

Women Changing Transportation Mentorship Program

2019 Mentors



Tiffany Chu

Tiffany Chu is a designer, planner, and founder at Remix. She and her team based in San Francisco and Amsterdam, are working with over 350+ cities around the world to plan their transportation future. She's passionate about building livable cities and creating impact through user-centered design and technology. She has been named in Forbes' 30 Under 30, LinkedIn's Next Wave of Leaders Under 35 in Government, Curbed's Young Guns, and has spoken at SXSW, Helsinki Design Week, and the New York Times Cities for Tomorrow Conference.

Previously, Tiffany was a Fellow at Code for America, partnering with the City of Charlotte to launch their first open data initiative. Tiffany is also an alum of Y Combinator, was the first user experience designer at Zipcar, wrote for Dwell, and studied architecture and urban planning at MIT. She hopes to never own a car during her lifetime.



Anita Cozart

Anita Cozart is a Managing Director at PolicyLink where she leads place-based, equitable development initiatives. During her time at PolicyLink Anita has established the Transportation Equity Caucus, a national coalition that promotes policies that yield just and fair infrastructure investment; led a philanthropic partnership dedicated to expanding access to housing and opportunity; and served as a lead coordinator of Equity Summit 2015.

Prior to joining PolicyLink, Anita spent six years with the Washington, DC Office of Planning where she served first as a neighborhood and citywide planner, and ultimately as the chief of staff, leading the agency's media activities, legislative initiatives, and special projects. She serves on the boards of Jobs to Move America, Shared Use Mobility Center, and Smart Growth America. Anita holds a master's in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley. She resides in Washington, D.C. with her spouse and three children, and is an active member of the historic Shiloh Baptist Church.



Annette Darrow

Annette Darrow has been a transit industry professional for 27 years, twenty-three of which with IndyGo. She has a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. While working on her degree she took a job at UMASS Transit where she learned many aspects of public-transit operations; from driving to training, customer service, dispatching, and supervising. This foundation provided a strong background for her current position as Director of Service Planning at IndyGo, where she is responsible for bus routing/scheduling/runcutting development, Bus Rapid Transit integration, traffic engineering, scheduling and data/management, CAD/AVL administration, and implementation of transit amenities & pedestrian infrastructure. She has managed multiple on-board passenger studies, Comprehensive Operational Analyses (COA), and the recent Marion County Transit Plan (MCTP). A dedicated, local, funding source for public transit passed by voter referendum in 2016 enabling IndyGo to implement its biggest system redesign in 40 years, including three upgraded and fully electric Bus Rapid Transit lines.



Jana Demas

Jana Demas is the Managing Director of Employee Services at King County Metro in King County, Washington, an area that encompasses Seattle and 38 other towns and cities. In this role, Jana is helping to transform the employee experience, focusing on developing a strategy and vision for employee services, modernizing recruitment, onboarding, and employee development activities, and ensuring a greater commitment to equity and social justice at Metro.

Jana holds Bachelor's Degrees in Education and International Studies from the University of Miami and Master's Degrees in Public Administration and Urban Planning from the University of Washington. Her professional affiliations include Leadership APTA Class of 2019, Society of Human Resource Managers, and Conference of Minority Transportation Officials. Jana has lived in all four corners of the United States and in four countries abroad, but has always thought of Seattle as home. She now lives in Seattle near the RapidRide E Line, with her husband and two children. In her spare time, you can find her running, doing yoga, traveling, riding public transit with her children, and spending time with her family and friends.



Naomi Doerner

Naomi Doerner is a transportation planner and equity strategist with over a decade of professional non-profit, private, and public sector experience building inclusive coalitions, campaigns, and community-guided planning processes. Based in Seattle since 2017, she works at the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) as the City's and nation's first ever Transportation Equity Program Manager. Naomi is also a co-founder and a core organizer of The Untokening, a multiracial collective established in 2016 that centers the lived experiences of marginalized communities to address and advance mobility justice. She also serves on the advisory boards of the Vision Zero Network and PlayBuild. Naomi has a Master of Urban Planning from New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs, and a Certificate in Geographic Information Studies from Kennesaw State University



Naomi Iwasaki

Naomi Iwasaki joined Investing in Place as Deputy Director in 2017 after serving on the advisory board as an original member. She manages the organization's policy staff, strategic partnerships, and external communications. Previously, Naomi served as Director of Neighborhood Services and Great Streets in the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, overseeing eight City departments and the Great Streets Initiative, which prioritizes public resources to develop our streets as safe and vibrant public spaces. Naomi holds a Master's of Urban Planning from New York University and B.A.'s in Ethnic Studies and Social Welfare from UC Berkeley. She also serves on the boards of the City of Los Angeles Affordable Housing Commission, Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement, LA-Más, and the Kaiser Permanente Research Bank. Her greatest joy is proudly raising two fifth-generation Angelenos in her hometown.



