

Bio of Presenters

Commissioner Clay Bright

Clay Bright was appointed Commissioner of Transportation by Governor Bill Lee in January 2019. He is the 30th commissioner of the state agency that oversees a statewide transportation system including highways, rail, airports, waterways, and transit.

With a career dedicated to construction and project delivery, Commissioner Bright is eager to build on TDOT's growing Accelerated Delivery Program and innovative approaches to congestion and traffic management. Recently enacted legislation will allow the department to continue to utilize the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) project delivery method, and Bright is currently overseeing the implementation of the first Smart Corridor project in Tennessee.

Safety and educational advancements continue to be a top priority under Commissioner Bright's leadership, with a strong focus on TDOT's front line employees. With the implementation of an aggressive internal safety campaign, the department has seen a dramatic decrease in employee injuries. The TDOT ReConnect program will also provide opportunities for employees to advance their education levels and work towards a college degree.

Commissioner Bright spent 36 years working for Brasfield & Gorrie, one of the nation's largest construction firms. In 1998, he opened Brasfield & Gorrie's Nashville-based office. During the 20 years under his leadership, Brasfield & Gorrie's Nashville team completed over \$3 billion in construction and grew to employ over 200 people.

Commissioner Bright is an active member of Nashville's business community, serving on several boards and commissions. He also devotes time to global humanitarian causes, and has participated in several mission trips.

Commissioner Bright received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Alabama. He and his wife, Kim, have two sons and are members of Christ Presbyterian Church. In his free time, he enjoys running, golf, hunting, and fishing.

Preston Elliot

Preston Elliott in April of this year was named Deputy Commissioner and the Chief of Environment and Planning Bureau with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). Having worked with TDOT early in his career, Preston has over 25 years of community and transportation planning experience within Tennessee and the Southeast. Prior to rejoining TDOT, Preston spent 16 years in the private sector working with both a national firm as well as an international firm, providing professional planning services to communities large and small. In addition to his DOT and private consulting experience, Preston has also worked with three metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and as a community volunteer, served 12 years on a local transit authority board. Preston is a certified planner and he has worked in every mode of transportation, from walking, biking, transit, and vehicular planning, to truck, freight, rail, and shared mobility. Preston received his Master of Science in Public Administration from Tennessee State University and Bachelor of Science in Social Science & Urban Planning from Florida State University.

Daniel Murray

Daniel Murray has more than 28 years of experience in a broad range of transportation fields including trucking research and economics, transportation safety technologies and autonomous vehicles.

As Senior Vice President for the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), Mr. Murray is responsible for managing ATRI's transportation research, testing and evaluation activities, and he leads multiple national activities including the U.S. DOT-sponsored Freight Mobility Initiative. Prior to his employment with ATRI, Mr. Murray spent several years working in economic development for a Chicago business consortium and four years developing transit programs, policy and funding with the Regional Transit Board in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.

He is actively involved in the National Academies' Transportation Research Board as Vice Chair of the Trucking Research Committee, and presently sits on the Boards of the Freight Mobility Research Institute, Mid-America Transportation Center and the Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee.

Dan received his BA from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, and his MS from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Dan E. Pallme

Dan Pallme is the Assistant Chief of Freight and Logistics at the Tennessee Department of Transportation. In his role, he provides leadership on issues of rail, water and highway freight. The division serves as a liaison between TDOT and freight stakeholders in an effort to find opportunities to improve access for existing freight and appropriately prepare for the projected increases in freight as it moves in and out of the state. The primary focus areas for the division include water, short-line railroads, Section 130 rail program, rail inspection, highway freight and

technology, freight advisory committees and the freight and state rail plan updates. Recently, he was named Interim Multimodal Transportation Resource Division Director which handles DOT responsibility with all transit in all 95 counties in Tennessee, as well as, bicycle and pedestrian state programs.

He spent his entire career focused in the transportation sector. He is truly multi-modal with his 30 plus year career spanning several modes. He has worked for Federal Express (air), Yellow Freight System (LTL), Union Pacific Railroad (rail), and Comtrak Logistics (Intermodal / Truckload). After his private sector experience, he spent 5 years at the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute at the University of Memphis on various projects relating to freight issues.

He received his Bachelors from the University of Memphis in transportation and a Masters from the University of Denver in Intermodal Transportation Management.

Dr. Craig Philip

Dr. Craig Philip is Research Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Vanderbilt University, and Director of Vanderbilt's Transportation Center (VECTOR).

