

2023 ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONFERENCE



AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

MPO Caucus

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

Registration

1:00 PM–1:30 PM

Welcome Address

Jessie Jones, P.E., Assistant Chief
Engineer for Planning – ARDOT

1:30 PM–3:00 PM | SESSION 1 – Opportunities for Innovative Planning

Moderator: Brad McCaleb, P.E., Division Engineer, Planning – ARDOT

Traffic Planning for Four Minutes of Darkness

Michael Kelly, P.E., Staff Engineer, Maintenance – ARDOT

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment (EVID) Update

Aarón Pinedo, P.E., Senior Engineer, Local Programs – ARDOT

3:00 PM–3:30 PM

BREAK

3:30 PM–5:00 PM | SESSION 2 – Metropolitan Planning

Moderator: Tim Conklin, AICP, Executive Director – NWARPC

MPO 101/Regulations: A Review

Amy Heflin, P.E., Program Delivery Team Leader – Arkansas Division,
FHWA

Energy and Environment Innovation Plan – Transportation

Tricia Treece, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Air Quality – ADEE

Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, AICP, Senior Regional Planner for
Partnerships and Grants – Metroplan

Elizabeth Bowen, Project Manager – NWARPC

Joshua Robertson, Deputy Director of Utility Business
Administration – City of Fort Smith

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7:30 AM–8:30 AM BREAKFAST

8:30 AM–10:00 AM | SESSION 3 – Transportation Data

Moderator: Sharon Hawkins, GIS and Mapping Administrator, Planning – ARDOT

Urban Area Boundary and Functional Classification Adjustments

Michael Henry, P.E., Staff Engineer, System Information and Research – ARDOT

Visualizing Performance

Sharon Hawkins, GIS and Mapping Administrator, Planning – ARDOT
Jacqueline Hou, P.E., Senior Engineer, Planning – ARDOT

2020 Census/CTPP Data Overview

Penelope Weinberger, Transportation Data Program Manager – AASHTO

10:00 AM–10:30 AM BREAK

10:30 AM–12:00 PM | SESSION 4 – Traffic Safety

Moderator: Adnan Qazi, P.E., Staff Traffic Safety Engineer, Planning – ARDOT

Crash Data in the Planning Process

Anthony Dao, Senior Traffic Safety Analyst, Planning – ARDOT

Safe Streets and Roads for All Update

Elizabeth Bowen, Project Manager – NWARPC

12:00 PM–1:30 PM PLATED LUNCH WITH PRESENTATION
Lorie H. Tudor, P.E., Director – ARDOT

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1:30 PM–3:00 PM | SESSION 5 – Emerging Technologies

Moderator: Sunny Farmahan, Senior Transportation Planner, Local Programs – ARDOT

Gatik's Autonomous Transportation Network for the Middle Mile

Richard Steiner, Head of Policy – Gatik

Interstate 40/Highway 70 ITS Corridor

Joseph D. Hawkins, P.E., State ITS Engineer, Maintenance – ARDOT

3:00 PM–3:30 PM **BREAK**

3:30 PM–5:00 PM | SESSION 6 – Federal-Aid Programs

Moderator: David Siskowski, P.E., Division Head, Local Programs – ARDOT

Local Funding Opportunities

David Siskowski, P.E., Division Head, Local Programs – ARDOT

Russellville Connected Trail System: A RAISE Grant Award

Sara M. Jondahl, AICP, City Planner, Planning & Development–
Russellville

Transit Programs

John Spears, Jr., Transportation Program Management Officer, Local
Programs – ARDOT

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7:30 AM–8:30 AM BREAKFAST

8:30 AM–10:00 AM | SESSION 7 – Multimodal Planning and Coordination

Moderator: Travis Brooks, P.E., Staff Engineer, Planning – ARDOT

Port of Little Rock: Past, Present and Future

Bryan Day, Executive Director – Port of Little Rock

Complete Streets Policy Update

Kim Sanders, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, Local Programs
– ARDOT

