

[PRESENTER INFORMATION]

2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Ali Afshar	Ali Afshar, Ph.D. with 29 years of experience in transportation planning, traffic engineering, demand modeling and simulation application, joined Cambridge Systematics as an expert modeler and planner. He currently works onsite at the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), where he provides a wide range of support and assistance to the technical group as well as to the planning, application and survey units. He has been the project manager and lead contributor to the development and successful completion of the post processor software for air quality for conformity determinations, and congestion management process. His contribution to the software development included project scoping and task identification, budgeting, resource allocations, process streamlining, improving graphical user interface, affirming consistency of the software product with EPA's MOVES procedures, and testing accuracy and reasonableness of the output reports.
Gerry Aiken	I have been an Esri Account Manager since 2018. During my 25 yr+ GIS career, I have worked with businesses and government organizations in many industries, including real estate, engineering, planning, and emergency response. I have always sought to utilize location to tackle a mission, solve a business problem, discover the not considered viewpoint, and plan a path forward.
Mike Alexander	Mr. Alexander is a Senior Transportation Planner with the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC). He has worked on a variety of transportation studies during the past 15 years. Prior to SMTC, he worked for seven years in the Syracuse office of CHA Companies as a senior-level planning consultant on a variety of projects throughout the country.

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Frank Armento	Mr. Armento is the Planning Studio Manager at Fisher Associates and has been practicing in the private sector for more than 30 years. A certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners, his areas of specialization include transportation planning such as multi-modal corridor, transportation demand management, parking, and planning and environment linkages studies, land use and environmental planning studies, regulatory and zoning compliance, brownfield redevelopment planning, and sustainability, natural resources, and cultural resources planning. Mr. Armento also has extensive experience conducting complex reviews pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for small and large-scale public, institutional, commercial, and mixed-use projects throughout Upstate New York, and represents a range of clients on federal, state, and local regulatory compliance matters, conducting multifaceted environmental impact assessments and zoning and site plan reviews. Frank is the Project Manager and Fisher Associates is the lead consultant working with HOCTC on the Exit 31 Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Study in Utica, New York.
Andrew Bartlett	Andrew Bartlett is a Transportation Engineer at the Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition (NITTEC) and is responsible for monitoring and reporting performance measures for the regional transportation network in Western New York and Southern Ontario. He is also responsible for the development of ITS projects and initiatives and maintaining the regional ITS architecture. Andrew is a lifelong resident of Western New York and has remained in Buffalo following the completion of a PhD in Transportation Systems Engineering from the University at Buffalo.
Richard Batchelder	Rich leads the Data Analysis and Technical Support section of the Office of Policy, Planning and Performance at NYSDOT. Rich has an extensive background in demographic information and a variety of Census products.

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Presenter	Bio
Ken Boasi	As the Director of Regional Operations for the Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, Ken oversees the seven rural public transit operations within the Authority's jurisdiction, those being in Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties. Collectively, these properties account for over 120 vehicles and drivers, and provided over 500,000 rides during our last fiscal year. This year, Ken and his staff are preparing to launch on-demand microtransit services in Genesee and Wayne Counties, and engage in other service modifications to drive ridership and customer satisfaction even higher. Previously, Ken worked in the Scheduling Department at RTS, where he was responsible for route and schedule oversight for the Authority's operation in Monroe County (Rochester). He also participated in the design and implementation of the successful "Reimagine RTS" system redesign project, which streamlined routes and schedules while introducing microtransit to the Rochester area.
Gerry Bogacz	Gerry Bogacz has been an Assistant Director responsible for Planning and Program Management for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) since 1997. NYMTC is a regional council of governments which is the metropolitan planning organization for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley. NYMTC is responsible for planning for the use of Federal transportation funding in its planning area. Prior to his work at NYMTC, Gerry spent ten years as the Director of Planning for the Westchester County Department of Transportation. He holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning from NYU and a Master's degree in Public Affairs from Fordham University.
Joe Bovenzi	Joe Bovenzi is Deputy Director - Administration & Operations at the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC). He manages transportation planning tasks including implementation of the Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations Strategic Plan, facilitation of interagency coordination committees and initiatives, updates to the Congestion Management Process and Regional ITS Architecture, and transportation infrastructure resiliency and adaptation planning. He holds a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Geneseo, a Master's in Geography from Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and a Master's in Public Administration from SUNY Brockport.
Audrey Burneson	Audrey Burneson is supervisor of the Planning unit within Region 1 Planning and Program Management. She has been with the Region for 10 years, and has a strong interest in making our transportation system work on a human scale.

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Mary Byrne	Mary Byrne is an Associate Transportation Analyst on staff at the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC). Since joining NYMTC in 2017, Mary has been the Staff Director for the Nassau/Suffolk Transportation Coordinating Committee, which is one of three regional subcommittees responsible for addressing local needs to ensure proper coordination and consistency with federal requirements. During her time with NYMTC, Mary has assisted the member agencies with developing two long range plans and three-five-year Transportation Improvement Programs to bring federal funding into the planning area. Mary is active with NYMTC's Safety Advisory Working Group (SAWG) and is the project manager for the Safety Needs and Technologies Assessment for Suburban Counties Study. Prior to joining NYMTC staff, Mary spent 27 years with NYSDOT, Region 10 Design Bureau, as a licensed professional engineer. During her last 10 years with NYSDOT, Mary worked in cooperation with local sponsors, including Nassau and Suffolk counties, managing the local letting program.
Sarah Carroll	Sarah Carroll, PE, PTOE has 11 years of experience in design for transportation and land development projects for public and private clients throughout New York. She has extensive experience in transportation planning, traffic analysis, signal timings, ADA requirements, and roadway design for multimodal users. Sarah has been passionate about sustainable transportation since studying abroad in The Netherlands and hopes to bring that to her work in Central New York.
Adam Catherine	Adam is Stantec's Smart(ER) Mobility practice lead for the Northeast and coordinates over a staff of over 30 traffic engineers, transportation planners, and urban mobility experts on a variety of mobility projects. His project experience includes leading multidisciplinary teams on studies including corridor planning, pedestrian and bicycle studies, master plans, transit system planning and operations, transit facility planning, traffic operations, and transportation demand management. He is well-versed in a variety of traffic and planning tools including ArcGIS and location-based data sources. Adam strives to build high quality teams that develop innovating strategies for today and tomorrow's transportation problems. In addition to working at Stantec, Adam teaches courses in traffic engineering and mobility at his alma matter, the University of Delaware.

