

2026 Statewide Active Transportation Summit

Speaker Bios (in alphabetical order)

Bautista, Victoria

Victoria Bautista is a lawyer and a public policy professional with 7-years' experience in U.S. Congress and a dedication to building stronger, healthier, more connected communities. As the Federal Policy Manager at Safe Routes Partnerships, Victoria assists the Managing Director with developing and implementing the Partnership's federal legislative agenda. She regularly meets with and maintains the Partnership's congressional relationships and works with a variety of coalition partners to promote Safe Routes to School programs and bicycle and pedestrian safety focused policies.

Prior to joining the Safe Routes Partnership, Victoria was a congressional staffer for Representative Kendra S. Horn (OK-05) and subsequently for Representative Adam Smith (WA-09) where she focused on health policy and community engagement in Washington, D.C. Before that, she was a fellow with the NAACP where she assisted their Office of General Counsel and she interned with the ACLU of Oklahoma, focusing primarily on prisoners' rights.

Victoria is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Law and a licensed attorney in the state of Oklahoma. She also graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.A. in political science. She is a strong supporter of local music in D.C., is working towards a year-long streak of doing the New York Times crossword, and is getting better at road cycling every day.

Bomberger, Andrew

Mr. Bomberger is the Executive Director for the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. Prior to assuming this role, he was the Transportation Planning Coordinator where he worked with municipal officials and other regional stakeholders to develop and implement the Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program, while also leading the bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts. Prior to joining TCRPC in 2014, Mr. Bomberger worked in land planning and land design, where he developed a passion for vibrant, walkable, bikeable cities, towns and developments. He has a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from Rutgers University.

Boerer, Eric

Eric is one of the founders of the Free Ride community bike shop, and one of the first employees of Bike Pittsburgh. He's worn many hats within the organization, and has settled in the Advocacy Director role, focusing on biking/walking policy, legislation, and infrastructure as well as building the community and institutional support for all of the above. Although a native to Eastern PA, he has been in Pittsburgh since 1995, moving here to attend the University of Pittsburgh.

Boyle, John

John (he/him) has been a commuting cyclist for more than 20 years. In 1994 he began working as a volunteer for the Bicycle Coalition of the Delaware Valley after attending a volunteer night, and later served as a board member

in 1997-98. In 1999 John left Philadelphia for Charlottesville, VA, where he helped establish the Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation (ACCT), a bicycle and walking advocacy group.

John joined the Bicycle Coalition as staff in 2001, first as a project manager for the Regional Bicycle Map and the Philadelphia School District's Bicycle Education and Enhancement (BEEP) Program, then serving as Advocacy Director. He now lives in Edgewater Park, NJ with his wife and two children, and commutes by bike and train via the River Line and Ben Franklin Bridge.

Bricker, Scott

Scott Bricker is the co-founder and Executive Director of Bike Pittsburgh (BikePGH), a role he has held since the organization's founding in 2002. BikePGH is Pittsburgh's leading bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization, and under Scott's leadership it has grown from a grassroots startup into one of the country's most recognized active transportation nonprofits. With more than 4,300 members, BikePGH has helped deliver over 100 miles of bike infrastructure, citywide pedestrian safety improvements, and Pittsburgh's Complete Streets and Vision Zero commitments. Beyond policy and infrastructure, BikePGH runs robust and inclusive education and community-building programs that connect thousands of Pittsburghers to biking and walking every year.

Brunet, Nicole

Nicole Brunet is the Program Director for 10,000 Friends. Nicole has a background in political strategy and organizing with experience executing strategic political campaigns, building and maintaining robust coalitions, and developing strong media and government relations. Since 2016, Nicole has led campaigns to improve livability and build a society where people thrive and not just survive. Her advocacy has led to multiple victories including improving accessibility on SEPTA, legalizing and expanding automated speed cameras in Philadelphia, increasing funding for Vision Zero consistently over 3 years in Philadelphia, increasing funding for public transit throughout South Eastern PA and more. Nicole is excited to work on increasing housing in PA to continue to connect more Pennsylvanians and create communities that thrive.

Outside of her work with 10,000 Friends, Nicole volunteers her time as President of PA Safe Roads, advocating to save lives on Pennsylvania's roads and highways. Nicole lives in South Philadelphia with her husband, Sean, and two cats, Portabella and Cholula.

