

## Women Changing Transportation Mentorship Program

### 2019 Mentees



**Amar Azucena Cid**

Amar Azucena Cid has led the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (part of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction fund) since 2015 within the Division of Rail and Mass Transportation at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Prior to her work at Caltrans, Amar worked as a consultant for CA State Assembly and as a planner for a governmental oversight community-based organization. She holds a masters and bachelor's degree in Community Planning. Outside of work, she enjoys creating Chicano/Indigenous rooted artwork with her family. Amar was raised by strong community civil rights activist parents and strives to raise her two young children with similar ethics.



**Terra Curtis**

Terra brings an entrepreneurial spirit to transportation planning. She co-leads Nelson\Nygaard's Emerging Mobility practice, which tracks the evolution of the transportation technology space, identifies trends, and—to ensure that our future mobility upholds our ideals of mobility, accessibility, and sustainability—develops the firm's strategic role in today's growing ecosystem of transportation stakeholders. She recently completed a Partnership Playbook for collaborations between transit agencies and transportation network companies, which will be published through TCRP (Report 204) in spring 2019. Her other recent projects include developing a TDM-focused Mobility Action Plan for the US-101 Corridor in the Bay Area, developing a microtransit service model and ridership estimates for the Los Angeles region, and advisory work to several private mobility service providers. She authored "Driverless Vehicles and Your Community" in the APA Planning magazine in December 2016. Outside of work, Terra enjoys road and gravel biking with her husband and one-year old daughter.



**Margo Dawes**

Margo Dawes works at the Seattle Department of Transportation as a strategic advisor on new mobility, data, and equity. Her work includes advancing strong racial equity framing and engagement strategies for the new mobility program, leading data management for the city's free-floating bike share program, and collaborating with regional transit agencies and other stakeholders on shared pilot evaluation metrics. She believes in conducting pilots that are designed to advance the city's racial equity and climate action goals and that produce measurable results. Prior to joining SDOT, Margo worked with the U.S. Department of Transportation as a planner and researcher at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center. Margo has a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering and planning and a Master in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**Jennifer Ding**

Jennifer Ding is a Solutions Engineer at Numina, translating data into human for Numina's partner cities around the world. She's passionate about designing applications of emerging technologies for social good, which she's explored as an IDEO CoLab fellow and the founder of ParkIT, a smart parking startup.



### Kimberly Ford

Kimberly Ford currently serves as the Transit Equity Specialist at the Regional Transportation District (RTD) in Denver, CO. With over 10 years of diversity and inclusion work, she brings community perspectives and an equity lens to the world of transportation. Before joining RTD she worked contractually with various nonprofit organizations that focused on social justice and liberation.



### Ambar Johnson

As a transportation planner, bicycle educator, and life-long transit user (she's never owned a car) Ambar is an advocate for social justice and transportation equity. By exploring creative funding for, and the psychosocial elements of transportation, she sees transportation as a tool to build independence, community health and wealth, empathy, and social cohesion across modes, neighborhoods, and communities. Through transportation planning she hopes to show that even though we all do not 100% use one mode, public transportation will help everyone, 100%. When she's not rolling and strolling through city streets, she's learning French, picking out the next book to read from the public library, and practicing the art of flânerie.



### Lynda Lopez

Lynda Lopez is a transportation reporter for Streetsblog Chicago focusing on transit oriented development, displacement, and bike equity. She is also the southwest side representative for the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council and serves on the Active Transportation Alliance's Community Equity Advisory Group. Active Trans named Lynda the 2018 City Advocate of the Year for her work around transit equity. Lynda also recently joined the national team of the Untokening, an organization dedicated to mobility justice. When not talking or writing about transit justice, Lynda enjoys tweeting, riding her bike, and taking long walks around her neighborhood.



### Kelsey Mesher

Kelsey Mesher fights for more and better transportation choices in Washington State as Advocacy Director for Transportation Choices Coalition. She leads TCC's work in building broad coalitions and support among elected officials, transportation leaders and the public for equitable transportation policies and practices. Kelsey started in advocacy work with Cascade Bicycle Club, launching campaigns and organizing efforts for safe and protected places to bike in Seattle. Prior to entering the transportation field, she worked in the private sector in the travel and tech space. Kelsey holds a Master's in Public Health from the University of Washington and Bachelor's in Cultural and Social Anthropology from Stanford, and sees transportation policy and planning as a means to building healthier, fairer and more resilient communities.



### Richa Poudyal

Richa Poudyal is the Advocacy Director at The Street Trust - a local nonprofit in Portland, Oregon working to improve conditions for walking, biking and public transit in Oregon. She comes from a background in climate policy and is also involved in community organizing around climate, housing and immigrant rights in Portland. Outside of work she cooks, dances and enjoys NW sunshine for about 2 months out of the year.