Follow the Rails

Greg Nation, Section Head, Program Management – ARDOT

10:00 AM–10:30 AM BREAK

10:15 AM–11:45 AM | SESSION 8 – Transportation Planning in Central Arkansas

Moderator: Casey Covington, P.E., AICP, Executive Director – Metroplan

Central Arkansas Regional Greenways Plan

Daniel Holland, Transportation Planner/Program Manager –
Metroplan

Interstate 430 Managed Lanes Update

Hussain Alfaraj, P.E., Staff Engineer, Maintenance – ARDOT

Demographic Forecasts and Land Use Planning

Jonathan Lupton, AICP, Senior Planner for Publications – Metroplan

11:45 AM–12:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Brad McCaleb, P.E., Division Engineer, Planning, ARDOT

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

12:30 PM–5:00 PM | WORKSHOP

Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation Plan – Transportation Sector Workshop

Tricia Treece, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Air Quality – ADEE

Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, AICP, Senior Regional Planner for
Partnerships and Grants – Metroplan

Elizabeth Bowen, Project Manager – NWARPC

Joshua Robertson, Deputy Director of Utility Business Administration –
City of Fort Smith



Hussain Alfaraj

Hussain joined ARDOT in summer of 2013 after graduating with an Electrical Systems Engineering degree. Hussain is a Professional Engineer. Hussain's expertise is in Transportation Systems

Management and Operations (TSMO), Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and Roadway Illumination. He assists in overseeing the implementation and operation of technology on the highway system within Arkansas.



Elizabeth Bowen

Elizabeth Bowen is a Project Manager at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission in Springdale. Elizabeth is a native northwest Arkansas resident. She is a

graduate of Rogers High School and possesses a Bachelor of Science Degree from John Brown University. She has worked at NWARPC for 9 years, one year at the US Census Bureau, nine years at Benton County and 16 years at the US Army Corps of Engineers. She has had the privilege of working on many projects and planning documents including the Safe Streets and

Roads for All Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, NWA Transportation System Management and Operations Plan, NWA Intelligent Transportation System Architecture, NWA Congestion Management Process, and is currently working on an update to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan including updating 31 community plans, an Energy and Environment Innovation Plan, and the 2050 Northwest Arkansas Metropolitan Transportation Plan.



Anthony Dao

Anthony began his career with ARDOT's Traffic Safety Section in 2020. During this time, he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Central Arkansas in 2021. Anthony is currently the section's Senior

Traffic Safety Analyst. He enjoys analyzing and visualizing data to inform and improve traffic safety policies and strategies for ARDOT.

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Speaker Biographies



Bryan Day

Bryan was appointed Executive Director of the Little Rock Port Authority in June 2014. The Little Rock Port Authority was established in 1959 to “drive economic development by providing a world-class transportation

hub connecting Arkansas to the global economy”. As the Little Rock Port Authority Executive Director, Bryan works closely with the 50+ industries located within the 5,000-acre industrial park and oversees the Port Authority Railroad, the Industrial and Slackwater Harbors, and Foreign Trade Zone 14. In 2019, the Port of Little Rock moved approximately 9,000 rail cars and 900,000 tons of river cargo. Bryan received his undergraduate degree and Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Bryan has a daughter who is currently a nurse at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago and a son who is a loan officer with First Service Bank of Arkansas; Bryan also is the human to one spoiled Labrador Retriever. In his spare time, Bryan loves to bike, hike and camp and has visited many of America’s greatest national parks; however, he mostly enjoys wandering through the parks and wilderness areas found in his home State of Arkansas.



Joseph D. Hawkins

Joseph Hawkins Leads ARDOT’s TSMO Group, which includes functions such as: The Traffic Management Center (TMC), Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Traffic Signal Operations, Land Mobile Radio

(LMR), Roadway Illumination Design, Network Radio Backhaul Services, and TSMO Engineering.



Sharon Hawkins

Sharon is a 1999 graduate from the University of Central Arkansas' Geography Program. She has been in the GIS & Mapping Section within the ARDOT Planning Branch for 24 years and enjoys making maps,

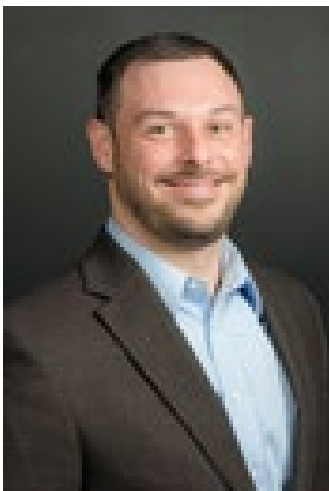
analyzing data, solving spatial problems, and working with some great folks across ARDOT and beyond.



