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COOK COUNTY

Program Committee Members



Benjamin J. Brockschmidt

Executive Director, Infrastructure Council

Benjamin Brockschmidt serves as the Executive Director of the Infrastructure Council which focuses on transportation systems and public works that are essential to sustaining the Illinois economy: roads and bridges, freight and passenger rail service, waterway shipping, airports as well as access to water and sanitary sewage treatment.

Mr. Brockschmidt came to the chamber after 5 years working in the U.S. House of Representatives for now retired U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson. He worked with the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee which included vote recommendations and briefs on hearings and markups. He was Rep. Johnson's point staffer on transportation issues for the Illinois Republican Delegation. In addition, he advised local airports, transit operators, engineers, and construction companies on best methods to adapt to federal policy. He has also developed professional relationships with transportation stakeholders including IDOT, USDOT and private companies in Illinois.

Mr. Brockschmidt graduated from Illinois State University with a dual B.S. degree in Political Science & History and has his Masters in National Defense and Security from the U.S. Naval War College.



Ron Burke

Executive Director, Active Transportation Alliance

Ron Burke became Executive Director of the Active Transportation Alliance in August of 2010. For more than 20 years, Mr. Burke has worked on environmental, public health and transportation issues in the non-profit and government sectors. He has senior-level experience in management, program planning, public policy, fundraising, and communications.

Prior to joining Active Trans, Mr. Burke was Midwest Office Director for the Union of Concerned Scientists and Associate Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Burke also worked for the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Burke earned an M.S. from Washington University's Department of Engineering and Policy and did his undergraduate work in life sciences at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

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Joseph Ciaccio

President, Illinois Railroad Association

Mr. Ciaccio is currently the President of the Illinois Railroad Association. He is in his twenty-seventh year with the Illinois Railroad Association, having served as Vice President and General Counsel, before being elected President in 1998.

In his role as President of the Railroad Association, Mr. Ciaccio serves as primary representative for the freight railroad industry (and related industries) to government agencies, including the Illinois General Assembly and executive departments such as the Department of Transportation, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, the Commerce Commission, the Department of Revenue and others.

In addition to railroads, the Illinois Railroad Association also counts among its members the Railway Supply Institute, TTX (railcar supplier), and APL (container transportation services).

Mr. Ciaccio is a graduate of Saint Louis University and Northern Illinois University College of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor Degree in 1979.



Matt Hart

Executive Director, Illinois Trucking Association

Matt Hart is the Executive Director of the Illinois Trucking Association, a non-profit, full service trade association led by trucking companies to promote and protect the interests of the trucking industry in Illinois. The Illinois Trucking Association is the Illinois-affiliate of the American Trucking Associations and ITA has offices in Springfield and Willowbrook, Illinois.

Mr. Hart has extensive background and knowledge in trucking-industry legislative and regulatory issues. He has worked with state and federal agencies over the past nine years and has provided regulatory guidance to trucking industry companies on regulations such as Hours of Service, Drug & Alcohol Testing, Operating Authority, and Vehicle Maintenance.

Currently the Region III Chairman of the Trucking Associations Executive Council (TAEC), Mr. Hart serves on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Society of Association Executives and the Business and Industry Federation for Economic Concern. He is a member of the Research Advisory Committee for the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) and was recently named to Congressman Rodney Davis' Transportation Advisory Board of Directors.

A graduate of the University of Illinois, he currently resides in Rochester, IL with his wife Julie and their three children.

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Larry D. Ivory

President/CEO of the Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce

Larry D. Ivory is President/C.E.O of the Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce, an organization that advocates for minority business rights and opportunities at the state level. He is also Chairman of the Board and Midwest Regional Vice President of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, the largest Black business association in the world representing more than 2 million Black owned businesses in the United States, with affiliates in the Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Jamaica, France and different countries in Africa.

Mr. Ivory was appointed by the Illinois Senate to the State's Procurement Policy Board and has served on the Com Ed Advisory Board, China Trade Mission Committee, and Illinois Black Political Action Committee. He has been the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the National Black Chamber of Commerce Outstanding State Chamber of the Year Award – Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce, and the National Black Chamber of Commerce Innovator of the Year Award.