## Liz Raskopf

Liz Raskopf serves as a Public Engagement Specialist for GoTriangle, the regional transit authority serving three counties in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina. In this role Liz works as a liaison between the public, government agencies, the business community, elected officials and media on transportation-related communications and community feedback. Along with the communications and public affairs team, Liz works to actively engage the community in the public input and decision-making process, and better tell the story of our community investment in transit, with a particular focus on developing relationships and reaching underserved communities.



## Vianney Ruvalcaba

Vianney Ruvalcaba is the Transportation & Planning Coordinator at City Heights CDC where she performs outreach and research related to local and regional built environment issues, such as regional planning, transit rider priorities, and complete streets. As a CHCDC staff representative on the SANDAG Community-Based Outreach Network and the City Heights Built Environment Team, Vianney works to elevate the transportation needs of environmental justice communities like City Heights. Further, as a Commissioner at the City of Chula Vista Sustainability Commission and Vice-Chair of the City of Chula Vista Climate Change Working Group, she is advancing Transportation Justice priorities in her hometown. Vianney graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Urban Studies and Planning and a Minor in Spanish Literature from UC San Diego.



## Lauren Tarte

As a manager in MTA New York City Transit's Data/Research/Development group, Lauren works to integrate and leverage the numerous sources of big data generated by New York's subway and bus systems. She is part of the team that is responsible for the MTA's public-facing Subway and Bus Performance Dashboards. Lauren holds a Master of Science in Transportation from MIT, where she worked with Transport for London to use automatically collected data sources for planning and performance measurement applications. She hails from Seattle, Washington, where she engaged in stereotypical Pacific Northwest activities such as working for Boeing, hiking, and drinking lots of coffee.



## Destiny Thomas

Dr. Destiny Thomas is a Transportation Planning Associate II with LADOT. A Cultural Anthropologist with a community-organizing background, she takes a multi-sector approach to elevating the human element and lived experiences in the realms of planning, public health, and socially-responsible marketing. While at LADOT, a key focal point of her work is increasing access to active transportation and influencing a more community-centered planning and design process. Dr. Destiny Thomas is responsible for working with the Vision Zero Policy and Programs division to deliver projects that improve safety and health outcomes on and around the high injury network. Her role includes, but is not limited to, developing engagement strategies that are used throughout the Department, implementing Safe Routes for Seniors community plans, and establishing cross-sector partnerships that situate transportation planning within a broader social context. Areas of interest include: developing a "dignity-infused planning" methodology, anti-displacement studies, healing environmental and infrastructural trauma, and bolstering agency and voice in marginalized communities within municipal planning processes.



## Catherine Vanderwaart

Catherine has been with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for three years, first in the Bus Planning department and now as a Senior Transportation Economist in the Office of Planning. Her work focuses on using big data, such as farecard and vehicle location data, to support planning and strategic projects. She received masters degrees in city planning and transportation from MIT in 2016. During her time at MIT, her thesis research with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority focused on applying inferred passenger travel patterns to bus service planning. Prior to graduate school, Catherine worked in the financial and nonprofit sectors. She graduated from Swarthmore College in 2003.





### Carolyn Vera

Carolyn "Caro" Vera is a Transportation Planner in Fehr & Peers' Los Angeles Office. At Fehr & Peers, Caro merges her passion for equitable outcomes with effective and innovative transportation solutions. She specializes in Vision Zero, community engagement, and active transportation planning. Her work as a planner is guided by her commitment to creating accessible streets for all who walk, bike, roll, and drive. As a South Central native, she is committed to fostering solutions that improve communities throughout Los Angeles.



### Danielle Wallace

Danielle Wallace has served as the Apprenticeship Program Manager at King County Metro Transit in Seattle for a little over 2 years. Danielle works with Metro's trades work groups to develop full-scale apprenticeship programs and to build pathways to transit careers. Danielle's professional experience includes job training program management, policy analysis, and supporting recently resettled refugees. Danielle moved to Seattle from Georgia 10 years ago and loves spending time outside hiking and gardening, tackling home renovation projects, or volunteering with grassroots organizations. Danielle holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy and Governance and Bachelors of Arts in International Affairs and Political Science from the University of Georgia. Danielle and her partner, Joe, live in Seattle with their 2 cats, Rocky and Moose.



### Katie Wettick

Katie received her Master's in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University in 2015. She has worked for three years with the City of Austin Development Services Department and is currently a Senior Planner in Transportation Review. In this role, she reviews site plans, subdivisions, and zoning cases for compliance with the transportation aspects of city code. She is interested in working to increase transportation options to provide access to opportunity for those at all socioeconomic levels. In her free time, Katie enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors camping, hiking, and running. She volunteers with the Austin Chapter of Back on My Feet, a national organization that works to empower the homeless community through running.