Amy Heflin

Amy Heflin has been with FHWA for 31 years. She became the Program Delivery Team Leader in 2015, a team which consists of the Division Technical Programs Engineer, the Environmental Coordinator, the Realty Officer, and

the Transportation Planner. Amy came to the Arkansas Division in 1999 as the Transportation Planning Engineer. She held that position until February 2012 when she was promoted to Field Operations Engineer. Amy earned her B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Louisiana Tech University. Amy is married to Joe Heflin, a Safety Specialist in the Office of Safety in HQ, and has 21-year-old twins, Jake and Hannah.



Michael Henry

Michael Henry is currently a Staff Traffic Information Systems Engineer in the System Information and Research Division at the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

Michael has been with the Department for 15 years and currently manages the Department's traffic data collection program, HPMS, and roadway inventory system. He

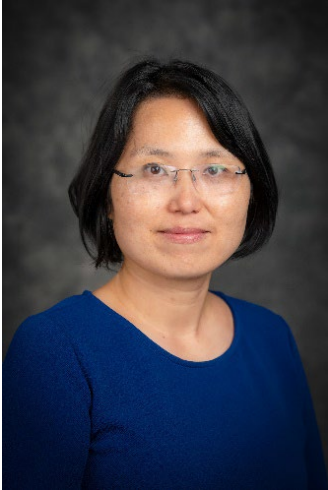
also worked on various projects such as the Safety and Mobility Data Business Plan, the Arkansas Long Range Intermodal Transportation Plan, the Arkansas State Freight Plan, as well as a number of corridor and sub-area planning studies.



Daniel Holland

Daniel has planned regional transportation at Metroplan since 2013. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's of Community and Economic Development at the University of Central

Arkansas, but received his real education at countless public meetings and outreach events. As Metroplan's Transportation Improvement Program Manager, Daniel plans for a healthier, more mobile, and connected Central Arkansas through multimodality and land use policy. In addition to the Regional Greenways Plan, he leads Metroplan's Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan and regionwide planning studies like the Multimodal Infrastructure Guidelines. Daniel has lent his two cents to committees like Healthy Active Arkansas, US Bike Routes and Hub Communities, and Ozone Action Days to encourage a wholistic approach to planning.



Jaqueline Hou

Jacqueline Hou obtained her Ph.D. from The Civil Engineering Department of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. In 2010, Jacqueline Hou embarked on her career with ARDOT.

Over the years, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a keen analytical mind by managing diverse datasets in the department. Currently as a Senior Planning Engineer in the Planning Division, Jacqueline takes on the vital responsibility of coordinating performance management activities and performance reporting to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Jacqueline's innovative mindset and commitment to leveraging the potential of data have made her an inspirational figure in the Department.



Sara M. Jondahl

Sara Jondahl is an accomplished professional with a diverse background in environmental science and urban planning. She holds a degree in Environmental Science from Western Washington

University in Bellingham, Washington, yes a transplant like many others realizing how

wonderful it is to live, work and plan in Arkansas. She is a certified AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners) Planner through the American Planning Association. Sara has gained valuable work experience in both Salem, Oregon, and Russellville, Arkansas, where she has contributed her expertise and skills to various projects and initiatives in the field of Floodplain Management and Urban Planning. Her passion for Environmental Sustainability, Quality of Life and Equity for All has been the driving force behind her successful career. Her team applied for and successfully obtained a 23.7 Million dollar grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program.



Jessie Jones

Jessie has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She is a

Registered Professional Engineer. Jessie began to work for the Department in January 2002 as a Civil Engineer in the Bridge Division. She followed the engineering career path in the Bridge Division and the Planning and Research Division until obtaining the position of Consultant Coordinator in 2008. Jessie became Assistant Division Head of Transportation Planning and Policy in February 2011, Division Head of Transportation Planning and Policy in

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October 2013, and Division Head of Program Management in 2020. Jessie assumed her present position of Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning in April 2023.