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Presenter	Bio
Jen Ceponis	Jen Ceponis is a Senior Planner at MJ Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Land Surveying, P.C. She joined MJ in 2024, following 16 years at the Capital Region Transportation Council. Jen has extensive experience working with communities and planning agencies to create consensus-driven plans that address both local and regional transportation, land use, economic development, and sustainability goals. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Philosophy from Siena College and a Master's in Regional Planning from the University at Albany, SUNY. Jen also serves on the Board of Directors for the Albany Parking Authority, contributing her expertise to urban mobility and infrastructure planning.
Susan Charland	As a planner and facilitator, Sue Charland offers extensive experience designing and implementing public engagement efforts on behalf of municipal, regional, and state agencies in New York. She understands the complexities of engaging the public as well as the opportunities for quality engagement to help improve project outcomes. Susan regularly gives presentations and provides trainings on how to make public engagement more effective. She recently authored a book entitled "Public Engagement Made Easy: A Guide for Planners and Policymakers" (Routledge, 2024), which distills her decades of experience into a concise roadmap for anyone who needs to engage their community in a government decision. Charland brings an ethic of inclusion and transparency to all of her engagement work, striving to engage early and often—and ultimately to create an environment of "no surprises" for her clients and community members alike.
Jessica Cohen	Jessie Cohen is the Practice Lead - Planning & Design at MJA. Jessie leads the firm's planning and design projects, oversees proposal efforts, and manages the team working on these pivotal initiatives. Jessie advances MJA's efforts on a wide range of high-impact projects, from Vision Zero and safe streets to waterfront, parks, housing, mobility, bridges, and freight. She works with agencies across New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, developing engaging and public-friendly project materials including public involvement strategies, presentations, newsletters, graphics, interviews, and outreach collateral. Jessie also has experience supporting event logistics and planning, focused on crafting creative solutions while collaborating closely with clients and project teams.

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Bren Daiss	Having spent more than two decades working for county and municipal governments, Bren places a high focus on strategic planning to efficiently transport people, shape urban form, enhance economic vitality, and improve quality of life. Bren has worked in transit for more than five years, most recently at Centro as the Senior Director of Service Planning & Special Projects. There, she oversees the routing and scheduling of routes as well as manages major projects such as Syracuse's BRT and Cento's On-Demand microtransit service. Bren holds an AA from Mohawk Valley Community College; a BA in Environmental Design (Urban Planning) with an Architecture minor from the University at Buffalo; and an MFA in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art & Design. She lives with her husband, loves spending time with their two children and extended family, and appreciates travel, photography, and all things vintage.

Anne DaSilva Tella	Anne Dasilva Tella is an urban planner who is currently the Director of Project Development in the Bureau of Business & Housing Development for the City of Rochester, New York. She has served the residents of the city for nearly two decades in various capacities, focusing on policy work as well as actual projects involving housing development, community development, and economic development. This focus has at times concentrated on the downtown area of the city and at other times involved neighborhood master planning and neighborhood development projects. She holds a master's degree in urban planning and enjoys her work and its contribution to the built environment of the city. Notable projects for the City of Rochester include planning, land disposition, and development projects on the former Inner Loop East corridor, the JOSANA neighborhood master plan and revitalization projects, and currently, a land use and mobility strategy for the proposed Inner Loop North corridor.
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Presenter	Bio
Mike Davis	Mike Davis is a Principal Transportation Analyst and has been with the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council since 2009. Mike manages all traffic analysis, simulation, and modeling efforts, and oversees the congestion management process for the Metropolitan Planning Organization. He leads the development of dynamic traffic simulation models and is continuously engaged in all aspects of data analytics, calibration/validation, analysis, evaluation, and reporting practices. He is heavily involved in collaboration with stakeholder agencies on improvement and optimization of operational infrastructure, and currently oversees numerous transportation planning initiatives for the GBNRTC. Mike and his family are lifelong residents of the Western New York area.
Mark DeBald	Mark DeBald serves as the Transportation Program Administrator for the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC), based in Poughkeepsie, NY. With almost 25 years of planning experience working for a midsized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Mark has participated in every aspect of the metropolitan transportation planning process. Mark believes that MPOs serve a unique and essential role in addressing regional, county, and local transportation priorities and needs. Mark holds a Masters in Regional Planning from the University at Albany-SUNY. Prior to entering the planning field, Mark served as a transportation officer in the U.S. Army.
Matt DeSimone	Matt DeSimone is a Transportation Analyst and Sustainability Coordinator with the Region 1 NYSDOT Planning Team, who is passionate about sustainable and equitable development. He currently works with the planning team to review SEQR proposals and incorporate Complete Streets and Smart Growth principles into NYSDOT projects. Matt holds a master's degree in Spatial, Transport, and Environmental Economics from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
Kelly Dixon	Kelly currently serves as the Project Management Lead for the ITS4US Complete Trip Deployment Project in Buffalo, NY. She is a Principal Planner at the GBNRTC and is involved in Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning, Go Buffalo Niagara, the One Region Forward Implementation Council, and the Buffalo Niagara Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. She previously served as the Executive Director for the Center for Transportation Excellence of New York. She holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University at Buffalo.