Buckheit, Jim

Jim Buckheit is President of Bicycle South Central Pennsylvania, a volunteer non-profit organization that advocates for improved infrastructure and roadway safety for those who travel by bicycle and foot. He is an active member of the Harrisburg Bicycle Club, League of American Bicyclists, Adventure Cycling Association and Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. He has biked throughout the U.S., including riding the TransAm across the U.S., and in several countries. Now retired, he led the PA Association of School Administrators and held several senior level positions in the PA Department of Education. The position that gave him the greatest joy was serving as a National Park Service Ranger, leading tours of Independence Hall and Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

Bush, Seth

Seth Bush is the Advocacy Manager at Bike Pittsburgh (BikePGH) where he coaches, trains, and resources leaders of neighborhood biking & walking advocacy groups, including the citywide pedestrian advocacy coalition Pittsburgh Walks. Seth is a graduate of the America Walks Walking College and a Professional Certified Coach for social change leaders with over 15 years of experience in grassroots community organizing. He lives in the small municipality of Swissvale where he recently helped create an Active Transportation Plan, and chairs the Swissvale Borough Transportation Advisory Committee. When he's not helping neighbors transform their streets, you can find Seth walking his dog Riker or gardening.

Descheemaker, Connor

Connor Descheemaker has over a decade of experience building and facilitating diverse coalitions to achieve policy change, support local communities, and provide professional education. Born in Phoenix, they came of age just as that metro opened its first light rail line, and their exploration of a changing downtown ignited their interest in mobility and community in urban areas. There, they ran multiple all-ages art and performance spaces, and founded a business coalition to support walkable, sustainable, and affordable urban development. After four years in Seattle supporting architects in their professional development and advocacy, they arrived in Philadelphia to manage the Transit Forward Philadelphia coalition. They grew the coalition to 35 community-based organizations covering environmental justice, immigrant and refugee support, community development, and elder and disability rights. Now, they organize transitriders and workers across Pennsylvania to build rural-urban solidarity for accessible and reliable public transportation in all 67 counties.

Dixon, Karen

Ms. Dixon is a dedicated professional with a strong passion for climate change and climate resiliency. She holds a B.S. in Sustainability with a concentration in Environmental Conservation, a certification in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and an M.S. in Geoenvironmental Science and Sustainability from Shippensburg University. Ms. Dixon currently serves as a Planner with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and supports the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). In this role, she recently contributed to the development of the Regional Active Transportation Plan for the HATS region, which encompasses Cumberland, Perry, and Dauphin Counties. A certified Master Gardener with the Franklin County Master Gardeners, Karen brings her environmental expertise to community engagement and sustainable land use practices. Her background also includes service in the United States Air Force as a trained weather specialist at the Air Force Global Weather Central.

Ershad Sarabi, Ehsan

Ehsan Ershad Sarabi is a Transportation Planner at the York County Planning Commission in Pennsylvania, where he focuses on bicycle and pedestrian planning, accessibility, and Complete Streets implementation. He led the development of the York County Complete Streets Policy adopted in 2024 and is currently working with local municipalities to advance Complete Streets ordinances and ADA planning initiatives. His work emphasizes collaborative planning, community engagement, and practical implementation strategies that help translate policy into real improvements for safer and more accessible streets. Ehsan has a background in urban planning and brings international planning experience combined with local practice in the United States. His work focuses

on helping communities create safer, more inclusive, and more livable transportation systems for people of all ages and abilities.

Jones, Marisa

Marisa Jones has spent the last decade growing with Safe Routes Partnership from program manager to Executive Director, and the through-line has always been the same: a belief that everyone, everywhere should be able to walk, ride, and roll throughout their community safely and joyfully. As a Latina mom of three young daughters, it's a mission she carries into work every day.

As Executive Director, Marisa leads the organization's strategy, team, and partnerships with a passion for bringing people together across sectors. Over her years at Safe Routes Partnership, she has led federal policy and Capitol Hill strategy, directed a national grant program expanding active transportation access to parks, built coalitions at the intersection of active transportation, food access, and community health, and served as Interim Executive Director during a pivotal organizational transition. She has worked alongside Safe Routes to School programs, advocacy organizations, government agencies, and community partners across the country building the kind of partnerships that turn policy into real change for kids and families.

Before joining Safe Routes Partnership, Marisa led the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities and Towns Campaign at the Institute for Public Health Innovation, supporting local governments across the Mid-Atlantic to adopt policies improving food access and physical activity. Earlier, she conducted research on racial disparities in breast cancer prediction models at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and interned at the White House during the Obama Administration.

Marisa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Community Health and Political Science from Tufts University and a Master of Science in Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania, where she received the Wilson-Spigner Award for Social Policy Excellence. In 2025, Philadelphia Magazine named her one of the 100 Most Influential Philadelphians for her role piloting the city's first School Street. She is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Knauss, Doug

Doug Knauss joined Susquehanna Township in April 2021 as Director of Parks and Recreation. He assumed the unique challenge of reinvigorating the Township's Parks and Recreation Department following a three-year closure that began prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In his role, Doug oversees the day-to-day operations of a department responsible for maintaining 15 parks, delivering recreational programming, and managing the department's administrative functions. A key focus of his position is securing funding to advance major departmental and Township initiatives.

