



WALK-BIKE NEW YORK SYMPOSIUM PRESENTER BIOS MAY 3 & 4, 2022 HYATT REGENCY ROCHESTER, NY

Usman Ali, Program Manager, FHWA MUTCD Team

S. Usman Ali, P.E., PTOE, RSP is a Program Manager in the FHWA Office of Operations and serves as the MUTCD technical lead overseeing Bicycle and Automated Vehicle matters. Usman began his FHWA career in 2016 as a Traffic Safety Engineer. He coordinated with multiple stakeholders on projects to promote safety for vulnerable roadway users. Prior to joining FHWA, Usman was a consultant working with state and local DOTs on the design of traffic control devices, roadway lighting, and ITS projects for eight years. Usman is a registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia, a certified Professional Traffic Operations Engineer, and a certified Road Safety Professional. He holds a Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Civil Engineering from George Mason University.

Omar Barrios, Community Coordinator, NYC Department of Transportation

Omar Barrios, a native New Yorker from Woodside, Queens, started to ride at age 3 with a Knight Rider big wheel trike. During his wonder years, he moved onto a Huffy BMX bike that eventually was neglected and abandoned. As an adult, he rode a random route while on vacation in Seoul (Korea) and decided bike riding around New York City's two rivers had to be better than one. A month later, he won a bar raffle prize Trek 4300 mountain bicycle that came in handy later that winter during the 2006 transit strike. He left behind the MTA to get to work the quick and easy way to downtown Manhattan. This new routine evolved to advocacy and then education. He is passionate for improving the urban landscape towards a more healthy, livable, safer community for all. This includes a more sustainable environment by making minor adjustments in our society's philosophy to life and civic engagement.

In 2009, he received his League of American Bicyclists Certification for Instruction. His volunteer service includes assisting a local Kids Ride Club as a Youth Mentor and Safety Leader for dozens of 10-19 year old city kids with a very similar childhood as his own. After his Environmental Design & Italian studies at the University at Buffalo, he has dedicated himself to public health and safety by joining the New York City Department of Transportation Safety Education & Outreach Unit where in addition to promoting his cycling skills to improve the lives of all New Yorkers and anyone in need of an unforgettable, safe and adventurous ride, he can also improve life for pedestrians, motorcyclists, both experienced & new drivers and also advocate for Child Passenger Safety as a Instructor / Technician by representing Region 11 Queens County at the New York State Child Passenger Safety Advisory Board in Albany.

Allison Beas, Regional Program Manager, NHTSA

Allison Beas is a Regional Program Manager for NHTSA Region 2, monitoring and overseeing federal grant funds for the highway programs in New York. Additionally, Allison coordinates the traffic records, and young driver programs for the entire region, and is leading the region and the nation in making highway safety data analysis and the programs NHTSA funds support more equitable.

Allison rejoined NHTSA in 2016 after starting her Federal career with NHTSA in 2005. In between, she has worked for the Drug Enforcement Agency, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Defense Logistics Agency. Her last assignment was providing support to the U.S. Navy. Prior to her Federal service, Allison worked in the non-profit sector promoting diversity within higher education institutions.

Allison received the prestigious Secretary's Partnering for Excellence Award from the Department of Transportation, and the Impact award from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Allison is a 2003 graduate of California State University, Los Angeles, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, with an emphasis in Statistics. She earned her Master of Arts in Education from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2004.



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Andy Beers, Director, Empire State Trail

Andy Beers was named Director of the Empire State Trail in May 2017. He is an employee of the Hudson River Valley Greenway, which is hosting the statewide Empire State Trail initiative. Prior to that he served for ten years as the Executive Deputy Commissioner for the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which operates 215 state parks, historic sites, and greenway trails. Andy also worked for seventeen years for the New York Office of The Nature Conservancy. In 1983 he received a M.S in Natural Resource Policy from Cornell University.

Richard Blomberg, Vice President, Dunlap and Associates, Inc.