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Emily Dozier	Emily Dozier is a Senior Planner with the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Dutchess County. Emily leads DCTC's bicycle and pedestrian program, Complete Streets efforts, and safety work. Emily is also the current chair of the New York State Association of MPOs' Bicycle-Pedestrian Working Group. She holds dual Masters degrees in City and Regional Planning and Transportation Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.
Joe Driscoll	Joe Driscoll was born and raised in Syracuse. After graduating Nottingham High School, he began to pursue a career as a professional musician. In 2003, he moved to England where he signed to record label Buttercuts, and toured his original compositions all over the world, including: Africa, most of Europe, the Middle East, Russia, and all over the US. In 2015, Driscoll returned to his hometown, and began engaging in politics. In 2016, he was a lead organizer in the group 'Syracuse for Sanders', building a grassroots campaign for presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders. The experience led Driscoll to pursue running for local office in 2017, where he was successfully elected to the 5th District Council Seat. Since taking office, Driscoll has passed legislation addressing the city's Lead Crisis, certified the City of Syracuse as a Clean Energy community, and worked extensively as transportation chair, advocating for the Community Grid option. In 2022, Driscoll was appointed by the Walsh administration to be the city's Project Director for the I81 project. In his role, Joe is the primary point of contact with other government agencies, engaging with design consultants, and interfacing with the community. During his first year in the role, Driscoll and his colleagues were successful in acquiring two major grants: the Reconnecting Communities and Thriving Communities grants, enabling him to bring more resources to the project.
Ross Farrell	Ross Farrell serves as the Director of the Public Transportation Bureau (PTB) at the New York State Department of Transportation. In this role, he oversees the administration of state and federal transit funding programs that support both rural and urban transit providers across New York. PTB currently expanding its mission by launching new funding initiatives, supporting transit system improvements and expansions, and offering technical assistance to rural operators. Ross joined NYSDOT in 2023, following his tenure at the Capital District Transportation Authority, where he held various roles focused on capital projects, service planning, and strategic development.

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Mike Finn	Mike Finn is the Executive Director of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC). GBNRTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Erie and Niagara Counties in New York that facilitates cooperation in the use of Federal funds among transportation agencies in the region. He previously worked for 11 years at the City of Buffalo in multiple positions including Commissioner of Public Works, Parks and Streets as well as City Engineer. Mr. Finn is a life-long resident of Western New York who attended SUNY Buffalo for undergraduate school and has been a Buffalo Bills season ticket holder since 2002. He lives in the City of Buffalo with his wife Ashley Litwin, their two boys, Seamus (SHAY-mus) and Kellan (KELL-in) and two rescue dogs.
Tim Fraser	Timothy (Tim) Fraser is an Ezra Systems Research Associate, teaching in the Systems Engineering Program at Cornell University since 2022. He is also Coordinator for the Center for Transportation, Environment, and Community Health (CTECH 7) at Cornell. He is a computational social scientist, developing methods, systems, and software to help communities combat environmental crises, using big data analytics, networks, GIS, and AI. He has published 46 peer-reviewed studies, plus dashboards, R packages, software, and chapters, on urban resilience and environmental systems in the U.S. and Japan. His research examines how local-level decisions and resources, eg. social infrastructure, networks, and data communication affect socio-technical systems, examining outcomes like emissions, hurricane evacuation, disaster recovery, and pandemic outcomes and mobility.
John Gannon	John Gannon is the Northeast Account Executive at Cyclomedia, specializing in geospatial data solutions for public sector clients. With a background in Street-Level Imagery, Aerial Imagery, and extensive experience in public sector technology distribution, John has collaborated with numerous municipalities to enhance infrastructure management through advanced data insights. His expertise lies in integrating cutting-edge imaging technologies to support smart city initiatives and improve urban planning processes.

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H. Oliver Gao	Dr. Gao is the Director of the Cornell Systems Engineering and Howard Simpson Professor of Engineering at Cornell University. Gao is an international leading expert in urban infrastructure, transportation, and health (environmental health, public health) systems analytics/modeling and innovation for healthy living in smart communities. His research focuses on urban technology, data science, integrated computational engineering models, and trans-disciplinary systems solutions for intelligent urban systems, low carbon and low emission transportation, and human-centered urban design for environment and public health. As the founding director, Gao spearheads cross-disciplinary systems research at the Center for Transportation, Environment, and Community Health (CTECH). Leveraging behavioral and economic sciences, epidemiology, information technology, and environmental and transportation sciences and technologies, Gao leads CTECH with a vision for systems innovations in research, teaching, and workforce development through diversity that support sustainable mobility of people and goods while preserving the environment and improving community health.
James Graham	James Graham is a GIS professional with a 15+ year focus on transportation geography, departmental modernization and integration via GIS. James is currently a Solution Engineer with Cyclomedia Technologies.
Michael Grant	Michael Grant is a Vice President at ICF who served as the consultant project manager for the New York State Transportation Master Plan. With over 25 years of experience at ICF, he leads statewide and regional transportation planning and policy work for MPOs and State DOTs and provides technical support to agencies throughout the country on performance-based planning and other aspects of planning under contract to the Federal Highway Administration. He currently chairs the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Standing Committee on Transportation Performance Management.

