

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2012

**White House Highlights Transportation Innovators as “Champions of Change”**

WASHINGTON, DC - On Tuesday, July 31st, the White House will honor leaders who have devoted their time and efforts to helping their communities reach new heights through transportation innovation. Transportation Innovators are individuals or organizations who have provided exemplary leadership in the growth and expansion of the transportation industry at the local, state or regional level.

“Today’s Champions are leaders in developing and implementing innovative transportation initiatives,” said Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. “They are making a difference every day in their local communities and across the country by improving America’s transportation infrastructure and helping their friends and neighbors get where they need to go.”

The Champions of Change program was created as a part of President Obama’s Winning the Future initiative. Each week, a different sector is highlighted and groups of Champions, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community leaders, are recognized for the work they are doing to serve and strengthen their communities.

To watch this event live, visit [www.whitehouse.gov/live](http://www.whitehouse.gov/live) at 11:00 am ET on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ellen Voie**

Ellen Voie founded the Women In Trucking Association in March of 2007 and currently serves as President/CEO. Women In Trucking was formed to promote the employment of women in the trucking industry, remove obstacles that might keep them from succeeding, and to celebrate the successes of its members. Ellen’s career in the trucking industry began in 1980 when she earned her diploma in Traffic & Transportation Management. She also holds a Master’s Degree in Communication from the University of Wisconsin. In 2008 she obtained her commercial driver’s license.

**Veronica Davis**

Veronica O. Davis, P.E. is the co-owner and Principal Planning Manager at Nspiregreen LLC. She is a transportation guru who uses her knowledge to spark progressive social change in the community. She has been innovative in founding a women’s biking group, implementing an annual transportation summit for her community, and participating on the Citizens Advisory Council for the Transportation Planning Board for the DC region. She lives in Washington, DC.

### **Susan Martinovitch**

Susan Martinovich is the Director for the Nevada Department of Transportation, where she has worked for over 28 years. Prior to being Director, she served as Deputy Director and Chief Engineer. Ms. Martinovich has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno and is a licensed professional engineer in Nevada and California. She is past President of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and serves on the National Academy of Sciences Transportation Research Board Executive Committee, as well as many other national committees in the areas of Safety, Research and Policy Initiatives.

### **Jacque Whitsitt**

Jacque Whitsitt has served on the Board of Directors of the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) for nearly 15 years, including service as Vice Chair of the Board, and is currently the Mayor of Basalt, Colorado. Jacque has been a passionate, effective, and tireless advocate regarding regional transit, trails, and environmental issues. In 2008, she led the successful campaign to obtain voter approval of a region-wide sales tax increase and bonding authority for RFTA. Success at the polls, during the onset of the global economic downturn, enabled RFTA to garner Federal Transit Administration Very Small Starts grant support for its VelociRFTA Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, the nation's first rural BRT system, which is slated to become operational in September 2013. VelociRFTA will greatly improve the quality and convenience of transit services available to Roaring Fork Valley's residents and visitors for decades to come.

### **Phillip Washington**

Phillip A. Washington was unanimously selected as the Denver Regional Transportation District's General Manager in December 2009 by RTD's Board of Directors. Phil is leading one of the most dynamic transit agencies in North America, which is implementing the FasTracks program, one of the largest transit expansion programs in the country. Phil is responsible for a 2012 total agency budget appropriation of \$2.2 billion and is currently managing active transit expansion projects in the amount of \$4.2 billion. He is originally from the south side of Chicago and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Columbia College and a Master of Arts degree in Management from Webster University. He commutes to work by bus and light rail each day from his home in Aurora, Colorado.

**David Bennett**

As Chief Executive Officer, David Bennett leads Proterra as it continues to highlight the growing market for zero-emission solutions in the transit industry. Prior to joining Proterra in September 2011, Bennett worked with Eaton for 10 years, holding a series of operational and corporate roles including: leading Eaton's Vehicle Group in the Asia Pacific region with operations in five countries, as well as sales and service across the region; general management positions in Europe and North America for the Truck business; and general manager in Eaton Aerospace. His most recent role at Eaton was vice president of business development for the industrial sector. Bennett has also held positions with Honeywell (formerly AlliedSignal) and General Electric in a variety of general management, operational, program management and technical roles. Bennett holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and materials from Duke University and a master's degree in business administration from Drexel University.

**Rebecca M. Townsend**

Rebecca M. Townsend, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication at Manchester Community College in Connecticut, serves as the Principal Investigator for the Partnership for Inclusive, Cost-Effective Public Participation. She involves community service learning, cultural communication, and productive deliberation in transit planning public involvement efforts. She is a graduate of the Communication programs at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (B.A., Ph.D.) and Indiana University Bloomington (M.A.).