Before joining Susquehanna Township, Doug served for 14 years as Parks and Recreation Director for Whitemarsh Township in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He brings extensive experience in municipal government, community recreation planning, and grant administration.

Since joining Susquehanna Township, Doug has successfully led the department's revitalization efforts, securing more than \$1.4 million in grant funding over the past four years. Under his leadership, the Township has completed a comprehensive Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenway Plan, developed four new playgrounds, master planned the Township's 14th park, and is currently completing a six-park master planning project to guide the future of Susquehanna Township's park system.

Leonard, Geoff

Geoff Leonard is a Senior Transportation Planner for the City of Pittsburgh's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure. His work focuses on project coordination, GIS mapping, and is the Complete Streets Advisory Group lead for the City.

Mohr, Chloe

Chloe Maryam Mohr, AICP, is a Principal Planner with the Montgomery County Planning Commission. She has assisted boroughs and townships with long-range planning, writing zoning, land development review, and much more. She now works primarily on county-wide data and policy projects including the in-progress plan, Montco2050: A Comprehensive Plan for a Changing World. Chloe grew up in Philadelphia and has always loved parks, libraries, sidewalks, transit, schools, trails, and other community amenities and institutions that enrich our lives and connect us to each other. When she's not at work, she enjoys participatory dance, music, and song. Chloe holds a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from Temple University and a Bachelor of the Arts in Music from Oberlin College.

Monahan, Patrick

Patrick Monahan, the Regional Organizer with the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia leads advocacy efforts to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety conditions in the Greater Philadelphia Region. Patrick serves as the Pennsylvania Chair for the Circuit Trails Coalition, leading advocacy to advance trail development with partners in Southeast Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Temple University, where he earned a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning.

Moran, Sarah

Sarah Moran, AICP, manages DVRPC's Office of Mobility Analysis and Design. She has a background in spatial analysis and has worked at DVRPC for 11 years. She is a graduate of Rutgers University, where she earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in City and Regional Planning. Sarah's work has focused on regional and local analyses to inform multimodal infrastructure decisions and on improving quality and efficiency in everyday workflows.

Murray, Jane

Jane Murray is the creator of @JaneWalksArdmore, a hyperlocal Instagram account documenting pedestrian life in and around Ardmore, PA. Jane highlights both the joys and challenges of walking, centering her work on the practice of noticing.

What began as simple observations during daily walks has grown into a celebration of placemaking and grassroots advocacy for walkability. Jane draws inspiration from urbanist Jane Jacobs, walking artist Jonathan Stalls, and the many walkability advocates she's connected with through Instagram.

With more than 700 followers, her posts blend storytelling, civic engagement, and community building—sparking conversations about pedestrian safety, supporting small businesses, and encouraging swapping a car trip for a walk.

Jane previously worked as a Main Street Manager and served on her township’s Active Transportation Committee. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania towns without sidewalks or public transportation shaped her appreciation of walkable places and her love of sidewalks.

Ndimbie, Ngani

Ngani Ndimbie is the Director of Programs at Mobilify Southwestern PA. She is passionate about solving emerging problems in transportation and strategizing to bring dignified, reliable, affordable mobility to all. Ngani began her career working in and with underinvested communities as an organizer and brings an equity lens to all transportation conversations. Before starting at Mobilify, Ngani held roles at Bike Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. In her career, Ngani has helmed conversations related to low-speed and shared transportation, micromobility, electric vehicles, automated vehicles, and even hyperloop technologies. When not yammering on about transportation, Ngani can be found gardening or happily commuting by bicycle.

Paschall, Daniel

Based in Philadelphia, Daniel Paschall is the East Coast Greenway Alliance’s Mid-Atlantic Manager. In this role, Daniel carries region-wide responsibilities for all aspects of Greenway development, advocacy and state committee and volunteer engagement. He supports communities along the route in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland as they plan, build and maintain sections of the Greenway.

Patel, Barkha

Barkha R Patel is a local government leader and urban planning professional with 10 years of experience in implementing transformational and inclusive public infrastructure. She most recently served as the Director of Infrastructure for Jersey City, NJ, a cabinet-level position for one of the most densely-populated and ethnically diverse cities in the country. Barkha is currently advising leaders and organizations on how to innovate government operations and build safe, sustainable, and people-centered public spaces in their communities.