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Presenter	Bio
Richard Guarino	Richard Guarino, AICP is a Transportation Programs Manager with the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council where he has worked for the last 26 years. He currently manages the agency's Transportation Improvement Program (5-year capital program) and freight planning efforts. Rich holds a Bachelor's degree in Earth and Space Sciences from SUNY Stony Brook and a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University at Buffalo. He has also completed MBA certificate programs at the University at Buffalo and Canisius College. Rich became member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) in 1999 and has volunteered as a board member with the NY Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) for over 20 years.
Jaclyn Hakes	Jaclyn S. Hakes, AICP is an Associate and Director of Planning Services at MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. Ms. Hakes has assisted communities for over 23 years in balancing land use, transportation, environmental and quality of life issues through consensus-based planning. She has award winning experience in both the public and private sectors focusing on comprehensive planning, complete streets, public engagement, resiliency planning, public engagement, waterfront and downtown revitalization, zoning, SEQRA and NEPA. A graduate of the Binghamton University Environmental Studies and Geography programs and the University at Albany Masters in Regional Planning Program, Ms. Hakes also provides technical support to land use boards throughout the Capital Region. Ms. Hakes is often a guest speaker on planning-related topics at Skidmore College, the University at Albany and Fordham Law. She serves on the Leadership Saratoga Advisory Board and the Saratoga PLAN Emeritus Board. Ms. Hakes also serves on the Community Advisory Board for the University at Albany Graduate Planning Program and is a Capital Region Future City judge.

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Ellwood Hanrahan	Ellwood has over 25 years of experience in project development, transportation demand management, and operational transportation planning. Currently, he manages the development of resources and materials for communities and employers to enhance mobility and operational transportation planning at NYSDOT. He leads the programming and development of the NYSDOT Statewide Mobility Services program, focusing on strategic planning for operations, developing outcomes-based performance metrics, improving transportation information delivery, and enhancing customer experiences on public transportation. Previously, while at FHWA, he provided program oversight and technical advisory for initiatives involving multiple Federal, State, and Industry partners. He has also served with the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), where he spearheaded a successful effort against a patent troll, enabling all Transit Agencies to stream real-time arrival data. Additionally, he served as the Data Processing Co-Lead and currently serves as the Outreach Co-Lead for the National Collaboration on Bike, Pedestrian, and Accessibility Infrastructure Data (NC-BPAID).
Jon Hartley	Jon Hartley, PE, PTOE is the Transportation Planning and Traffic Engineering lead within the Rochester, NY Stantec Office. Jon graduated in 1996 from the University at Buffalo with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Over the past 28 years he has served in the capacity as project manager and engineer on numerous Transportation Planning, Traffic Engineering, Design-Build, Highway Design and Intelligent Transportation Systems projects including Inner Loop North, Route 96 over Route 14 Strategic Divestment, I-81, Buffalo Skyway, Interstate 690 at Teall Ave Design Build, City of Rochester East Main Street Streetscape and Pedestrian Enhancements and City of Rochester Inner Loop East. When he is not working Jon enjoys playing music, serving in his church and spending time with his family.
Andrew Haynes	Andrew Haynes is a Senior Transportation Analyst with the Traffic Monitoring unit within HDSB. He has over 18 years of experience with Traffic Data collection and is currently responsible for Annual Traffic Data Statistics and Vehicle Miles Traveled calculations. He also supports the Traffic Data Viewer and coordinates updates to the count program.

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Sean He	Sean X. He is an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Dr. He's expertise lies in modeling, simulating, analyzing, and optimizing transportation systems, with an emphasis on the impacts of emerging technologies and disruptive events. His research seeks to solve problems related to sustainable and resilient transportation systems, connected autonomous vehicles, and electric vehicles, using tools developed based on operations research, game theory, information theory, dynamical systems, and machine learning. Dr. He is a committee member of the TRB Network Modeling Standing Committee. He serves as an editorial board member for Transportation Research Part B, an associate editor for Frontiers in Future Transportation, a subject editor for Nonlinear Dynamics, and a guest editor for several transportation journals. He is also a technical committee member for several international conferences. Dr. He is a recipient of the NSF CAREER Award.
Zizhao He	Zizhao is a Transportation Analyst at NYSDOT's Office of Policy, Planning & Performance. With a background in Economics, transportation planning and spatial analysis, Zizhao's daily work usually focuses on data processing, and analyzing methodologies and procedures making for a diverse range of data of New York State transportation system to provide support in policy making and planning projects for the office.
Jake Herrman	Jake Herrman is a Senior Customer Success Manager at Replica. His primary focus is leveraging data to help state and local governments make informed mobility decisions. Jake joined Replica in 2024 after nearly a decade in transportation planning at the Virginia Department of Transportation, where he most recently served as the Arterial Program Manager in the Transportation and Mobility Planning Division.