**Bob Sloane**

Robert (Bob) Sloane has spent his life embracing public issues, in his hometown of Brookline, MA as a Town Meeting Member, and in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Assistant Secretary of Transportation (1984-1992). Today, as Senior Planner at WalkBoston, he is bringing his extensive experience to bear in a way that prioritizes including the community in the development of a resource that helps people get from Point A to Point B in a timely fashion – a resource that is designed to highlight community assets and help people value the places in which they walk.

**Jerry Enzler**

Jerry Enzler, President/CEO of the Museum & Aquarium, the National Rivers Hall of Fame, and RiverWorks Discovery, is accepting the award for RiverWorks Discovery. RiverWorks Discovery is an innovative outreach program that tells the big story of America's rivers – Commerce, Culture, and Conservation. Created in 2004 by then-AEP River Operations president Mark Knoy and continuing under current AEP River Operations president Keith Darling, RiverWorks Discovery brings towboat pilots as well as environmental educators to learners across the country to show how important river commerce is to our nation's economic and fiscal security. An RWD national exhibit will soon be traveling the United States.

**Lowell Porter**

Lowell Porter is a former Chief of the Washington State Patrol and Director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. He currently serves as the National Law Enforcement Liaison Coordinator for the Governors Highway Safety Association, a non-profit organization committed to improving traffic safety and saving lives on our nation's roadways.

**David Barger**

David Barger is the President and Chief Executive Officer of JetBlue Airways (JBLU), one of the leading airlines in the Americas, with headquarters in New York and major bases of operations in Boston, Florida, California and the Caribbean. Through his personal commitment and committee stewardship, Mr. Barger also serves as Chairman of the NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC), a policy-level Federal advisory committee tasked with developing a common understanding of NextGen priorities in the context of overall NextGen capabilities and implementation constraints, with an emphasis on the near- and mid-term. The NAC provides a venue where the FAA can solicit a consensus-based set of recommendations on modernizing the air traffic control system and other issues that are critical to the successful implementation of NextGen. It is also a forum to obtain a commitment of resources and/or synchronized planning between government and industry that will support and, when necessary, identify opportunities for industry participation in NextGen implementation. In addition, Mr. Barger has served on the Department of Transportation's Future of Aviation Advisory Committee (FAAC).

**Jason Roberts**

Jason Roberts is the founder of the Oak Cliff Transit Authority, originator of the Better Block Project and co-founder of Bike Friendly Oak Cliff. In 2006, Jason formed the non-profit organization Oak Cliff Transit Authority to revive the Dallas streetcar system and later spearheaded the city's effort in garnering a \$23 million TIGER stimulus grant from the Federal Transit Administration to help reintroduce a modern streetcar system to Dallas. In 2010, Jason organized a series of "Better Block" projects, taking blighted blocks with vacant properties in Southern Dallas and converting them into temporary walkable districts with pop-up businesses, bike lanes, cafe seating, and landscaping. The project has now become an international movement and has been featured in The New York Times, Dwell magazine, TED Talks and on NPR. His company, Team Better Block, will be showcased in the US Pavillion at the 2012 Venice Biennale.

**Beverly Scott**

Beverly Scott is CEO of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) – the ninth largest public transit system in the United States. A 30-year public transportation veteran, she is a past Chair of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and nationally recognized for her extraordinary leadership and advocacy in advancing increased investment in quality public transportation choices –

and the workforce responsible for making it all happen. During the height of the economic downturn, Scott and her volunteer team painted red X's on MARTA buses and trains to help the general public, State and regional leaders understand the devastating impact that 25-30% transit service cuts would have on the region's economy, employers, and - most directly on people's daily lives - the thousands of daily transit riders without other options. It helped and resulted in a historic demonstration of support from the Atlanta Regional Commission - comprised of elected officials and policymakers across the greater Atlanta region.

### **Dan Richard**

Dan Richard of Piedmont, California serves as Chair of the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Richard has been a principal of Dan Richard Advisors since 2010. He was managing partner and co-founder of Heritage Oak Capital Partners, an infrastructure finance firm, from 2007 to 2009 and was senior vice president of public policy and governmental relations at Pacific Gas and Electric Company from 1997 to 2006. Richard was an elected member of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District from 1992 to 2004, where he served twice as President of the Board. Richard was a principal at Morse, Richard, Weisenmiller & Associates from 1986 to 1996, a firm serving the independent power industry and project finance lending community. He was Vice President of Independent Power Corporation from 1983 to 1986. Richard served as Governor Brown's deputy legal affairs secretary from 1982 to 1983 and deputy assistant for science and technology from 1978 to 1979. He was advisor to the chairman of the California Energy Commission from 1978 to 1982. Richard received his Juris Doctor degree from McGeorge School of Law.

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