Dr. Philip's research focus is on Maritime Systems including infrastructure sustainability, and the application of risk management tools to transportation systems, carrier safety management, and transport policy. Prior to joining Vanderbilt he was President/CEO of Ingram Barge Company, the largest US marine transport carrier. In addition to Ingram, Philip's career included work in the rail and intermodal sectors for Conrail and Southern Pacific Railroad.

He is currently Vice Chairman of the National Academy of Science's Marine Board, a member of TRB's Executive Committee, and on the Boards of the National Waterways Foundation and the Seamen's Church Institute. He has served as Chairman of multiple maritime groups including the AWO, NWC and NWF, was a US Commissioner of PIANC, Chaired the US Chamber of Commerce's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and was a founding member of USDOT's National Freight Advisory Committee and the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Committee.

Dr. Philip earned his doctorate in Civil Engineering from MIT and his bachelor's degree from Princeton. He is a Board Certified member of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists, and a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Miguel Moravec

Miguel Moravec is a doctoral student in Civil Engineering at Vanderbilt University. Prior to returning to Vanderbilt, Miguel worked at U.S. EPA as a member of the Chemical Safety for Sustainability National Research Program. Miguel has additional professional experience with U.S. Navy, U.S. NOAA, and Nissan North America.

Miguel's academic interests include leveraging agent-based modeling and data analytics to evaluate the impacts of disruptions to transportation networks, especially as they relate to decision-making in the maritime domain. In his free time, Miguel is an avid sailor who enjoys generating his own maritime data points while competing in long-distance offshore races.

Alexa Voytek

Alexa serves as the Principal Investigator for the U.S. DOE State Energy Program (SEP) in Tennessee, oversees TDEC OEP's energy in transportation programming, and administers the State's initial allocation under the VW Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust. Alexa also serves as the Coordinator for U.S. DOE's Clean Cities Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition, through which she acts as a technical resource for fleets and individuals evaluating alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies. Alexa serves on the leadership team for the National Association of State Energy Officials' Transportation Committee and is an Advisory Group member for the National Association of State Energy Officials' Energy Technology Innovation Project. She serves as the Governor's designee to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Regional Energy Resource Council, which provides guidance on how TVA manages its energy resources against competing objectives and values. Prior to joining TDEC, Alexa interned with the UN Division for Sustainable Development and the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia. Most recently, Alexa served as Asst. Account Executive for the public relations firm Ketchum, Inc., where she was assigned to energy and technology related projects. Alexa holds an M.A. from Columbia University in Russian, Eastern European, Balkan, and Eurasian Studies and graduated summa cum laude from Duke University, with a B.A. in History and Russian Language / Area Studies.

Susan Steffenhagan

Susan helps administer the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) grant program for the state of Tennessee. Additionally, she leads several alternative fuels efforts within TDOT, including the development of the grant-funded I-40 Alternative Fuels Corridor Deployment and Implementation Plans, as well as the nomination of federally-designated alternative fuels corridors. Susan also initiated the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)'s newest Working Group, which is specifically for DOT practitioners that are deploying electric vehicle charging stations. She is currently a Member of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)'s DOT Strategies and Programs for Electric Vehicle Charging Synthesis Panel, and is active in several professional organizations, including the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association (TAPA), Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT), and Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) International. She holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of Memphis, where she was also a Graduate Assistant for the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA), and a B.S. in Business Administration – Operations and Supply Chain Management from Georgia Tech.

Amy Kosanovic

Amy Kosanovic is a Freight Planning Supervisor in TDOT's Freight & Logistics Division. Amy manages all facets of freight planning for the division, including updates to the Multimodal Freight Plan, the State Rail Plan, and prioritization of freight projects. Amy's unit also oversees the Short Line Rail Rehabilitation Grant program and Rail Connectivity Grant program.

Amy graduated from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC with dual bachelor's degrees in History and English and with a master's degree in Public Administration. Amy has prior experience working with the South Carolina House of Representatives and with the Tennessee State Senate. For nearly ten years, she worked as a Research Analyst for the South Carolina Department of Commerce conducting industry analysis, labor market analysis, proposal writing, and tax incentive analysis, aiding in the recruitment of advanced manufacturing and research and development companies to South Carolina.

Amy and her family had a unique opportunity, prior to returning to Tennessee, to live and work on a volunteer basis in Thailand for nearly six years. This experience gave Amy the desire to continue to meet and interact with people of other cultures wherever she lives.

A native of South Carolina, Amy enjoys living in Tennessee with her husband Ric and their two daughters, Kaity and Allie.