Mr. Ivory majored in International Business and has over 32 years experience in business, with 26 years as a financial advisor. Currently a Business Consultant for various businesses and organizations, he is married to Janis with two children.



Kristi Lafleur

Executive Director, Illinois Tollway Board of Directors

Kristi Lafleur was selected as Executive Director by the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors in April 2010. She is responsible for managing the agency's day-to-day operations, overseeing its estimated \$998 million annual budget and leading the nearly 1,600 employees in providing a safe, effective and efficient toll highway system and ensuring the highest possible level of customer service for the Tollway's 1.4 million daily drivers. During her tenure, Lafleur and the Tollway Board successfully secured a new 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future, the largest capital program in the agency's history and the largest of any toll road agency in the nation.

Ms. Lafleur serves on the Board of Directors of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association, the worldwide association for owners and operators of toll facilities and businesses that serve tolling. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Toll Interoperability, a coalition of more than 40 toll road operators dedicated to promoting and implementing interstate interoperability, and on the Executive Board of the E-ZPass Group, an association of 24 toll agencies in 14 states that works to advance interoperability of toll collection systems throughout North America. In addition, she serves on the advisory boards of the Chicago Innovation Awards and Women's Transportation Seminar Greater Chicago Chapter.

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Andrew Mooney

Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development

Andrew J. Mooney has served as the commissioner of the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), formerly Housing and Economic Development, since November 2010. DPD promotes economic development by helping existing businesses grow and by attracting new industry to the city.

Commissioner Mooney served as executive director of the Chicago office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) prior to joining DPD. He also served concurrently as the managing director of the national Institute for Comprehensive Community Development. Previously, he was executive director and chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). He most recently served a second term on the CHA Board, where he assisted in authoring the CHA’s “Plan for Transformation”.

He is a member and served on the following boards including the Chicago Community Development Commission , ACCION/Chicago, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and the Teachers Housing Resource Center, among others. A native of Chicago, he is a graduate, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, of the University of Notre Dame, and of the University of Chicago, where he was a Danforth Fellow. He lives in downtown Chicago with his wife Mary Laraia.



Carole Morey

Chief Planning Officer, CTA

Carole Morey currently serves the CTA as Chief Planning Officer with responsibility for service and strategic planning and capital grants. Before joining the CTA in 2006, she practiced law with Sidley & Austin and Fagel & Haber (currently Thomson Coburn), focusing on corporate, real estate and construction matters.

From 2007 through 2013, she served in CTA’s Infrastructure group, most recently as Vice President, Infrastructure, with responsibility for the management and coordination of design and construction projects in CTA’s capital construction program, including improvements to seven stations on the North Red Line as part of CTA’s first design build project, Wilson Station, 95th Station, Your New Blue and the recently completed Red Line South project.

Ms. Morey received a B.A. in political science from Northwestern University and a J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law.



Don Orseno

Chief Executive Officer, Metra

Don Orseno is Metra's Executive Director and has worked for the railroad industry for 40 years. Formerly Deputy Executive Director/COO, he provided executive direction and guidance to the Chief Officers of Engineering, Transportation and Mechanical as well as Safety, Operations Training and Certification and Regulatory Compliance. He also provided executive oversight and direction to Purchase of Service Agreement contract carriers (BNSF and Union Pacific) to ensure consistency with Metra's standards and practices.

Mr. Orseno began his career as a trainman for the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company and then was promoted to a locomotive engineer. In 1984, he began working for Metra and has held progressively responsible management positions such as Trainmaster, Sr. Trainmaster, Director of Mechanical, Director of Suburban Operations (Superintendent), Director Safety & Rules, Chief Customer Service Officer, Chief Transportation Officer and Deputy Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer prior to his current position.

Mr. Orseno has served as Vice President and President of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents (AARS) for the United States and Canada. He is an active member of the Chicago Railroad Superintendents Association, having served ten (10) years as their President.