Candida Lorenzana

Candida Lorenzana is the new Transit and Mobility Division Director at the Seattle Department of Transportation (starting May 1, 2019). Candida will oversee a division that focused on emerging technologies, transportation equity, transit service and capital investments, parking programs and transportation demand management. In her prior role as Transit Service and Strategy Manager, she oversaw the city's investment in transit service, regional policy issues, and relations with King County Metro Transit, Seattle's transit provider. She has twelve years of transit experience in a variety of roles, including major project coordination, performance reporting and strategic planning. Candida began her career at King County Metro Transit in long-range planning, moving on to coordinate internal resources and inter-agency relations for major regional projects and Metro initiatives. Her background is in communications with a Master in Public Administration from the University of Washington, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.



Katie Roth

Katie Roth is passionate about the role faster, better bus service can play in building a more livable Twin Cities region. She manages Metro Transit's arterial bus rapid transit program, leading a planning and engineering team responsible for the implementation of the agency's 12-line arterial BRT program. Katie is active in WTS and was named to Mass Transit magazine's 2017 "Top 40 Under 40" list. She has a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Minnesota and a BA from Indiana University. Katie is a daily transit rider, walker and bicyclist, with ten years of private and public sector transit experience.



Stefanie Seskin

Stefanie Seskin is the Active Transportation Director in the Boston Transportation Department. Stefanie and her team lead and support projects citywide, including the expansion of the bicycle network, neighborhood traffic calming projects, and the region's public bike share. Prior to joining the City of Boston in 2016, Stefanie was Deputy Director of the National Complete Streets Coalition.



Tiffany-Ann Taylor

Tiffany-Ann Taylor is a Deputy Director in the Office of Freight Mobility for the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT). Prior to working at NYCDOT, she worked at the New York City Economic Development Corporation in the Ports & Transportation division on transformative projects that impact passenger transportation throughout New York City. Tiffany has also worked in suburban and regional planning for the Suffolk County Government on Long Island. There, her primary projects involved Transit Oriented Development, Smart Growth, and Bus Rapid Transit. Tiffany has also worked for organizations with specializations in workforce development, public transportation and emergency management. She holds a B.A in Government from The College of William & Mary and a M.S in City & Regional Planning from Pratt Institute. Tiffany is the brainchild of the annual Hindsight Conference and Co-Chair of the American Planning Association's New York Metro Chapter Diversity Committee.



Stacy Thompson

Stacy is the Executive Director of LivableStreets, overseeing all programs including Vision Zero, Better Buses, and the Emerald Network, and ensuring overall programmatic and operational excellence for the organization. A relentless optimist, Stacy is undaunted by the many challenges facing Metro Boston today, including increasing access to jobs and affordable housing, improving safety and public health outcomes, and building climate resiliency. Stacy believes that improving our streets isn't simply a transportation issue, but one of justice, equity, and opportunity. Previously, Stacy served as the Director of Events & Sponsorship at Ceres, a sustainability nonprofit organization, where she developed the strategic focus, content, and communications for major events. She also worked for the Office for Peace and Justice at the Archdiocese of Chicago where she collaborated with community partners to organize educational forums and supported a broad array of social justice initiatives. She has a Master of Arts in Social Justice from Loyola University and a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education from Saint Vincent College.



Monica G. Tibbits-Nutt

Monica G. Tibbits-Nutt, AICP, LEED AP BD+C is the Executive Director of the 128 Business Council. Working in regional planning and transportation, Monica's areas of specialty are transportation planning, urban design, and sustainability. Her work experience includes public sector transit planning at both the MBTA Advisory Board and as Executive Director of TransitWorks. In addition, Monica has worked in regional planning and development for the MidOhio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the City of Columbus Planning and Development office, and the Greater Linden Development Corporation. She received a Masters of City and Regional Planning from the Ohio State University in Columbus and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Southern Indiana. In both her work and research, she is most interested in developing regional strategies that integrate sustainable practices into transportation. Toward this goal, Monica's current work seeks to improve and promote sustainable transportation practices throughout the suburban and metropolitan region. She serves on the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Board of Directors and the Fiscal and Management Control Board that currently oversees the MBTA.