As Jersey City’s first Infrastructure Director, Barkha oversaw the planning, design, and implementation of the City’s critical public infrastructure including all municipal streets, transit, parks, public spaces, buildings, and other public facilities. She led the City’s Architecture, Engineering, Transportation, Sustainability, and Innovation agencies, which are responsible for over \$600 million of capital improvements to enhance the quality of life for Jersey City’s residents and visitors. Under Barkha’s leadership, the City has experienced a year with zero traffic fatalities on municipal streets, launch of the city’s first on-demand microtransit system, reconstruction of dozens of streets to prioritize walking, cycling, and transit, expansion of parks, green space, and recreational opportunities in every neighborhood of the city, creation of award-winning public spaces, transition to energy-efficient municipal buildings and fleet of electric vehicles, increased investment in urban forestry with 1,000+ new trees planted, and the incorporation of cultural identity within the built environment through meaningful infrastructure improvements. More information about Barkha and her work is available at www.barkharpatel.com.

Pearson, Samantha

Samantha Pearson is the Healthy Communities Program Manager with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, a statewide nonprofit. She runs the PA WalkWorks program in collaboration with the PA Department of Health State Physical Activity and Nutrition and Preventive Health and Health Services Programs. The goal of that work is to improve individual and community health through environmental change. WalkWorks promotes active transportation -- walking, biking, using a wheelchair, and accessing transit -- for everyday mobility around the Commonwealth and provides technical assistance and small-scale funding for communities to develop Active Transportation Plans. The long-term health impacts sought include injury reduction and increased physical activity which reduces chronic disease, enhances mental health, and improves social cohesion.

Samantha's background is in design and planning, with degrees from Princeton University and the University of Virginia. She has previously worked in architecture and planning in Miami, Boston, Baltimore, and Luzern, Switzerland. She has played many roles in active transportation promotion from concerned citizen to planner to consultant to grant writer to grantor to elected official to advocate. Originally from the suburbs in Miami, FL, she has lived with her family in walkable downtown Lewisburg, PA, since 2003.

Peppers, Alex

Alex is a Senior Planner at Toole Design with a passion for neighborhood and comprehensive planning efforts. His work is grounded in equity, sustainability, and community development, with particular interest in historic preservation, active transportation planning, and bicycle and pedestrian safety. He strives to improve the quality of life for all residents at various stages of life. Before joining Toole Design, Alex spent a combined 15 years in public sector planning with the City of Cincinnati and City of Pittsburgh.

Rozen, Kate

Kate is a Project Planner at Toole Design, where she supports communities in advancing active transportation, e-bike access, and transit equity. With a strong foundation in public policy, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable mobility, she brings deep expertise in project implementation and funding strategy at the municipal and state levels. Kate completed her master's degree in Sustainable Transportation at the University of Washington and has served on multiple transportation advisory boards, including the Connecticut Public Transportation Council and the CHEAPR electric vehicle incentive board. She is passionate about helping communities design safer, more connected streets that reflect local priorities and improve quality of life.

Seiders, Joel

Joel Seiders is the City Engineer for the City of Harrisburg. He has 21 years of experience, largely spent working at private transportation firms on bridge design and inspection. He has previous public service experience from working at both PennDOT and DCNR. As a native of Central PA, he jumped at the opportunity a few years ago to serve his "hometown" city. Prior to joining the city, he held engineering licenses in four states (PA, VA, MD, and WV). His degrees are in Architectural Engineering and Civil Engineering from Drexel University.

Warner, Claire

Claire Warner is a Principal Community Planner at the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC). She received her B.A. in Sociology and Master's in Community Planning from the University of Maryland. Her role at MCPC as a community planner involves reviewing land development proposals, updating zoning ordinance language, and writing comprehensive plans, among other projects. She also leads an effort to provide regulatory guidance on housing and housing development-related issues. She was a part of the MCPC team that developed the award-winning Transit-Oriented Development Model Ordinance. Claire enjoys commuting by public transit and, when the weather is nice, by bicycle.

Woolston, Jared

Jared Woolston is the Director of Sustainable Community & Economic Planning for the Borough of Carlisle. His background is in public planning, policy, and management. Jared worked in land use regulation for the Maine DEP and as the Town Planner in Brunswick Maine prior to being hired in Carlisle in 2021.

Willard, Ross – in memoriam

Ross Willard fixed things all his life. While in community college, it was motorcycles for a shop and the local kids' bikes for free. Then, it was more engineering courses at Millersville and Penn State, but no degree because life got in the way. While rebuilding a Victorian house at home, he worked in machine shops, manufacturing, and then thirty years of railroading. He and his wife also ran nonprofits in their spare time. So, while feeding people on the street, he noticed kids with brakeless bikes. Hence, Recycle Bicycle was born, and after twenty years, it went from his yard to a nine-thousand-square-foot warehouse. He is deeply missed.