

# Panelists and Moderators



**Brad Boris** earned a bachelor of science degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He has a North Carolina grade A- Surface water treatment operator certification and a North Carolina grade 1 physical/chemical water pollution control system operator certification. Brad has more than 21 years of service in the municipal drinking water and wastewater industry and is currently the Water Resources Director for the City of Morganton. Brad serves on the board of the Catawba-Wataree Water Management Group as Secretary/Treasurer, is active with the Regulatory Action Committee of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and is an instructor at the North Carolina waterworks operator school.



**Dick Black**, AICP, is the Planning Director for Union County, North Carolina and has been in the role for 16 years. His work has included preparation of comprehensive plans, development ordinances, corridor revitalization studies, transportation planning, adequate public facilities regulations and site plan/re zoning reviews. Prior to his work for Union County he was the Strategic Planning Manager for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department, where his work emphasized collaboration and process improvement, site location projects, capital needs assessments and long range school facility planning.



**Jeanne Milliken Bonds**, MPA is the Regional Community Development and Community Engagement District Leader at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. She is the former CEO of a consulting, economic development, and government relations firm and served in local elected office for nine years, including service as Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor of a fast-growing NC town. Jeanne has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Master of Public Administration and Policy from the University of NC at Chapel Hill.



**Curtis Bridges**, AICP is a Principal Planner with the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization with 10 years of public and private experience in long range planning, transportation planning and Geographic Information Systems, with focused experience in bicycle and pedestrian planning and database management. Curtis has done extensive work throughout the Charlotte region to develop consistent practices in mapping and data development and maintenance. He has most recently led the development of a regional transportation facilities database directly related to the development of the Charlotte MPO's first state-mandated Comprehensive Transportation Plan.



**Don Brown III**, AICP, is a Senior Project Planner for Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB). Don is an experienced writer, editor, transportation planner, and Geographic Information Systems analyst who has established his career over the past 20 years with small, mid-size, and large corporations. He has participated in specialized planning and environmental projects for highways, bridges, and transit systems. He also has experience in long-range transportation planning for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) with specific skills in community impact analysis, transportation modeling, bicycle and pedestrian planning, and other planning activities.



**Neil Burke**, AICP, PTP is the Transportation Planning Coordinator for the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO/ formerly MUMPO). In this role, he assists in the development of transportation plans, public involvement processes and prioritization efforts throughout Iredell, Mecklenburg and Union counties. With over 15 years of experience in the transportation industry, he has held previous positions with a municipal government, transportation consulting firms, a transportation research institution and state department of transportation. He holds a Master of Science degree in Transportation from Iowa State University and a Bachelor in Geography and Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



**Genevieve Chow**, is the District Community Affairs Officer for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's Northeastern District, where she provides outreach, training, and technical assistance on community development and related issues. She also provides consultative services to national banks and federal savings associations to help them identify opportunities, resources, and potential partnerships to support community development activities. Prior to joining the OCC, Ms. Chow was the Policy Director for State and Local Government Relations at JPMorgan Chase. Ms. Chow holds a BA from Barnard College and an MBA from Columbia Business School.



**Scott Cole**, PE, is the NCDOT Deputy Division Engineer in Division 10, serving second in command for all transportation operations for a five-county area including Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly, and Union Counties. He has 26 years of professional experience, all with NCDOT, involved in road maintenance and traffic operations. He is a graduate of NC State University (BSCE) and has been a registered Professional Engineer in North Carolina since 1995. During his free time, he enjoys outdoor sports such as hiking, canoeing, and mountain Biking.



**Terry Cox** is the Executive Director of the Gaston Innovation Group and leads the entrepreneurial and technology initiative for Gaston County called TechWorks. Terry also currently serves as: CEO and Founder of BIG, Business innovation & Growth, a high growth entrepreneurial support organization for the Charlotte region serving over 500 high growth companies since 2006, Co-founder of Charlotte Hearts Gigabit, a community focused organization advocating for high speed internet in the Charlotte region working with Google Fiber, Spectrum (TWC), and AT&T, and Advisory Board Member of the College of Computing and Informatics at UNC Charlotte since 2006.



