



On the Road to Prosperity: Fostering Collaborative Transportation and Economic Development Planning

Virtual Peer Exchange #5: How Transportation Technologies are Meeting Mobility and Economic Development Needs in Rural America

Presenter Spotlight

**Scott Allen, Transportation Specialist, FHWA Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty
Washington, DC**



Scott Allen joined FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty in 2017. Scott focuses on the office's research program, rural transportation planning, economic development, public involvement, and freight. Prior to his current role, Scott served as a FHWA Division Transportation Planner for seven years. Scott holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Georgia and an MPA with a focus in Planning and Economic Development from Georgia State University. Scott enjoys spending time with his fiancé and dog, Hootie.

**Sam Purington, Executive Director, Volunteer Transportation Center
Watertown, NY**



Sam Purington has served as the Executive Director of the Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc. for the past nine years. Previously, he worked for Kraft Foods in various roles, including Controller, Business Unit Manager (Cream Cheese), and Business Development and Engineering Manager. Sam has used his skills in computer technology, management, communication, and board relations to transform the Volunteer Transportation Center into a financially thriving non-profit corporation. He has reorganized the organization to increase the number of people served without increasing costs, diversified operations to increase revenues and reduce risk, forged new partnerships with State agencies, increased the number of volunteer drivers, and expanded into Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. Sam has an MBA from Clarkson and serves on a several boards including the Rotary Joint International Projects Committee, the Samaritan Keep Home Board & Samaritan Summit Village of Directors, and the North Country Council of Social Agencies.

**Shannen Kelch, Senior Human Services Specialist, Northern Kentucky Area Development District
Florence, KY**



Shannen Kelch is the Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living Senior Human Services Specialist at the Northern Kentucky Area Development District. Shannen is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University, where she received a bachelor's degree in Social Work. She has over 21 years of experience in the field of aging with her primary responsibilities consisting of contract, financial, and data management. When she is not staring at her computer, she also works with her co-workers to expand and develop new programs and initiatives. Shannen is currently working on a handful of expansion projects which include organizations located in New York, Australia, and Maryland. When she is not working, she and her husband Mark are watching their four children at soccer, football, or basketball games.

**Dustin Peyton, Business Development Associate, TransLoc
Durham, NC**



Dustin is a Business Development Associate at TransLoc, a Ford Smart Mobility company. TransLoc has established itself as the leader in agency-owned microtransit solutions with over 50 pilot partners across the U.S. Since coming on board at TransLoc, Dustin has had the opportunity to speak with over 200 transit agencies about the utilization of microtransit to enhance their transit services. His hands-on approach and experience gained through those conversations with potential partners has undoubtedly played a role in the company's continued growth.

**Hendrik Opstelten, Mobility Innovation Program Analyst, Federal Transit Administration Office of Mobility Innovation
Washington, DC**



At the Federal Transit Administration’s Office of Mobility Innovation, Rik Opstelten works on a variety of efforts that help ensure the public transportation system serves everyone as effectively as possible, including Mobility on Demand, the Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative, and Mobility Services for All Americans. Previously, Rik oversaw FTA-funded technical assistance centers on mobility management and accessibility and worked to better coordinate human service transportation at the federal level. He has a long history of working to ensure universal access to opportunity. In his volunteer time, he works to advance Dutch-style cycling culture, and is well known locally for his twice-daily, suited, three-wheeled crossings of the Potomac.

**Joshua Seidemann, Vice President of Policy, NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association
Washington, DC**



As NTCA’s Vice President of Policy, Joshua Seidemann focuses on Federal regulatory issues as well as technology and economic factors affecting the rural telecom industry. He is a regular contributor to the NTCA blog and other media. Josh holds a B.A. degree in Economics and Speech/Drama and a law degree, both from Yeshiva University. He is admitted to practice in New Jersey, New York, and the District of Columbia.

**Jessica Metta, Deputy Director, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
The Dalles, OR**



Jessica Metta has been with the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) since 2008. Her role there has two focus areas. The first is managing MCEDD's transportation division which includes a regional mobility manager and Wasco County public transportation. The second role is as the Executive Director of the Gorge Technology Alliance, a regional industry association for the tech businesses in the Columbia River Gorge. From its office in The Dalles, MCEDD serves two counties in Washington (Skamania and Klickitat) and three in Oregon (Hood River, Wasco and Sherman).