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Preston Hitchens	Preston W. Hitchens will be speaking on how near-miss screening can be leveraged for proactive safety analysis in the roadway environment. Preston is a Senior Traffic Engineer/Business Development Manager with Quality Counts LLC, a national traffic data collection firm. Preston lives in Berlin, NJ, 20 miles southeast of Lincoln Financial Field, the home of the Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles. He is a graduate of the University of Delaware with over 45 years of experience in traffic signal operations, design and optimization. Preston has worked for several national civil engineering firms and is primarily focused on business development at this stage of his career. Preston is active in the American Society of Highway Engineers and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Preston is married to his wife Maureen and they have three dogs: a beagle, a cocker spaniel and an Australian Cattle Dog who really enjoys TEAMS meetings and phone calls.
Jose Holguin-Veras	Dr. José Holguín-Veras is the William H. Hart Professor and Director of the Center for Infrastructure, Transportation, and the Environment; and the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2013 White House's Transportation Champion of Change Award, and the 1996 Milton Pikarsky Memorial Award. According to Google Scholar he is one of the most widely published and cited freight researcher in the world, and the third most published and cited humanitarian freight researcher in the world. His research has led to major changes in transportation policy, management, and planning. He has substantial professional high-level experience in the public, private, and research sectors. He received his Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin in 1996; a M.Sc. from the Universidad Central de Venezuela in 1984; and a B.Sc. from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo in 1982.
Mohammed Ibrahim	Mohammed Ibrahim is a consultant Transportation Analyst supporting the NYSDOT main office assisting with a variety of analysis related to Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement program (AWZSE), HELP program operations, intersections data, and various other analysis in the Office of Policy Planning & Performance at NYSDOT. Previously he interned for the Capital District Transportation Committee and City of Albany's Department of Planning and Development where he worked on identifying corridors for CMP (Congestion Management Process) and updated the existing network for regional TDM (Travel Demand Management). Mohammed holds a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from SUNY Albany and a Bachelor of Architecture from University Vishveshvaraya College of Engineering at Bangalore University.

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Manny Insignares	If you have driven through traffic signals in New York City, used E-ZPass on the tolled bridges and tunnels, tracked traffic conditions on the Internet, planned a bus trip using Google Transit, or read a message sign over the roadways in The Bronx, then you are among the many people who have benefited from Manny's work. Manny has 35 years program management and systems engineering experience, and has helped numerous transportation agencies worldwide to plan, develop, and deploy intelligent transportation systems (ITS).
Ruimin Ke	Dr. Ruimin Ke is an Assistant Professor of Transportation Engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Ke possesses profound expertise in intelligent transportation systems (ITS), with a specialization in developing machine learning algorithms and edge/cloud/quantum computing systems tailored for ITS applications. Dr. Ke's academic background includes a Ph.D. and M.S. in Transportation Engineering from the University of Washington, an M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a B.E. in Automation from Tsinghua University. He is the chair of the TRB Edge Computing Subcommittee. He holds memberships in the TRB standing committee on Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Applications (AED50), the TRB standing committee on Statewide/National Transportation Data and Information Systems (AED10), the ASCE T&DI Infrastructure Systems Committee, the ASCE T&DI Artificial Intelligence in Transportation committee, and IEEE.
Pat Kemble	Pat Kemble is the Director of the Highway Data Services Bureau for the New York State DOT Office of Technical Services. He previously led the Highway Data Section and Pavement Data Collection Unit within HDSB. Prior to joining data services, he worked as a highway designer in NYSDOT Region 1 after leaving the private sector. He graduated from SUNY Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor of Science and is a registered professional engineer in New York and Pennsylvania.
Joel Kleinberg	Joel Kleinberg is the NYSDOT Region 4 (Rochester Office) Planning and Program Manager. Joel started his DOT career in the Region 10 (Long Island) Planning office, serving for eight years in the Project Scoping and Data Services groups, before moving "back home" to Rochester where he focused on Asset Management and Program Management.

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Alex Kone	Alex Kone is an Associate for Cambridge Systematics with over 15 years of experience integrating safety into regional and statewide performance-based planning and programming processes. He has a demonstrated record of capital program management, including seven years serving as the Assistant Director for the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC) in Rochester, New York. He supports DOTs, MPOs, and local partners to develop strategic plans and tailored procedures that advance the practice within the areas of safety, Complete Streets, performance management, scenario planning.
Eric Krans	Eric Krans is the Program Manager at AVAIL, The Albany Visualization and Informatics Laboratory at the University at Albany, SUNY. AVAIL is a software and data research laboratory within the Geography and Planning Department that conducts applied research in a number of practical fields including transportation, resilience, mitigation, and demography. The focus of AVAIL is on utilizing data science and open-source software tools to support evidence-based decision making for geographic planning problems.
Jay Lambrix	My name is Jay Lambrix and I've been the transportation analyst with the Ithaca-Tompkins County (ITCTC) in Tompkins County, NY for the last 6 years. I graduated from SUNY ESF with a Master's of Professional Studies in Environmental and Community Land Planning with a focus in Sustainable Transportation. Towards the end of my Master's program, I primarily concentrated on active transportation planning and best practices.

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Trent Lethco	<p>Trent Lethco is Transportation Program Director and Principal with the expert-led New York-based firm KLD Engineering. His background in transportation planning spans 28 years focusing on transportation planning, public policy, urban mobility, large scale events, cultural and educational facility planning, and waterfront revitalization. He has worked on both coasts of the United States starting in California and now in New York City. He has a blended history of public and private sector employment. In the realm of major events, at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Trent led the development of the mobility plan for the Bay Area bid to host the 2012 Summer Olympic Games™. Since coming to New York, he led the consultant team authoring the successful bid to host the FIFA World Cup™ 2026. Since 2024 he is supporting the Local Organizing Committee of New York and New Jersey for FIFA World Cup 2026™. During his time with a previous employer, he was also involved in London 2012 and Rio 2016. Finally, Trent is directly supporting several transportation providers in the Northeast as they too prepare for the FIFA World Cup™ in 2026. When not working on transportation planning projects, he regularly teaches as an adjunct faculty member at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York City and supports the Regional Plan Association on their New York Committee.</p>
Karen Lorf	<p>Karen Lorf currently serves as the State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Her responsibilities focus on oversight of the Active Transportation Program which includes the Empire State Trail and State Bicycle Route programs, development of the Active Transportation Strategic Plan, and representing NYSDOT on various active transportation-related committees at the state and national level. Ms. Lorf has significant expertise as a landscape architect in both public and private sector design settings. She began her career in 1993 and since that time, has led the development of projects focused on transportation, site design, and recreation facilities. Since coming to the NYSDOT Main Office in 2006, she has worked in the Design Services Bureau, Highway Safety & Traffic Operations Bureau, and the Office of Policy, Planning, and Performance.</p>