**Brad Crone** is President of Campaign Connections, a Raleigh-based political consulting firm specializing in general consulting and direct mail services for candidates running in down-ballot races. Brad has been providing governmental affairs and public relations consulting services since creating his firm in 1991 and prior to that was a daily newspaper publisher. He has 30 years of experience in regional politics, managing campaigns and public affairs programs in several states. Brad is a regular panelist for NC Spin, a statewide public affairs television program broadcast Sunday mornings in Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Greenville and Wilmington.



**Victor Galloway**, is a Community Affairs Specialist with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Atlanta Region, where he assists financial institutions in developing strategies that are responsive to the credit, service, and investment needs of their communities. Previously, he was the US Department of Transportation's Project Director for the South Atlantic Region Small Business Center. He has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Visual/Product Art & Design from NC State University's College of Design.



**Diane Gavarkavich**, MPH, is the Director of Research Services at the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute where she manages survey, program evaluation and needs assessment work as well as serves as the primary grant and proposal writer. Her research interests include data-informed decision-making and the social determinants of health. Diane holds a Master of Public Health in Health Behavior from UNC-Chapel Hill, graduate certificates in Middle Grade Mathematics from UNC Charlotte and Nonprofit Management from UNC-Chapel Hill, and her bachelor's from Vanderbilt University with a double major in Human and Organizational Development and Medicine, Health and Society.



**Randi Gates**, AICP, is a Senior Transportation Planner for the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO). Randi began her career with the MPO in 2005. After serving as transportation planner for three years, Randi followed her passion for bicycle and pedestrian planning and served as a Community Coordinator and Grants Director for the Carolina Thread Trail for seven years and then as a Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Manager for Stewart before returning to the MPO in July 2016. Randi graduated with highest honors from Appalachian State University.



**Timothy D. Gibbs**, AICP, has worked for the City of Charlotte for over 30 years and is currently a Transportation Planner III for the Charlotte Department of Transportation. In this role, he works as a liaison between the City and NCDOT on highway, rail and managed lanes projects. Timothy holds a Master of Regional Planning from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Geography from UNC Charlotte. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and the American Planning Association (APA) and has served on the Transportation Research Board's Freeway & Managed Lanes Operations Committee.



**Ed Goscicki**, PE, is the Executive Director of Union County, NC Department of Public Works. Ed has more than 40 years of national and international experience in the water and wastewater industry having served in executive positions in both the public and private sector for the past 30 years. He has served as an executive director of medium and large multi-service public utilities, vice president and regional manager of an international engineering firm and vice president and director of strategy and development. Ed holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the City College of New York and a Master of Business Administration from Johns Hopkins University.



**Bjorn Hansen**, AICP, CTP, is a Senior Transportation Planner with Union County. He has 16 years of experience in the Charlotte Region and is a certified transportation planner. Bjorn has worked on and led a range of transportation initiatives throughout the region, including volunteer transportation, project prioritization, mapping and data visualization, long range plan development, regional bicycle route development, grant writing, and demographic projections. Bjorn is also a veteran of three deployments with the Marine Corps and Army and currently serves as a company First Sergeant with an Army Reserve civil affairs unit.



**Dr. Gerard Hayes** has nearly three decades of experience in government and commercial electromagnetic research and design. Prior to working with the Town of Wake Forest to establish the WRCNC in 2010, Dr. Hayes was the Director of Engineering at GreenWave Scientific. At Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications (USA) Inc., Dr. Hayes provided global technical leadership in the technology and research organization with contributions to handset antenna design, technology and radiated performance optimization. With over 70 U.S. patents, Dr. Hayes has maintained a prominent technical role in the wireless industry.



**Katherine Hebert** is the Healthy Community Design Specialist with the Centralina Council of Governments and focuses on Healthy Community Design and Aging-In-Place initiatives including conducting Health Impact Assessments and managing the Plan4Health and Planners4Health projects for the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association. She graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a Masters in City and Regional Planning and has worked as a healthy community design specialist for seven years. Her current professional interests include the Village Movement, Age-Friendly Communities, and the benefits of designing housing to meet the needs of all ages and abilities.