Mr. Richard Blomberg is Vice President of Dunlap and Associates, Inc. where he has directed or been involved in over 50 years of studies related to highway safety, aircraft design and certification, product safety, and the design and evaluation of human-computer interfaces. He directed the landmark New Orleans pedestrian and Long Beach/Fort Lauderdale driver relative risk of alcohol studies. From 1987 to 2002, Mr. Blomberg served as a member, chair, and human factors specialist on NASA'S Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel. He is a member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) including being honored as an emeritus (lifetime) member of the Pedestrian Committee, a two-time member of the Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs, and a charter member of the Subcommittee on School Transportation.

Justin Booth, Executive Director, GObike Buffalo

Justin Booth is an expert in creating livable streets and vibrant communities. He founded and directs Western New York's bicycle advocacy organization GObike, developed the regional transportation management association GO Buffalo Niagara, has lead efforts to remove damaging highways as Vice-Chair of the Scajaquada Corridor Coalition and also chairs Buffalo's bicycle pedestrian advisory board. He has authored numerous policy and planning documents addressing livability and bicycle / pedestrian infrastructure and access, has worked with developers, property owners, employers and their employees to reduce drive alone vehicle trips and has helped communities across New York and beyond examine, critique and plan for streets that increase active mobility and safety for all users.

Mike Bulger, Healthy Communities Coordinator, Common Ground Health

Born and raised in Rochester, NY, Mike Bulger is the Healthy Communities Coordinator for the Healthi Kids Coalition at Common Ground Health. Mike holds a Master's degree in Food Studies from the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at New York University. He advocates for policies and systems that will better support health, through access to good food and environments that promote physical activity.

Matt Carmody, Vice President, AKRF, Inc.

Matthew T. Carmody, P.E., RSP has conducted and managed transportation planning and traffic engineering studies in New York City and throughout New York State during his 20+ years of experience. His clients have included NYSDOT, NYSTA, NYSAMPOs, and municipalities. His broad experience includes traffic, transit, pedestrian, bicycle and parking studies, but his expertise is in road safety.



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Tara Casanova Powell, Principal, Casanova Powell Consulting and Executive Director, Association of Traffic Safety Information Professionals (ATSIP)

Tara Casanova Powell is the Principal of Casanova Powell Consulting, an independent traffic safety research consulting firm, and the current Executive Director for the Association of Traffic Safety Information Professionals (ATSIP). She has over 20 years of experience in the field of road safety and has led several national and state projects involving alcohol and drug impaired driving, occupant protection, teen driving involving graduated licensing, pedestrian and bike safety, older drivers and distracted driving and speed. Tara has worked with many traffic safety organizations during her distinguished career. She is the Program Coordinator for the Annual Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities, a consultant for the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA), a faculty staff member for the National Center for DWI Courts, a member of the Drugged Driving Committee at the Institute for Behavioral Health and a member of the Leadership Committee of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) National Academies Standing Committee on Impairment in Transportation.

Chuck DeWeese, Assistant Commissioner, Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

Chuck DeWeese was appointed to the position of Assistant Commissioner for the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in September 2007. Prior to his appointment, he spent 15 years working for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) as a Special Agent in charge of enforcing federal laws on truck and bus companies in upstate New York, then as Field Office Supervisor for the FMCSA New York City Field office and finally in the role of acting Division Administrator. As the Assistant Commissioner of the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, Chuck has been the driving force behind the Committee's most nationally recognized and effective traffic safety campaigns and programs, including the Distracted Driving Enforcement Project, the state's Impaired Driving Advisory Council and the pedestrian safety education and enforcement plan. Chuck serves as Chair of the Governors Highway Safety Association and also leads GHSA's Equity in Traffic Enforcement Workgroup. Chuck was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement award in Traffic Safety by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) in 2019.

Emily Dozier, Senior Planner, Dutchess County Transportation Council

Emily Dozier is a senior planner with DCTC, the MPO for Dutchess County. She leads pedestrian and bicycle planning as well as safety studies for the MPO and leads the County's Complete Streets Committee. Emily is also the chair of the MPO Association's Bicycle & Pedestrian Working Group.