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Presenter	Bio
Mark Maglienti	Currently, an Associate Transportation Analyst with NYMTC's Technical Group working on Transportation Conformity Determination, and SED forecasting. Prior to joining NYMTC, Mark worked 20+ years for NYSDOT's Region 11 - in the Environmental/Landscape Group and then the Maintenance/Operations Division. He has a BS in Biology from Union College, and a MS in Civil Engineering from The City College of NY (CUNY).
Kathryn Mangan	Kathryn Mangan has served as Region 9's Regional Planning and Program Manager since August 2024. Prior to her most recent position, she worked in the Region 9 Planning and Program Management Office as a project developer, project manager, Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, and Assistant Regional Planning and Program Manager.
Leigh McCullen	Leigh McCullen is the Senior Transportation Analyst for the Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study. Leigh has 25 years of experience in land use and transportation planning. In her current role at BMTS, Leigh focuses on long range transportation, multimodal and safety planning.
Sandy Misiewicz	Sandy Misiewicz, AICP, is the Executive Director of the Capital Region Transportation Council with over 26 years of MPO planning experience. She has worked on a wide range of transportation planning initiatives and is currently guiding the development of a new Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
LJ Nassivera	LJ Nassivera is a transportation planner based in NYC. His work involves all aspects of transportation planning, with a focus on transit, stations, pedestrians, and travel demand management. After nearly 20 years working on and leading transportation projects for Arup, a multi-disciplinary engineering and consulting firm, LJ joined the New York Mets to combine his two favorite passions: transportation and baseball. He now serves as the Vice President of Transportation Strategies for the team, which brings his transportation planning and project managements skills to a stadium in need of new and improved transportation options for fans and the local community.

[PRESENTER INFORMATION]

2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Deb Nelson	Debra Nelson is the Director of the Office of Policy, Planning and Performance at the New York State Department of Transportation. Since joining NYSDOT in 1992, Deb has held roles of increasing responsibility, including recently serving as Assistant Director at NYMTC, the designated MPO for New York City, Long Island, and the lower Hudson Valley. Building upon her ecological roots and planning focus, Deb works to form coalitions and partnerships within and among agencies and stakeholders across the state, nationally, and internationally. At its core, her passion is to foster and encourage community-focused and environmentally sound transportation, facilitating collaboration and innovation to find solutions that benefit all users.
Susan Olsen	Susan (Susie) Olsen holds a Master’s Degree in Regional Planning, with a focus on land use, from SUNY, Albany and has worked for the New York State Department of Transportation since 2006. Susie has worked in Planning at both the regional and statewide levels on smart growth, complete streets, corridor studies, active transportation and climate change and resiliency initiatives. Susie is the Project Manager for the Troy-Menands Bridge NY 378 PEL study and has been instrumental in the development of NYSDOT’s Resiliency Improvement Plan.
Betsy Parmley	Elizabeth “Betsy” Parmley, P.E., is the director of the transformative I-81 Viaduct Project for the New York State Department of Transportation. At \$2.25 billion, it is the largest infrastructure project in the New York State Department of Transportation history. Betsy, a Bucknell University alumna, first joined the I-81 Viaduct Project team as a project manager in 2021, but she began her career with NYSDOT in 2005, working as a junior engineer. In 2016, Betsy became the region’s first female resident engineer, leading a staff of highway maintenance workers at the Onondaga West Maintenance Residency, before leading the Central New York Traffic Safety & Mobility Group. During her tenure at NYSDOT, Betsy has played a key role in several high-priority regional projects, building connections that extend beyond infrastructure. Her working relationships with community partners and elected officials exemplify her care, commitment, and willingness to address project-related issues and concerns head-on. Betsy’s depth of experience and demonstrated leadership skills will be instrumental in the successful completion of this historic project.

[PRESENTER INFORMATION]

2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Mukta Ramola	Mukta Ramola is an Associate at CS with five years of experience in travel demand forecasting, resilience planning and data analyses. Her expertise in transportation resilience planning includes risk-based vulnerability assessment, network redundancy analysis, and project prioritization. Mukta has experience leading technical analyses for several Resilience Improvement Plans, including for Indiana MPO, Rhode Island Department of Transportation and the Genesee Transportation Council, NY. She has supported the integration of resilience into MPO functions and planning processes.
Jean-Paul Richer	Jean-Paul (JP) Richer is the Northeast Regional Account Manager for the Commercial Outreach Team in the Port Department of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. JP has been with the agency since 2016, establishing himself as a member of the New Jersey Marine Terminals' Port Operations Team. During this time, he gained considerable experience facilitating day to day operations with port operators and tenants, assisting with the management of port infrastructure rehabilitation and repair projects, coordinating emergency response efforts among local and federal agencies as well as maintaining a fluid and efficient port gateway ecosystem to support regional supply chain and flow of commerce. He holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Farleigh Dickenson University and is a Retired, U.S. Coast Guard Veteran with over 20 years of honorable, military service.
Julie Richmond	Julie Richmond is Director for the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the two-county region in Central New York. Julie has 25 years' experience in both land use and transportation planning, grant writing and administration, and project management. In her time with HOCTC, Julie has applied for and was awarded both a USDOT Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan grant as well as a Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant, which are currently in various stages of implementation. Under her direction, HOCTC is also one of a handful of non-TMA MPO's to undertake a Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Study for the interchange at I-90 Exit 31. Julie is currently working on an update to HOCTC's Going Places 2045 LRTP Transportation Atlas, which has previously been recognized with an AMPO National Award for overall achievement for its innovative approach. Julie has an undergraduate degree in Communications and a master's degree in Public Administration from Marist College.