**Jessica Hill**, AICP, is a Senior Planner for Centralina COG. She has diverse experiences working with local governments in the areas of land use, transportation and community development planning to address economic, environmental and social challenges and opportunities. Jessica is currently the project manager for the Greater Charlotte Regional Freight Mobility Plan that supports the region's communities, transportation planning organizations and manufacturing and logistics industries. Jessica holds a MBA from Wake Forest University and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**David Hollars** is the Director of the Centralina Workforce Development Board that serves Anson, Cabarrus, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties. In this role, he provides the expertise and resources to support the work of the Board in partnering with economic development, education and businesses to create innovative strategies to serve job seekers and employers. David works closely with the Board's management team and policymakers to help shape future workforce development plans and also to help maximize their contributions to the region. David is a native of North Carolina, a 37-year veteran of workforce development and an active member of the community.



**Katie Kutcher** is an Aging Programs Coordinator for Centralina COG in the Area Agency on Aging department. In this role, she works with the Senior Nutrition Programs, Senior Centers and Transportation programs throughout the Centralina region. In addition, she serves as the Project Manager for the Mobility Management Efforts and the Volunteer Transportation Services Program. Katie is trained as a Master Trainer in Chronic Disease Self-Management, Diabetes Self-Management and A Matter of Balance. Katie holds a Master of Gerontology from UNC Charlotte and has been working in the field of Aging services for more than 10 years.



**Dennis LaCaria** is the Senior Assistant to the Mecklenburg County Manager. Dennis leads Mecklenburg County's Comprehensive Government Facilities Master Plan, which includes the effort to establish a series of coordinated, geographically dispersed County service centers and relies on Joint Use Task Force to identify collaborative partners.



**Craig Lamb** is Vice President of Corporate and Continuing Education at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College where his responsibilities include training and education projects in support of community, economic and workforce development. Craig has committed his professional career to assisting individuals and organizations improve productivity and quality of life through training and previously served as Executive Director of Ivy Tech Corporate College and as Director of Operations for Tecumseh Area Partnership, Inc. Craig is also the founder of numerous workforce training initiatives, including the Ivy Tech Six Sigma Institute and the SafeWork Indiana program.



**Jeff Lineberger, PE,** is the Director of Water Strategy & Hydro Licensing for Duke Energy. In this role, he leads a team responsible for relicensing and license compliance at 33 hydropower stations in the Carolinas and Midwest, as well as long-range water resource planning and drought management for Duke Energy's 44 reservoirs in the Carolinas. Jeff is also the Lead negotiator for several hydropower relicensing stakeholder agreements, including the 70-party agreement for the Catawba-Wateree Hydro Project. Jeff has been with Duke Energy for 27 years and is a two-time winner of the James B. Duke Award, the highest award given to Duke Energy employees.



**David Maurer, AIA,** is President of Maurer Architecture. Since 1993, David has led Maurer Architecture in completing numerous historic preservation and adaptive reuse projects across North Carolina, many utilizing historic tax credits. He is a specialist on the NC Rehab Code and the NC Existing Building Code and is a frequent presenter at NC Main Street and Preservation NC conferences on various aspects of rehabilitating our downtowns. David is also president of TightLines Designs, an architecture firm specializing in small affordable single family homes specifically designed for infill lots in historic and existing communities.



**Jaqueline McNeil** is the Real Estate Manager for Mecklenburg County Asset Management. She coordinates much of the real estate activity (buying and selling) undertaken by Mecklenburg County and as such depends upon the Joint Use Task Force to identify opportunities to collaborate on capital investments with other city, county, and town agencies. Jaqueline received a BA in Political Science from the University of South Carolina and a MS in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University.



**Adrian Miller** is City Manager of Belmont. He has been with the city for 10 years, serving as senior planner, assistant city manager, and now city manager. A native of Gastonia, Adrian is a graduate of Wake Forest University and has a master's degree in public administration from James Madison University. Prior to coming to Belmont, Adrian worked for the City of Hickory and Town of Kitty Hawk.



**John Mullis** is the Town Administrator for the Town of Norwood, located in southern Stanly County. In addition to serving as Town Administrator, John also serves as the Public Works Director. Prior to joining the Town, John was employed by Wells Fargo, was President of BLM, Inc., a regional product and services provider, specializing in the container, portable office/storage and waste services business, and worked as a supervisor of International Flight Operations for Piedmont Airlines. John is also a servant leader in his community having served as past volunteer Chair of the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce and Vice Chair of the Albemarle Downtown Development Board.