Eric Hathaway, Director of Parking and Transportation, City of Ithaca Streets & Facilities

Eric is a licensed engineer with a degree from Bucknell University in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He has practiced in the fields of transportation engineering, construction management and parking management in Pennsylvania, New York and Oregon during his career. His current role is Director of Parking and Transportation for the City of Ithaca, NY.

Kara Hogan, Civil Rights Specialist, FHWA NY Division

Kara Hogan is the Civil Rights Specialist at the Federal Highway Administration's New York Division Office in Albany where she has primary stewardship and oversight for the New York State DOT's Civil Rights programs. She has conducted extensive training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements as they apply to the pedestrian rights of way across the State. She received her PhD in Educational Psychology and Methodology from the University of Albany in 2016.



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Alex Kone, Assistant Director, Genesee Transportation Council

Alex Kone has served as the Assistant Director for the Genesee Transportation Council (MPO) in Rochester, New York since 2016. Mr. Kone oversees the development of the Transportation Improvement Program and performance-based planning initiatives, including development of active transportation metrics. Prior to his work with GTC, Mr. Kone served as a Principal Planner for the Capital Area MPO in Austin, Texas, managing the short-range planning program.

Aaron Lattanzio, Senior Program & IT Manager, Causewave Community Partners

Aaron Lattanzio, is a Rochester, NY native and graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology. As a Senior Program Manager at Causewave Community Partners, Aaron has led a variety of community behavior change initiatives focused on issues like reducing distracted driving, increasing cancer screenings, improving student attendance, and encouraging youth developmental screenings.

Jason Nabewaniec, Engineer II, City of Rochester

Jason Nabewaniec is a street designer at the City of Rochester. Jason is involved in both planning and design of various City of Rochester street and sidewalk projects. He has designed many of the City of Rochester's bicycle facilities including many of the first for the City including the first: bike lanes; bicycle boulevards; contra flow lanes; buffered bike lanes; bike boxes; and two-stage turn queue box. Jason has also managed the City's Hazardous Sidewalk Replacement Program for the past 10 years.

Jesse Peers, Cycling Manager, Reconnect Rochester

Jesse Peers rediscovered bicycling at age 31 after not having ridden in 16 years. After taking a biking class, he got rid of his car and has been cycling daily for transportation ever since. He is a certified bike instructor for the League of American Bicyclists and is Cycling Manager for Reconnect Rochester.

Aisha Phillips, Senior Public Health Education Coordinator, Dutchess County Dept of Behavioral & Community Health

Aisha Phillips, MPH, APIO, is a Senior Public Health Education Coordinator for the Department of Health. She leads the Department's efforts on the GTSC grant and is a member of the County's Complete Streets Committee.

Keith Pickett, Executive Director, New York Bicycling Coalition

Keith Pickett is the Executive Director of the New York Bicycling Coalition who joined the organization in the summer of 2020. With a background in education and training in psychology, Keith is a former CEO and Executive Director of a number of regional not-for-profits in the health and human service sectors in the areas of counseling, public health information, homelessness, and housing. He also served as a consultant to state governments' nationally while leading teams that helped state departments be more effective and outcome driven, as well as internationally with the United Nations. Keith is an avid cyclist who has ridden bikes most of life, having toured most sections of the country on his road bike and looks forward to connecting NYBC to communities who are responsible for the safety and enjoyment of bicyclists throughout New York State.



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Tom Polk, Bicycle Educator, YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County

Tom Polk is a life-long cyclist and enjoys road cycling and commuting as well as mountain biking. He has been teaching safe biking skills at the YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County since 2010. Tom initiated the Y's "Bike It!" program for youth, and also leads summer bike camps, afterschool programs, bike rodeos and other educational programs. He also created the Y's bike donation and reuse program known as "Lend-A-Wheel." Tom is a certified Ride Leader through the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) and is also a League Cycling Instructor (LCI) with the League of American Bicyclists.