[PRESENTER INFORMATION]

2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Mike Rossi	Mike is a 20 year veteran of NYSDOT, where he's worked on multiple big data and system projects on behalf of the Department, including the Agile Assets pavement and bridge management systems, the ESRI System of Engagement program, and the Cyclomedia StreetSmart implementation.
Andrew Sattinger	Associate Transportation Analyst, Safety Program Development Lead, New York State Department of Transportation. Working in Traffic and Safety since 2008, Andrew has been managing the crash data and crash related referencing systems and GIS that support the safety programs. Andrew is the project manager of the new Crash Location and Engineering Analysis Repository (CLEAR) project and manages the Department's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Andrew holds his Master's in Regional and Urban Planning, with a specialty in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
Stephen Scaduto	Stephen (Steve) Scaduto holds a Master's Certificate in Urban Policy from SUNY Albany and a Bachelor's Degree in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF. Steve has worked for the NYS Department of Transportation since 2019, beginning with a project delivery role in the NYSDOT Environmental Impact Statement and Special Projects Bureau. He has worked in the NYSDOT Office of Policy, Planning, and Performance since 2023, with a focus on resiliency, wildlife passage, climate change, and complete streets initiatives. Steve has been instrumental in the development of NYSDOT's Resiliency Improvement Plan.
Conor Semler	Conor Semler draws on his experience in urban planning, traffic engineering, and technical research in complete streets design. Conor is highly regarded for his ability to leverage transportation design to create livable and healthy communities. His focus is on improving conditions for walking and bicycling through better evaluation and design. Conor is a national leader in the planning and design of innovative bicycle facilities. He was involved in the development of both the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide and the FHWA Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide. Conor's experience is informed by his role in leading research, contributing to designs, and working closely with cities to continually evolve and innovate safer, more inviting bicycle facilities.

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2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Craig Sklenar	Craig is an Urban Designer and Planner based out of Montreal, Quebec. He is a Principal for Stantec's Urban Places Group and leads the global Transit-oriented Communities initiative at the firm. His 20 years' experience across North America and New Zealand primarily focuses on work that fuses urban planning, urban design and transportation planning with the art of placemaking, development potential, community design and governmental approvals. Craig holds a Bachelor of Urban Planning from Ball State University, a masters in Urban Design and Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado.
Amanda Smith	Amanda Smith works within the NYSDOS' Office of Planning, Development, and Community Infrastructure. Within the Community and Economic Development division she is the Program Director for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward (NYF) programs. An accomplished urban planner, Amanda has over 15 years of both public and private sector experience in community and regional planning working with Montgomery County and then the City of Amsterdam as the Director of Community & Economic Development. She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental design from the University at Buffalo, and a master's degree in city and regional planning from The Ohio State University.
Kimberly Smith	Kimberly Smith is a seasoned professional in the realm of transportation analysis, specializing in GIS. With a career spanning over two decades, Kimberly currently serves as the Principal Transportation Analyst at the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), the MPO for the Buffalo-Niagara region. Kimberly's journey into the world of GIS began in 1998 when she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, concentrating in GIS. Since then, she has been dedicated to leveraging spatial data to tackle complex transportation challenges. Throughout her tenure at GBNRTC, Kimberly has been instrumental in implementing GIS solutions that have significantly impacted transportation planning and decision-making processes. She is committed to driving forward-thinking initiatives that promote sustainable transportation practices and improve the overall quality of life in the Greater Buffalo Niagara region.

[PRESENTER INFORMATION]

2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Colleen Smith-Lemmon	Colleen Smith-Lemmon served as the Project Manager leading the development of the New York State Transportation Master Plan 2050. For over 17 years, she has served in the New York State Department of Transportation's Policy and Planning Division, where she supports efforts to related to Complete Streets, Active Transportation, climate change, and resiliency.
Jim Stack	James Stack has been the Executive Director of the Genesee Transportation Council in Rochester, NY since January 2016. Prior to being appointed Executive Director, Jim served as the Assistant Director for 14 years and has been with GTC since 1999. Prior to GTC, Jim was a Transportation Planner for the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency in Bristol, CT. Jim has over 30 years of transportation planning experience. Jim's transportation experience includes transit and corridor studies, area studies, data collection and management, project management, managing projects conducted by consultants, managing a capital program, asset management planning, air quality analysis, developing operations budgets, and managing other personnel. He is familiar with all aspects of MPO operations. In January 2023, Jim was appointed to the AMPO Policy Committee
Lynne Thisse	Lynne Thisse is a Senior Transportation Analyst at NYMTC, where she is responsible for overseeing updates & maintenance to the New York Best Practice Model (NYBPM), the regional activity based model, and also oversees travel surveys conducted by NYMTC. Lynne holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from SUNY Potsdam and a Masters in Regional Planning degree from SUNY Albany, and has worked with travel demand models in several upstate New York regions as well as NYMTC.
Ethan Townsend	Ethan Townsend joined the Transportation Council in October 2024 as a Transportation Planner. Ethan's prior municipal planning experience and bachelor's degree in Political Science provide him valuable insight in what it takes to make change happen on the ground. A lifelong fan of trains, ships, and all big machines, Ethan will be focusing on Freight transportation planning, as well as Active Transportation and the Transportation Improvement Program.