**Matt Noonkester, AICP,** is President/Principal of City Explained, Inc. in Marvin, NC. He has 19 years of progressive planning experience managing projects that help local, regional and state government officials tackle difficult public policy planning issues. Matt is a certified CommunityViz classroom instructor and routinely speaks at professional conferences, expert panel sessions and technical user group meetings on the topic of scenario planning and CommunityViz software. He has also partnered with staff and elected officials throughout the U.S. to prepare regional growth studies, comprehensive plans, and other special studies consistent with state law and community context.



**Emily Parker** is a Senior Planner for Centralina COG. In this role, she designs and implements public engagement processes in towns and cities of all sizes across the greater Charlotte region. She also provides staff support and guidance for groups, including the Regional Conference of Mayors, appointed commissions and committees made up of elected officials, local government staff and residents. Her strengths include project management, professional public engagement process and managing messaging for various audiences and purposes. She holds a Master of Geography—Urban Regional Analysis from UNC-Charlotte and a Bachelor of Political Science from UNC-Asheville.



**Christie Putnam**, PE, received a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech and is a registered Professional Engineer in North Carolina. She has worked in the Water Resources Industry for over 20 years for private Engineering Consulting firms and governmental Utility Departments. Christie is currently the Water Resources Director responsible for Water, Stormwater and Wastewater Services for the City of Concord, NC. Concord currently includes over 39,000 meters serving a population of 87,000 over 169 square miles.



**Candice Rorie**, PE, is the Transportation Planning Engineer for the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO). Candice joined CRTPO after working in the Land Development Division of the Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT). Prior to her CDOT role, she worked 12 years for engineering consultant firms, and ultimately left the private sector while a Senior Project Manager. Candice is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. She has been a Registered Professional Engineer in North Carolina since 2007.



**Genevieve Rubrecht** is a Communications Coordinator at WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff with experience in public involvement and communications. She has created and implemented public involvement plans, planned events and managed communication tasks through the use of traditional and emerging outreach techniques. She recently assisted in the development of the Communications Guide for the State DOTs manual, completed as a NCHRP study. Genevieve also works closely with project teams and citizens to coordinate communication efforts, to gain input and ensure a clear understanding of project and program goals.



**Tom Snyder** is the Executive Director of NC RIoT, a non-profit supporting Internet of Things and disruptive technology industry growth. He is co-instructor in Product Innovation Lab, a Forbes award-winning multi-disciplinary course in innovation and Entrepreneurship at NC State University. Prior to joining RIoT, Tom held an executive leadership role at the ASSIST Center, a National Science Foundation sponsored effort to create wearable electronics for healthcare monitoring. Previously, he spent two decades in product development and technology incubation in NC. He's passionate about creating and fostering collaborations across disciplines, markets and cultures.



**Dana Stoogenke**, AICP, has been the Rocky River Rural Planning Organization Director for nine years. She worked on revitalization efforts in Baltimore City and then handled land-use planning in one of Baltimore's largest suburbs before moving South. Dana was instrumental in several urban and transportation planning initiatives for Chattanooga-Hamilton County (TN) Regional Planning Agency as Director of Comprehensive Planning. In addition to municipalities within the Rocky River RPO, Dana works regularly with MPOs and their staff throughout the Charlotte region. Dana holds a Master of Community Planning from University of Maryland's School of Architecture.



**Angel Stoy** is an Aging Specialist for Centralina COG. Over the past seven years she has worked specifically with local governments focusing on health promotion/disease prevention and business acumen. Angel currently works as the lead partner with UNC-Asheville to expand the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program statewide and is bringing on a new evidence-based project to North Carolina, HomeMeds, in efforts to generate revenue and expand services throughout the region. She holds a Bachelor of Exercise Science from UNC-Charlotte and has worked as a health educator for almost 20 years.



**Larry Steffann** is a serial entrepreneur and his recent role includes GM of the Wireless Research Center of NC and Vice President of Product Development for Consert, a Smart Energy startup in Raleigh, NC. Larry co-founded Joystick Labs, the initial tenant of the American Underground at the American Tobacco Campus, in Durham, NC and also founded NC RIoT and RIoT labs. Larry's career spans 35 years that have been deeply entrenched in technology. He has been a mentor both as a corporate executive and as a community minded citizen. Currently, he applies a combination of executive leadership and hands on mentorship to economic development.