Michael Kelly

Michael Kelly is a Staff Engineer in the Maintenance Division at the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT). He is the primary Emergency Management Liaison Officer (EMLO) to the Arkansas Division of

Emergency Management for ARDOT. As the EMLO for ARDOT, Michael coordinates assistance for disasters in the Emergency Support Function ESF-1 Transportation and the ESF-3 Public Works & Engineering roles. Michael also oversees the department's statewide Pavement Marking program. Michael began his career at the department with the Surveys Division in May 2002, transferred to the System Information and Research Division in October 2014, and Maintenance Division in March 2017. Michael holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Louisiana Tech University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and Professional Surveyor.



Jonathan Lupton

Jonathan graduated from Kalamazoo College in Michigan with a BA degree in history in 1982. He has two graduate degrees: a Master's degree in Geography from the University of Chicago in 1987 and a Master's degree in

Regional Planning at the University of Texas at Austin in 1990. Jonathan is today director of publications at Metroplan, the regional planning agency for the Little Rock metro area. When he started at Metroplan in 1993 he intended to quickly move on. Thirty years later he is still on the job and has acquired a wife and daughter along the way. Jonathan has published in Arkansas Times magazine about regional planning issues. He is also interested in military history and has published articles in Strategy and Tactics and World at War magazines.



Brad McCaleb

Brad McCaleb is the Division Engineer of the Planning Division at the Arkansas Department of Transportation. Brad is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Arkansas and Texas. He holds a Bachelor and

Master of Science in Civil Engineering and a

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Master of Science in Business Administration from Texas A&M University. Brad began his career with ARDOT, in November 2015, as Staff Planning Engineer in the Planning Division. He also served as the Division Engineer of the System Information & Research Division from 2017 to 2021. Prior to joining ARDOT Brad worked for the Texas Department of Transportation, was the Director of the Texarkana, TX/AR Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Director of the Bryan/College Station, TX Metropolitan Planning Organization. Brad has been married to Elaine for 35 years. They have six children and four grandchildren.



Aarón Pinedo

Aarón Pinedo is a Senior Engineer of the Local Programs Division at the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT). Aarón began his career with the Department, in January 2019, as an

Engineer in the Planning Division. He is part of the Project Management Team for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program and is ARDOT's point of contact for NEVI. Aarón is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Arkansas. He holds his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Arkansas. Aarón has been married to his wife Elizabeth for two years.



Greg Nation

Greg Nation is the current Section head of the Project Coordination Section with the Program Management Division of the Arkansas Department of Transportation. He has over 31 years of

transportation experience, Department of Transportation - Transit Safety and Security Program certified, and lives with his wife of 29 years near Tull, Arkansas.



Bernadette Gunn Rhodes

Bernadette Gunn Rhodes has been a regional planner with Metroplan since 2020. She serves as senior planner for partnerships and grants and as the liaison to Metroplan's Small Cities Council,

assisting communities under 10,000 residents with a variety of planning goals including zoning, subdivision, and education.

Bernadette started her career in public service with the City of North Little Rock in 2011. She earned a Master of Public Administration from UA Little Rock in 2019 and membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners in 2023. Bernadette lives in North Little Rock and enjoys hiking, biking, and exploring with her husband and two energetic boys.



Joshua Robertson

Joshua has been with the City of Fort Smith since 2016. During his tenure, he served as the Communications & Training Manager from 2016-2018 and then promoted to the Deputy Director of Business Administration. This

division includes Business Analytics, Logistics Support, Fleet Maintenance, Communications, Training & Safety, Downtown Parking Management, Customer Outreach, and Citizen Services. Recently, Joshua was honored with the position of Sustainability Officer and Energy Ambassador for the City of Fort Smith. Since that time, the City has implemented its first Energy Master Plan and is working on a Sustainability Plan working with local citizen groups and the University of Arkansas Fort Smith. Before coming to Fort Smith, Joshua worked in the private customer service and business process-outsourcing field. He held positions in workforce management, project management, customer service, training, and client services. Joshua earned a Bachelor of

Arts in Applied Communications at Northeastern State University and holds certifications in Project Management, Customer Service, and Energy Efficiency.



