

**November 16, 2015: Investing in Place
Los Angeles County Council of Governments and Subregion Forum**

Biographies of Speakers

Jacki Bacharach has been the Executive Director of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, a joint powers authority of 16 cities and unincorporated county area in the southwest portion of Los Angeles County since 1998. Her duties include program and project management and grant administration – including oversight responsibility for the South Bay Environmental Services Center and the South Bay’s \$906 million Measure R Highway program - policy development, city outreach, and working with state and regional agencies on behalf of the subregion. She does this assignment under contract with Jacki Bacharach and Associates.

John Bwarie has served as the Executive Director of the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments since July 2014. Previously, he served as staff for Mayor James Hahn, Councilman Tom LaBonge, and Councilman Greig Smith. John founded Stratiscope in 2013, which provides strategic and communication services to organizations and businesses working to make an impact in LA. He also is the founder of the City Impact Lab in Los Angeles.

Jennifer Cohen is the Director of Government Affairs for the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. Jennifer began her career in the City of Los Angeles in 2006 as the Transportation Deputy for Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel. In that capacity she oversaw the Transportation Committee and worked closely with the region’s transportation stakeholders. She continued her government affairs work at Metrolink where she oversaw local, state and federal affairs for the largest commuter rail system in California. Jennifer has spent 10 years in transportation, both inside agencies and in policymaker’s offices, developing a combination of technical and political experience at the federal, state, and local levels. As the Director of Government Affairs, Jennifer is the primary liaison to the City Council and provides strategic support on numerous agency pursuits. She is a graduate of both UCLA and USC.

Terry Dipple has been the Executive Director of the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments for over 15 years. Member cities include Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu and Westlake Village. He loves camping and the outdoors. He has served on the ski patrol at Mountain High and June Mountain. In 2008, he founded Tattoos for the Cure, a breast cancer charity event.

Rudy Espinoza is the Executive Director of LURN and an urban planner with a passion for neighborhoods, entrepreneurship and financial empowerment. He specializes in designing and managing place-based initiatives, identifying profitable investment opportunities in low-income communities, building private/nonprofit partnerships and training the working poor to participate in the socio-economic revitalization of their neighborhoods. Rudy holds a Masters in Urban Planning from UCLA and a B.S. in Business Administration. He is also the current Chair of the Investing in Place Advisory Board.

John Fasana is the Mayor of the City of Duarte. In 1993, Mr. Fasana was appointed as the San Gabriel Valley’s representative to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and continues to serve on the Metro Board of Directors today. My interest and subsequent involvement in transportation issues has provided Duarte with a key opportunity to be heard within the sphere of county-wide transportation policy-making. No other candidate for City Council has this unique experience. He is also chair of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Transportation Committee. During the 2001-2002

fiscal year, Mr. Fasana served as the MTA Board Chair and is currently a member of the Finance Committee and the Operations Committee. He also represents Metro on the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority Board. This Board will build the Gold Line through Duarte to Azusa with an opening date projected for 2015. In addition to his public service experience, he has worked 30 years with Southern California Edison and is currently serving as a Project Manager in the Customer Energy Efficiency and Solar Division.

Karen Heit, Gateways CoG

Paul Hubler is Director of Government and Community Relations at the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE), where he has worked for 12 years. Paul is responsible for securing grant funding and overseeing community and media outreach programs for the \$1.7 billion ACE program of constructing rail-roadway grade separations and other improvements along the Alameda Corridor-East Trade Corridor in the San Gabriel Valley. Paul is member of the Advisory Board of Mobility 21, Southern California's largest transportation coalition. He also serves as Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors, a Washington, D.C.-based national coalition advocating for federal transportation funding for trade infrastructure projects of regional and national significance. Prior to joining ACE, Paul was legislative and communications deputy to former State Senator and current Congressman Adam Schiff. He worked in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. on legislation and efforts to secure funding for Southern California projects and initiatives.

Brian Ludicke holds a B.S. in Urban Planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and has over 30 years of public sector planning experience. As the planning director, he seeks to create a sustainable, healthy, and economically sound Lancaster by enhancing the relationship between land use, design, transportation, energy, and fiscal systems, and he has been directly involved in the City's ongoing downtown revitalization and complete streets planning initiatives. Mr. Ludicke is a member of the Congress for the New Urbanism, the Urban Land Institute, and the non-profit organization Strong Towns.

Kevin McKeown has been a Santa Monica renter for almost 40 years. He moved here to become general manager of KROQ, a career path begun at Yale's campus radio station. He also has been an award-winning advertising writer, done voice-overs, and owned a small radio recording studio on Main Street. McKeown now serves local children and teachers as Macintosh computer consultant for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. On the Council, where he is in his fifth term, McKeown focuses especially on affordable housing and environmental sustainability. He devotes much time and energy to responding to residents, and his leadership in helping people become more involved in local governance is longstanding. McKeown came to the Council after chairing a neighborhood group, serving on the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights steering committee, and sharing his professional expertise as a founder of the city's Public Electronic Network (PEN) and member of the Santa Monica Telecommunications Working Group. McKeown has helped engage regional cities in working together on issues of homelessness, which he brought to the table as Santa Monica's alternate to the Westside Cities Council of Governments. He is an elected member of the Democratic Party State Central Committee, and Southern California vice-chair of the party's Irish-American caucus. He has twice (2010 and 2013) been named our Assembly District Democrat of the Year. McKeown is committed to protecting Santa Monicans' quality of life. Understanding the link between pressures for overdevelopment and private political donations, McKeown continues to work in support of community efforts for local campaign finance reform.