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2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Cara Wang	Dr. Cara Wang is a Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She is a globally recognized expert in freight transportation systems and urban planning, with a particular focus on the impacts of e-commerce on urban traffic. Dr. Wang's pioneering work using National Household Travel Survey data laid the groundwork for understanding e-commerce's influence on transportation. With extensive experience in data-driven research and collaboration with public agencies, she has led multiple projects, including NCHRP studies on e-commerce and truck traffic forecasting. Her expertise bridges the gap between academic research and actionable insights for transportation planning. Dr. Wang earned her Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.
Carrie Ward	Carrie Ward is a principal transportation planner at the Capital Region Transportation Council, currently responsible for safety planning. She recently managed the consultant contract for the region's Safe Streets and Roads for All-funded Safety Action Plan, and has overseen the analysis of pedestrian accessibility for local governments in the region.
Ethan Warren	Ethan Warren is a Senior Planner at Capital District Transportation Authority. He joined CDTA in 2017 after completing a Masters in Regional Planning at SUNY Albany. At CDTA, Ethan manages projects, represents CDTA on regional projects, conducts public engagement, and runs analysis to support service planning and operational decisions. Ethan is also CDTA's Title VI Officer, as well as the Professional Development Officer for the Capital District Planners Association.
Kelsey Wessel	Kelsey Wessel, P.E., PTOE, is a managing engineer for the Transportation Group at C&S based in Syracuse. She received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from Clarkson University in 2006. She has almost 20 years of experience primarily on traffic operations and transportation planning. Her experience ranges from traffic impact studies, NYSDOT design term agreements, and leading highway design projects. Kelsey has a recent focus on safety, multimodal streets, and creating flexible and resilient transportation networks. For the North Tonawanda PEL Study, Kelsey is a technical lead overseeing and coordinating the study process within the larger team.

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2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Amy Weymouth	Amy Weymouth is a Transportation Programs Manager at the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Erie and Niagara Counties. In this role, she oversaw the development of Moving Forward 2050, the regional long-range transportation plan and Bike Buffalo Niagara, the Regional Bicycle Master Plan. She has assisted local governments with the development of Complete Street policies and neighborhood committees on planning for sustainable, bicycle and pedestrian friendly communities.
Greg Wichser	Greg Wichser is a NYSATE member, Clarkson University Graduate, and professional engineer approaching 20 years with the New York State Department of Transportation. Currently as the Region 1 Planning and Program Manager, oversight and delivery of the capital program, earned a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Clarkson University in 2001. After 4 years working at Atlantic Testing, in 2005 he was hired by the New York State Department of Transportation. For 10 years, he worked in various roles related to Materials eventually becoming the Region 1 Materials Engineer. In 2015 Greg joined Region 1 Planning and Program Management, where he is responsible for the development and delivery of the Region 1 capital program. Recently Greg has also taken on the role of co-managing the Reimagine I-787 PEL Study.

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2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Jeffrey Williams	Jeff Williams, AICP, ENV-SP, is an accomplished economist and planner who specializes in benefit-cost analysis (BCA) for transportation and infrastructure projects. As a Principal Consultant in the Land Use + Economics practice at C&S Engineers, Jeff's transportation BCA experience covers a variety of project types including highways, rail, ports, transit, airport runways, and trails. His work couples technical expertise with an understanding of the interconnected nature of transportation, environmental, social, and economic systems. Jeff believes in BCA as a powerful decision support tool that allows organizations to prioritize among projects and alternatives based on objective measures of their value – leading to solutions that use resources efficiently and maximize the benefits we create for communities. In addition to his BCA experience, Jeff's work extends to real estate, economic impact, and financial analysis; land use planning; sustainability; and applied problem solving in response to needs and challenges that arise out in the real world. He lives and works in Syracuse and is excited to share his knowledge with NYSAMPO contributors right here in his hometown!

Deborah Windecker	Deborah Windecker is a 27 year public servant with the New York State Department of Transportation serving as the Region 2, Mohawk Valley, Regional Planning & Program Manager since 2016 overseeing the Region's six county capital program. Prior to this, Deb spent 16 years working in the Office of Right of way serving as a Certified General Appraiser valuing property for right of way acquisition, Real Estate Officer and Director of Right of Way. In addition, she served 3 ½ years as the Assistant Regional Director working with elected officials and constituents on highway transportation concerns and questions.
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2025 NYSAMPO CONFERENCE

SYRACUSE, NY

Presenter	Bio
Jeffrey Wojtowicz	Mr. Jeffrey Wojtowicz is a Senior Research Engineer at the Center for Infrastructure, Transportation, and the Environment (CITE) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York. He also serves as the Assistant Director of Administration at the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations Center of Excellence for Sustainable Urban Freight Systems. In these roles, he conducts advanced freight transportation research, manages a portfolio of multi-million-dollar projects, and collaborates with leading freight professionals and stakeholders worldwide. Jeff earned his BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering and his MS in Transportation Engineering from RPI. He was appointed to the American Transportation Research Institute's (ATRI) Research Advisory Committee for the 2025-2026 term.
Alireza Yazdiani	Alireza Yazdiani is a Ph.D. student at Cornell University, specializing in the environmental assessment of transportation systems and the development of data-driven decision-making tools. He holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and a master's degree in Transportation Engineering and Planning, where his research focused on the electric vehicle routing problem in shared travel. His current work centers on analyzing and mitigating the emissions impact of transportation through computational modeling and policy evaluation frameworks. By leveraging cloud-based platforms and advanced analytical methods, he explores strategies to enhance environmental assessments, optimize congestion management, and improve transportation sustainability. His research contributes to the development of integrated assessment models that inform policy decisions at various governmental levels, aiming to create more efficient and environmentally responsible transportation systems.