Kimberly Sanders

Kimberly Sanders started her career at the Arkansas Department of Transportation in 1995. She was named the Department's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator in 2012. As the Bike/Ped

Coordinator she is a liaison between ARDOT, other state agencies, local communities, MPOs and advocacy groups on implementation of plans, programs, safety, policies and other projects. Kim is an avid road cyclist and an occasional mountain biker. Her undergraduate degree is in Social Science from Stephens College in Columbia, MO and her M.B.A is from Webster University in St. Louis, MO.



David Siskowski

David graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Arkansas. David

started his career with the Department in April 2009 in the Statewide Planning Section of the Planning and Research Division. Following a few years in planning, he moved to the Program Management Division, where he progressed to a Staff Engineer and spent many years leading the group that programmed projects and developed the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). David then returned to the Planning Division to help lead it as the Assistant Division Head in July 2020, and has held his current position of Division Head in the Department's newly created Local Programs Division for almost six weeks! The Local Programs Division was created to provide a streamlined "one-stop-shop" that allows Local Public Agencies to seamlessly engage with the Department. The Division administers the Department's various competitive grant programs (TAP, RTP, IIP, ACTSEP, FLAP, Local Bridge), collaborates with Arkansas' metropolitan planning organizations, coordinates bicycle/pedestrian activities, delivers local technical assistance and training, and provides oversight and coordination for public transportation programs.



John Spears Jr.

John Spears, Jr. is the Team Leader for the ARDOT's 5305, 5310, 5311, and 5339 Programs, as well as the Section's Civil Rights Officer and DBE liaison. John is a 2007 graduate of Philander Smith College with a

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and he completed his Masters of Science in Transportation Engineering from the University of Arkansas in summer of 2010. He has been employed with ARDOT for 15 years.



Richard Steiner

Rich is a public policy professional with 15 years' experience in the private and public sectors, focusing on advanced technologies. At Gatik, the market leader in autonomous middle

mile transportation, Rich leads the company's policy, legislative and regulatory affairs portfolios. Prior to Gatik, Rich spent many years in senior management with the Government of Ontario, Canada and before that led technical consultations on behalf of energy-from-waste technology companies in the UK. Rich obtained his Bachelor's Degree in English and History from the University of Toronto and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from King's College, London.



Tricia Treece

Tricia Treece is an air quality policy expert, manager, and scientist. For the past ten years, she has worked for the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment's Division of

Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop and implement air quality protection plans and grant programs. In her current role as the Deputy Associate Director for DEQ's Office of Air Quality, Tricia manages a team of talented public servants, including supervisors, chemists, policy development specialists, quality assurance professionals, budget and grant specialists, and air quality analysts. She is a co-chair on the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies' NAAQS/SIP Committee. In addition to air quality planning and implementation work, Tricia has supported other state initiatives, including the Energy Resources Planning Task Force, the Energy Resources Council, the Infrastructure Planning Advisory Council, and Alternative Fuel Corridors Designations. Prior to working for DEQ, Tricia Treece performed air quality monitoring and sampling during emergency responses with the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Psychology and a Master's degree in Biology.



Lorie H. Tudor

After a 37-year career that began in 1981, Lorie Tudor became the Director of the Arkansas Department of Transportation in March of 2020. Her background is in Planning and she is a licensed Professional

Engineer. She is a member of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials Board of Directors. She is currently the Vice President of the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Board of Directors. She was appointed to the State Board for Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors in October 2020 and served as the Board's President from July 2022 – June 2023.



Penelope Weinberger

Penelope Weinberger is AASHTO's Senior Program Manager for Transportation Data. She is the liaison to the Committee on Data Management and Analytics (CDMA) and runs the AASHTO Census and

Transportation Data Solution (ACTS). She has been with AASHTO since 2009. An unapologetic nerd, Penelope was previously with the Texas Transportation Institute

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working on the Travel Model Improvement Program and Cambridge Systematics. Before coming to transportation, Ms. Weinberger had a colorful career and can mix a Manhattan and froth a cappuccino with equal skill. Educated at University of Illinois, Chicago, and by life, she is an avid contra dancer, cyclist, and bridge player.

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