**Jeffrey Sural** is the Acting General Counsel of the NC Department of Information Technology and the Director of the NC Broadband Infrastructure Office (BIO). BIO provides guidance and resources to state and local leaders to facilitate the expansion, adoption and use of broadband. The office employs a team of technical assistance advisors to help local governments and communities with broadband expansion initiatives. Last summer the office published the state's first comprehensive broadband plan, including 80 specific recommendations for enhancing access and adoption. ([www.ncbroadband.gov/sbp](http://www.ncbroadband.gov/sbp)) Jeff has more than 20 years of experience as an attorney and public policy expert working at the state and federal levels.



**Bryman O Suttle** MPA, a Senior Principal Planner with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department, has for the past 11 years fostered comprehensive and collaborative approaches to meeting public service and facilities needs to enhance quality of life for area residents and that expand the scope of planned public investment to achieve greater community benefits. In an environment of rapid growth, limited resources and greater public expectations, Bryman's coordination of the Joint Use Task Force and City CIP have helped achieve the desired impacts through greater leveraging, engagement, and collaboration with public, private, and community partners. Prior to joining the City, Bryman worked for the Catawba Regional COG after earning a B.A. in Political Science from Winthrop University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from UNC-Charlotte.



**Bill Thunberg** is the Executive Director of the Lake Norman Transportation Commission (LNTC) assisting the jurisdictions of Iredell County, Statesville, Troutman, Mooresville and Davidson in the development of transportation and land use plans, public education and public involvement efforts. He previously served as Mayor of the Town of Mooresville and represents Mooresville on the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC). He serves as Chairman of the North Carolina Codes Officials Qualifications Board and Vice Chairman of the Centralina Economic Development Commission.



**Christa Wagner Vinson** has more than a decade of experience helping regional and national nonprofits and state and local governments create innovative, community-led solutions that drive sustainable growth. Before starting her consultancy, Christa helped launch and accelerate the Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster, an initiative of business, government, academic and nonprofit leaders that catalyzed global recognition for the Research Triangle Region of North Carolina's clean technology sector. She is a former policy analyst with the North Carolina Department of Commerce, associate at SJF Institute, a positive-impact business accelerator in Durham, N.C. and Director of Government Relations for the North Carolina chapter of a national environmental advocacy organization.



**Jonathan Wells**, AICP, is the Planning Program Manager in the City of Charlotte's Planning Department. In this role he performs a variety of business management functions, including budgetary oversight, fiscal management and annexation. Jonathan has nearly four decades' public sector service, principally on issues relating to capital investment, infrastructure planning and land use and has worked with municipal governments and urban school districts. Since 2001 he has convened the Joint Use Task Force, which has enabled agencies to obtain an understanding of the capital plans and priorities of other public agencies to enable more significant planning, coordination and collaboration.



**Kate Wilson** is a Senior Strategic Communications Coordinator with HDR and has 10 years of experience in the communications field – both in public transit and private advertising and consulting firms. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.



**Dick Winters** is a Health Policy Coordinator for Mecklenburg County Public Health. While not specifically engaged in facilities or infrastructure planning and development, Mecklenburg County Public Health serves to enhance appreciation and understanding among infrastructure providers of the health implications associated with infrastructure planning and decision-making processes. Dick brings that health perspective to the table and makes it available to other Joint Use Task Force members. Dick is a member of Mecklenburg County's Greenway Advisory Council and the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization's Technical Coordinating Committee and is on the board of Trips for Kids Charlotte and Sustain Charlotte's Transportation Choices Alliance.



**Susan Habina Woolard**, PE, is currently the Town Engineer for the Town of Matthews where she works on various projects for transportation, stormwater, and policy development. Prior to joining the Town of Matthews, Susan worked nine years with the Charlotte Department of Transportation and prior to that, for various other municipalities in North Carolina and Ohio. Susan hold a Bachelor and Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Dayton, is the Vice Chair for the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering Exam Committee, and is the immediate Past-President of the Professional Engineers of North Carolina.

