the improvement of education, justice and the quality of life in Indian country. For the past 20 years he has lectured in Native American Studies at UCB. In 1993, Mr. Myers received national recognition from Attorney General Janet Reno for his work on behalf of victims of crime in Indian country. On December 6, 2002, the California Wellness Foundation awarded him the California Peace Prize for his work in violence prevention on Indian reservations. Additionally, Mr. Myers is a founding board member of the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center. Since 2002 he has served as Chairperson of CALTRANS Native American Advisory Committee. UCB recently honored Mr. Myers by naming a research center in his honor. The Joseph A. Myers Center is housed at UC Berkeley’s Institute for the Study of Societal Issues (ISSII), the center’s name is intended to recognize his extensive service to Indian country.

Randall Winston, Executive Director, California Strategic Growth Council
http://sgc.ca.gov/About-Us/randall-winston.html

Alix Bockelman, Deputy Executive Director of Policy, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Tony Boren, Executive Director, Fresno Council of Governments
Tony Boren is the Executive Director of the Fresno Council of Governments, where he is responsible for administration and management of agency budget and staff as well as program and policy development, intergovernmental relations, supervision and control of all work activities at Fresno COG such as those related to Measure C implementation, and the California Transportation Commission. Prior to tenure with COG, Tony worked for the City of Fresno for eight years in Land use Planning, Development Services and Annexations.

Gary Gallegos, Executive Director, San Diego Association of Governments
Gary Gallegos is the Executive Director of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). He is a nationally recognized expert in transportation, land use, regional public policy making, and bi-national planning and diplomacy.

SANDAG is the leading research, planning, and transportation agency for the San Diego region. The agency builds consensus; makes strategic plans; obtains and allocates resources; plans, engineers, and builds public transportation, and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region’s quality of life. Agency policymakers are elected officials from each of the area’s 18 cities and the county.
Mr. Gallegos leads a staff of about 350 professionals who develop public policy initiatives for elected officials on numerous issues encompassing population growth, transportation, environmental management, economic development, municipal finance, binational coordination, and public safety.

**Maura Twomey, Executive Director, Monterey Bay Area Association of Governments**

Ms. Twomey is the Executive Director for the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Monterey Bay Region, which includes the counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito. She has more than 30 years of transportation related experience, including 20 years in executive management. Prior to her appointment as the Executive Director of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Ms. Twomey served as Deputy Director for the California Transportation Commission where she provided high level transportation policy and project management advice to the Commission and ensured timely and cost effective delivery of more than $3 billion in transportation projects annually. Ms. Twomey also served as the Chief of External Audits for the California Department of Transportation where she managed a complex and comprehensive audit function.

Ms. Twomey is a member of the California Freight Advisory Committee and the current Chair of the Rural Counties Task Force. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from California State University, Sacramento, and is a Certified Public Accountant.

**David Yale, Senior Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

David Yale is a Senior Executive Officer within the Countywide Planning and Development Department of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). He is responsible for transportation planning, programming, grants management, and strategic long range financial forecasting for the regional transportation system in Los Angeles County. Mr. Yale’s focus has been local solutions to diminishing State and Federal transportation funds, including the development of the Expenditure Plan for Measure M and Measure R, Metro’s two ½ cent sales tax proposals, the first approved by over two thirds of LA County voters in 2008 and the second in 2016. Mr. Yale is responsible for development of the multi-billion dollar Los Angeles County Transportation Improvement Program and the financial planning used for Metro’s $400 billion Long Range Transportation Plan. David Yale possesses a Master’s Degree in Urban Planning from the UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political and Environmental Studies from Pitzer College in Claremont, California. He resides in Echo Park, California.

**Rony Berdugo, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities**

Keith Dunn is the Executive Director of the Self Help Counties Coalition (SHCC), the organization of 24 local county transportation agencies delivering super majority voter-approved transportation sales tax measures throughout California. Mr. Dunn also operates Dunn Consulting, a lobbying firm and is consultant with the law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Among his proudest achievements is co-founding the SAVING ONE ANOTHER house, a school and home dedicated to helping the orphan children of Nepal by providing food, clothing, shelter, education, vocational training and medical care in Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Christopher Lee, Legislative Analyst, California State Association of Counties**

Christopher Lee is a Legislative Analyst at the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) for the Housing, Land Use, and Transportation Policy Committee. Prior to joining CSAC in 2013, Mr. Lee worked for the County of Yolo for five years. He spent three years in the County Administrator’s office where he focused on regional transportation
funding and intergovernmental relations, and two years as an aide to two county supervisors.

Carey Knecht, Director, ClimatePlan  
http://www.climateplan.org/about-us/staff-profiles/

Liz O’Donoghue, Director of Infrastructure, The Nature Conservancy  
As Director of Infrastructure and Land Use, Liz O’Donoghue oversees The Nature Conservancy’s California Chapter’s policy agenda on infrastructure development and land use, mitigation, transportation policy, and integration with natural resource protection. Liz currently serves on the California Public Infrastructure Advisory Commission and on the Executive Committee of the Bay Area Open Space Council. From 2006 to 2009, Liz served as TNC’s Director of External Affairs, where she led engagement with government and stakeholders at the federal, state, county, and local levels, on public policy, public funding, legislation, bonds, and constituency building. From 1999 to 2006, Liz worked at the western regional headquarters of Amtrak, first as Director of Communications, Government, and Public Affairs, then as Director of Strategic Planning, where she was responsible for developing and implementing Amtrak’s strategy on passenger rail corridors in the West. Previously, she served for seven years as legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, specializing in transportation and natural resource policy. Before that, she worked at a public policy firm in Princeton, New Jersey, consulting with major corporate clients on environmental, health care, and transportation issues. She holds a B.A. in Government from Oberlin College.

Richard Marcantonio, Managing Attorney, Public Advocates  
http://www.publicadvocates.org/team/richard-a-marcantonio/

Adrian Martinez, Staff Attorney, Earthjustice  
http://earthjustice.org/about/staff/adrian-martinez

Erika Rincon Whitcomb, Senior Associate, Policylink  
http://www.policylink.org/about/staff/erika-rincon-whitcomb

Stephen Finnegan, Manager of Government & Community Affairs, Automobile Club of Southern California  
Stephen Finnegan has over 25 years of experience in transportation, finance, business, and advocacy. His career includes work as a financial analyst with Bank of America, positions in planning and operations with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), serving as a management consultant to public agencies and non-profit organizations, and leading government affairs, community relations, traffic safety, advocacy, and public policy work for the Automobile Club of Southern California and affiliated AAA clubs providing service to 14 million members in 21 states. At Metro, Mr. Finnegan was the planning director for the San Gabriel Valley, managed the County’s $12 billion, seven-year Transportation Improvement Program, served as the MTA’s liaison to the California Transportation Commission, and managed the nation’s largest public motorist aid system. As a consultant, Mr. Finnegan completed management, performance, financial, transportation, and other studies for cities, counties, special districts, and non-profit organizations in California and the west. Mr. Finnegan currently leads government affairs, community relations, and public policy work for the Automobile Club of Southern California where he advocates for motorist, insurance, and business issues, including improved mobility and traffic safety, effective and efficient use of transportation resources, adequate infrastructure for economic growth, and a healthy business environment. Mr. Finnegan received a Master of Arts degree in urban planning from the University of California at Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Arts from Claremont McKenna College.

Michael Quigley, Executive Director, California Alliance for Jobs  
http://www.rebuildca.org/staff/michael-quigley/