Midori Valdivia

Midori is the Chief of Staff to the Chairman & CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the overall umbrella organization responsible for the transportation of 8.5 million people each day in the New York region, including New York City Transit, Long Island Rail Road, Metro North and MTA Bridges & Tunnels. Midori is currently focused on major organizational priorities including implementation of congestion pricing and leading modernization efforts at the MTA.

Midori has spent her career working on transportation and urban planning issues in New York City. Midori was the Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration at the Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC), the City agency responsible for licensing and regulating taxis and other for-hire services in New York City. She directed the organization's operating and financial strategy in the age of Uber and led the development of one of the largest wheelchair-accessible taxi fleets for people with disabilities in the United States. Midori also served as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, focusing on major regional investments including the building of a new terminal at LaGuardia Airport and the redevelopment of the World Trade Center. Midori is passionate about empowering and mentoring women and people of color in the transportation & infrastructure industry.



Dottie Watkins

Dottie Watkins serves as Vice President, Bus Operations and Maintenance for Capital Metro, leading the team responsible for the agency's contracted bus and vanpool services through active monitoring of service quality and contract compliance. Dottie began her transit career in 1994 driving a UT shuttle bus part-time while she attended the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to her appointment as vice president, Dottie was interim general manager of StarTran, Inc., where she was responsible for 900 employees providing bus and paratransit services. Dottie chaired APTA's Bus Operations Committee from October 2014 to May 2019, she is a 2006 graduate of Leadership APTA and holds a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Texas and a Master of Business Administration from St. Edward's University



Audrey Wennink

Audrey directs MPC's transportation efforts and coordinates transportation initiatives with other facets of planning including affordable housing, land use, equity and the environment. She leads transportation research and advocacy efforts including pursuing sustainable funding for transportation in Illinois, integration of performance-based planning methods into transportation practice, and developing efforts to boost transportation equity. Prior to MPC, Audrey was a transportation planning and policy consultant for 12 years with national expertise in transit, traffic safety, freight and performance based planning. A Chicago resident for more than 20 years, Audrey is an advisory board member of the Greater Chicago chapter of WTS, a professional organization to advance women in the transportation industry, and a member of Lambda Alpha International, an honorary society focusing on land economics and planning issues. Audrey also serves on the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's transportation committee. She holds a B.A. in English and Spanish from Colby College and a Master's in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Jennifer Wieland

Jennifer Wieland is a principal with Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates and leads the firm's Seattle office. She brings more than a dozen years of experience to transportation planning and policy, with an emphasis on transit master plans, high-capacity transit and multimodal corridors, and station access. She is one of the firm's leaders in transit master plans and high-capacity transit visioning, with current or recently-completed transit projects in Orange County, Seattle, Las Vegas, Denver, Nashville, and Fort Worth. Jennifer also works on long-range multimodal and strategic plans, helping cities, regions, and organizations rethink the way they plan, design, build, and maintain projects and programs. She is currently leading this type of work in Victoria, BC, Boston, and Los Angeles. Before joining Nelson\Nygaard, Jennifer was a strategic advisor and transportation planner with the Seattle Department of Transportation where she worked on Seattle's Transit and Pedestrian Master Plans, managed major capital projects, and developed the city's public space programs. She holds master's degrees in transportation planning and public health from the University of North Carolina. Outside of work, Jennifer likes to bake, hike, and explore Seattle's many breweries with her partner, Jason. They live on a transit-oriented farm in Seattle's Rainier Beach neighborhood. (Yes, really!)



Laura Wiens

Laura Wiens is the Executive Director of Pittsburghers for Public Transit (PPT). Over the past two years, she has led successful campaigns to prevent criminalization of fare evasion and massive transit service reductions in marginalized communities. PPT Transit rider-leaders are now advancing campaigns for fare equity, affordable housing and transit policy, and transit as a climate solution. Laura has her roots in labor organizing with Unite HERE, and draws from that experience to mobilize transit riders in the fight for equity, access and transparency within our public agencies. Laura believes in the collective power of people to transform their communities.