Jessica Meaney is the managing director of Investing in Place and a transportation advocate who has been living intentionally car free in Los Angeles for over 15 years. Academically trained as a sociologist, Jessica's approach to transportation policy began with looking at the

key roles public transit, walking and bicycling play in social cohesion and community health. Jessica's policy approach has focused on using transportation finance research and advocacy efforts to achieve those outcomes, particularly in low income communities and communities of color. Most recently, Jessica worked at the Safe Routes to School National Partnership on State and Regional Transportation policy, and before that as a transportation planner at the Southern California Association of Governments. In 2013, Jessica was awarded Advocate of the Year by Streetsblog Los Angeles.

Katherine Aguilar Perez Estolano is an expert in urban planning, transportation, and stakeholder engagement. As cofounder of Estolano LeSar Perez (ELP) Advisors, she manages numerous transportation planning and community engagement projects. In the planning and land use field, she is highly regarded for developing complex public participation strategies that require collaboration among multicultural communities. With her background in community engagement, private real estate development, transportation policy and urban planning, she is recognized as a leader in the planning field and speaks at conferences throughout the country. Prior to cofounding ELP Advisors, she was the Executive Director of the Urban Land Institute, Los Angeles District Council (ULI LA), and was formerly the Vice President of Development for Forest City Development where she focused on transit oriented development and mixed use, mixed income projects in emerging markets. Before joining Forest City, Katherine was the cofounder and Executive Director of the Transportation and Land Use Collaborative (TLUC) of Southern California, a nationally recognized nonprofit that promoted greater civic involvement in planning and development. Previously, she worked as Deputy to Pasadena Mayor William Bogaard on transportation, planning and Latino constituent issues. Katherine is an Adjunct Professor at the USC School of Planning and Development. She codesigned and teaches public participation in planning and land use decision making. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor at the UCLA School of Policy and was honored to be recognized as a Senior Fellow of the UCLA School of Public Affairs. In addition, she has served as an instructor for the National League of Cities, Leadership Training for Local Officials program as well as a Lecturer for the Ford Fellowship, Regional Sustainable Development series. Katherine received her Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Transportation from UCLA and her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from California State University Northridge.

Jess Talamantes is Burbank City Councilmember, with a 32-year career of dedicated service as a Burbank Firefighter. Jess was elected in 2009, served as Centennial Mayor during the City's Centennial Celebration in 2011 and was named Vice Mayor in 2015. He was re-elected in 2013 and is currently serving his second four year term. While he spent many years on the frontlines in public safety, he also passionately worked the sidelines as a coach to Burbank's young athletes. His attention to youth programs and commitment to their success continues to this day through his 2011-2012 Mayoral theme of 'A Healthy Burbank.' Some of the initiatives included "Ride a Bike with the Mayor", The Mayor's "Healthy Minute" on the Burbank Channel and the "Let's Move!" campaign in conjunction with First Lady Michelle Obama. A Burbank resident since 1962, Jess is a graduate of John Burroughs High School. He earned his B.S. in Fire Protection Administration and Technology from California State University at Los Angeles.

Phillip A. Washington, formerly of Denver's Regional Transportation District, was unanimously selected CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) by the Metro Board of Directors on March 12, 2015. Washington came to Los Angeles at a time when Metro has five major rail, plus highway projects, under construction – together representing the largest modern public works program in the United States. In his position as Metro CEO, Washington oversees an agency that transports 1.4 million boarding passengers on an average weekday, riding on a fleet of 2,000 clean-air buses and six rail lines. Metro also is the lead transportation planning and programming agency for Los Angeles County. As such, it is a major construction agency that oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility

related building projects. Originally from the south side of Chicago – the Chicago Housing Projects of Altgeld Gardens – Washington is a 24-year veteran of the United States Army where he held the rank of Command Sergeant Major, the highest non-commissioned officer rank an enlisted person can achieve. He holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Columbia College and an M.A. in Management from Webster University. He is current chair of the American Public Transportation Association.

Ann Wilson is the current Executive Director of the Arroyo Verdugo Subregion. She has over 35 years of public sector experience in municipal government work, 25 years of which have included transportation responsibilities, as well as 4 years as Subregional Executive Director. Working for Cities such as El Cajon, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Alhambra, and La Cañada Flintridge.

Kurt Weideman was appointed to the Torrance City Council in July 2013. He currently serves as the chair of the Transportation Committee and is a member of the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee, the Strategic Plan Committee, and the Armed Forces Day Committee. He also serves as a member of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) and the Independent Cities Association. Prior to his appointment to the City Council, Kurt Weideman served on the Torrance Planning Commission from 2006 through 2013. He was appointed by the City Council to serve as the Torrance business community representative on the Carson/Lomita/Torrance Work Force Investment Board (1996 through 2006). Kurt was appointed by the El Camino College Board of Trustees to serve as the first chairman of the ECC Measure E Citizens Bond Oversight Committee. Kurt's contributions to the community include active involvement in such civic organizations as the Torrance Historical Society (3 terms as President), the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation (2 terms as President), the Torrance Public Library Foundation, and the North Torrance Homeowners Association. In 2006, after a 26-year career, Kurt retired as a Vice President and General Manager of Lisi (Hi-Shear), a local aerospace firm. Kurt is married to Sue Golden and they have four children and five grandchildren.