Anna Price, Director of the Office of Program Management, FHWA NY Division

Anna Price has over 20 years of experience working in the transportation field. Prior to joining the Federal Highway Administration, she worked as a consultant in California where she worked on a variety of transportation projects. She then moved to Maine and joined MaineDOT where she worked on a variety of projects including those for bicyclists and pedestrians. Her favorite project to work on and see to completion in Maine was the Acadia Gateway Center which promotes car free transportation into the Acadia National Park. Since joining FHWA in 2008, Anna has worked in Maine, Delaware, Maryland and now New York. Currently, she is the Director for the Office of Programs in the New York Division.

Mark J.F. Schroeder, DMV Commissioner and GTSC Chair, NYS DMV

Mark J.F. Schroeder was nominated by former Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve as the Commissioner of DMV in January of 2019. He previously served as the elected comptroller of the City of Buffalo from January 2012 until his appointment to DMV, and has also previously served as a member of the Erie County Legislature and New York State Assembly. Prior to his years of public service, Commissioner Schroeder spent 25 years in the private sector, including serving as vice president of two large corporations. As a public servant, Mr. Schroeder has earned a reputation as someone his constituents turn to when they have a problem, whether it be minor or major. During his time in the Assembly, Mr. Schroeder authored "Amanda's Law," which requires carbon monoxide detectors in all homes. He also sponsored legislation banning text messaging while driving and a law safeguarding children from sexual predators. Mr. Schroeder served as the chairman of the Assembly Subcommittee on Autism, and created an inclusive panel of mental health professionals, autism advocates and concerned parents with the mission of providing better care for those afflicted with the disorder. A lifelong Buffalo resident, Commissioner Schroeder and his wife, Kate Horan Schroeder, have three children - Michael, Allison and the late Matthew Schroeder. He is the proud grandfather of Lily and Marlee.

Duane Thomas, Civil Engineer, FHWA MUTCD Team

Duane H. Thomas, P.E. is a graduate of the University of Kentucky's Civil Engineering program and is a licensed professional engineer in Kentucky. In 2008, Duane completed a 22-year career with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, serving four years as Director of the Division of Traffic Operations. From 2008 to 2017, Duane worked in the Kentucky Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration where he served as an area engineer and managed the Division's Major Projects. In 2018, Duane joined the FHWA Resource Center's Operations Technical Services Team, specializing in Work Zone Traffic Control Management. Duane is a member of FHWA's MUTCD Team with responsibility for Highway Traffic Signals and Traffic Control for Railroad and Light Rail Transit Grade Crossings. He is also a member of FHWA's Complete Streets Working Group.



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Frank Wefering, Director of Sustainability, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) of Babylon

Frank Wefering specializes in the application of sustainability principles to transportation and urban mobility projects. Having worked with a European consultancy firm as well as his own business in the United States, he has collaborated with numerous government organizations on projects to plan, develop and implement sustainable urban mobility solutions. As GPI's Director of Sustainability, Frank is developing a service line centered on sustainability planning, transportation and mobility. He is developing new projects that account for the rapid and fundamental changes currently observed in the transportation field, especially in relation to mobility, accessibility, and safety in cities. Frank initiated GPI's company-wide Complete Streets & Active Transportation group and is pooling the complementary staff expertise in engineering, landscape architecture, environmental sciences, and other disciplines – all with the aim to develop innovative solutions to address today's trends and challenges in a holistic and truly sustainable way.

Bob Williams, Active Transportation Program Manager, Genesee Transportation Council

Bob Williams currently administers and provides technical assistance to a variety of GTC funded active transportation plans, corridor studies, trail feasibility studies, and transit plans throughout the nine counties. He contributes to GTC products such as the regional Long Range Transportation Plan and is responsible for the development of the updated Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, the 2021 Rochester Regional Cycling Map update, and data collection and distribution related to multi-use trails and pathways.

Timothy Wright, Principal Associate, Dunlap and Associates, Inc.

Dr. Timothy Wright is a principal associate at Dunlap and Associates, Inc. and holds a M.S. and Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Florida State University. He completed his postdoctoral work at UMass Amherst and Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety. He was appointed to the Transportation Research Board's Standing Committee on Road User Measurement and Evaluation and appointed vice president and subsequently president of the New England Chapter of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.