Jorge Perez

Executive Director of The Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA)

Jorge Perez is the Executive Director of The Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA). Founded in 1979, HACIA has a mission to ensure the equitable participation of its constituents in the construction industry, while also promoting the growth, quality of work, professionalism and integrity of these individuals and businesses; it has a membership of over 300 members.

Mr. Perez is the former Deputy Commissioner for Chicago's Department of Aviation (2008-2010), leading the Concession Program for O'Hare and Midway International Airports. Prior to that, he served as President of the Calumet Area Industrial Commission where he led the growth of the organization, developed relationships with many business leaders and manufacturers, stevedore, logistics, maritime, and Class I and short-line railroad companies and promoted the new face of industry; he was also Vice President of Strategic Planning and Policy for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). In addition, Jorge served on Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Transition Committee and was appointed to the City's Community Development Commission (CDC) as Vice Chairman.

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Arnold Randall

General Superintendent, Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Arnold Randall is the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the nation's oldest and largest forest preserve system. He was appointed to this position by Forest Preserve District of Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle in December 2010.

Mr. Randall previously served as the Director of the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of Chicago, as part of the Chicago 2016 Olympic Bid Committee's community outreach team and as Commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development. He also serves as the Chairman of Chicago Wilderness, a regional alliance of conservation organizations in the Chicagoland area.



Thomas Ross

Executive Director, Pace Suburban Bus

Thomas (T.J.) Ross has held the position of Executive Director of Pace Suburban Bus since 1998. Pace is responsible for public transit service for the eight million residents of northeastern Illinois that includes regional ADA paratransit service, suburban fixed route bus service, regional vanpool services, regional carpooling services, and suburban dial-a-ride services. Pace employs over 2,500 people directly, or through private contractors, using a fleet of over 2,500 vehicles that range in size from compact sedans to heavy duty transit buses. Current annual ridership is approaching 40 million rides per year.

Pace's 2013 budget consists of a \$207 million operating program for suburban services and a \$148 million operating program for regional ADA services. The 2012 capital budget is \$111 million.

Mr. Ross has worked in the public transit industry since the mid 1970's. His responsibilities have included planning, maintenance, and operations. He holds Masters Degrees in both Engineering and Public Administration.

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Rebekah Scheinfeld

Commissioner, Chicago Department of Transportation

Rebekah Scheinfeld is the Commissioner for the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), whose mission is to maintain the city’s surface transportation networks to keep them safe and accessible for all users. She shares Mayor Emanuel’s vision to ensure that Chicago continues to be a vibrant international city, successfully competing in the global economy with a transportation system that provides high-quality service to residents, businesses, and visitors.

Prior to joining CDOT, Ms. Scheinfeld was the Chief Planning Officer and a Senior Vice President at the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), where she was responsible for the CTA’s strategic planning for major capital projects and new transit service, service planning and scheduling for the bus and rail system, as well as the agency’s federal, state and local capital grants program. She received her B.A. from Brown University and her J.D. and M.B.A. from Northwestern University.



Ann L. Schneider

Secretary, Illinois DOT

Ann Schneider was appointed Illinois Secretary of Transportation by Governor Pat Quinn in July 2011, confirmed unanimously by the Illinois Senate the following month, and was confirmed for a second term in May 2013. Her 25 years of service with the state of Illinois, including nearly 8 with the department as the Chief Fiscal Officer and Chief Operating Officer have proven influential as she passionately continues her service as Illinois’ Secretary of Transportation. Secretary Schneider oversees a workforce of over 5,200 employees with oversight of more than \$15.3 billion in capital projects that span rail, roadway, air, and transit programs.

Under her leadership, Illinois has developed its first freight mobility plan and state rail plan. She is the chair of AASHTO’s Standing Committee on Rail Transportation (SCORT) and CMAP’s Policy Committee. She is a member of the AASHTO Sustainable Transportation: Energy, Infrastructure and Climate Solutions (STEICS) Steering Committee, and as Secretary, she sits on AASHTO’s Board of Directors. In June, 2013, she was named chair of The U.S. Department of Transportation National Freight Advisory Committee.

Secretary Schneider has her Masters of Public Administration and has completed her coursework, all but dissertation, for her Doctorate of Public Administration from the University of Illinois, Springfield.