

2023 BERTRAM BERGER SEMINAR: CONNECTING THE COMMONWEALTH



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023

The Conference Center at Waltham Woods
860 Winter St, Waltham, MA 02451

PRESENTED BY:
THE BOSTON CHAPTER OF THE TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

2023 BERTRAM BERGER SEMINAR: CONNECTING THE COMMONWEALTH

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Welcome to the 2023 Bertram Berger Seminar! We are excited to welcome an esteemed collection of speakers who will share with us project successes, lessons learned, and future projects and initiatives that will connect our communities.

AGENDA

- **REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, & WELCOME REMARKS**
- **PANEL 1**
- **COFFEE BREAK**
- **PANEL 2**
- **NETWORKING BREAK**
- **LUNCH**
- **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
- **CLOSING REMARKS**

WELCOME REMARKS



ANNA DASTGHEIB-BEHESHTI, PE, ENV SP, M.ASCE

Senior Civil Engineer, Arup & Chair, BSCES Transportation & Development Institute

Annahid (Anna) Dastgheib-Beheshti, PE, ENV SP is a Senior Civil Engineer at Arup in their Boston office. Anna graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University and is a licensed professional engineer who specializes in the design and permitting for various land development, green infrastructure, and transportation projects as well as project management for multidisciplinary projects. She is the recipient of the 2021 BSCES President's Award and was named one of ASCE's 2022 New Faces of Civil Engineering. She is an active member of the BSCES Newsletter Committee as well as Chair of the Boston Chapter of T&DI.

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WHAT'S NEXT: TRANSIT PLANNING

MODERATOR: DANIEL L. MURPHY, JR., PE, M.ASCE

Senior Project Manager, Tighe & Bond

SPEAKERS:



JONATHAN CHURCH, AICP - *CURRENT & FUTURE PROJECTS*

Manager of Transit Planning, HNTB

Jonathan Church, AICP is the Manager of Transit Planning at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Office of Transportation Planning where he oversees a staff that conducts statewide transit studies and provides ongoing planning support to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and MassDOT's Rail and Transit Division. Mr. Church has over 22 years of experience in the transportation profession. He holds a Master of Science in Urban and Environmental Planning and a Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



JENNIFER MECCA - *MBTA TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT*

Deputy Chief of Transit-Oriented Development, MBTA

Jennifer Mecca has been Deputy Chief of TOD at the MBTA since 2020, and brings over thirty years of experience in urban design, development planning and community preservation. Prior to the MBTA, Jennifer managed a private practice providing services to both public and private sector clients, working with communities across the Commonwealth on master plans, urban design, economic development, and pre-development planning. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Architecture Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; she is a licensed architect in Massachusetts.



MEREDITH SLESINGER - *EAST/WEST RAIL*

Rail and Transit Administrator, MassDOT

Meredith joined MassDOT in August 2020 and now serves as the Rail and Transit Administrator. The Rail & Transit Division oversees the Commonwealth's passenger and freight rail programs and the 15 Regional Transit Authorities which provide fixed route and demand response bus service outside Greater Boston. Previously, she was the senior director of strategic planning at Amtrak and the director of policy and outreach at the Northeast Corridor Commission.

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SUCCESSSES & LESSONS LEARNED: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

MODERATOR: BRYAN ZIMOLKA, PE, ENV SP
Senior Project Manager, Nitsch Engineering

SPEAKERS:



SARAH INGLE - PAWTUCKET TOD/RAIL STATION

Long Range Planning Manager, RIPTA

Sarah Ingle is the Rhode Island Public Transit Agency's Executive Director of Planning, overseeing capital, human services transportation, sustainability, strategic, and long range planning functions within RIPTA's finance and project management unit. Prior to joining RIPTA in 2014, she gained diverse public-sector planning experience in city, county, and downtown development agencies, mainly in Miami, Florida. She earned a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Boston University and a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from Columbia University. Sarah is a certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners.



JENNIFER MECCA - MBTA TOD: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Deputy Chief of Transit-Oriented Development, MBTA

Jennifer Mecca has been Deputy Chief of TOD at the MBTA since 2020, and brings over thirty years of experience in urban design, development planning and community preservation. Prior to the MBTA, Jennifer managed a private practice providing services to both public and private sector clients, working with communities across the Commonwealth on master plans, urban design, economic development, and pre-development planning. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Architecture Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; she is a licensed architect in Massachusetts.



THOMAS S. CAHIR - CAPEFLYER PROGRAM

Administrator, Cape Cod Commission

Thomas S. Cahir leads the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority as Administrator serving all 15 communities on Cape Cod. His conception of rail service from Boston to Cape Cod was the motivation behind the increasingly successful seasonal CapeFLYER train service. Before his current role, he served the Massachusetts House of Representatives representing the 3rd Barnstable District for 14 years. He then served as Deputy Secretary for Transportation Programs at the Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOTPW). Tom holds a bachelor's degree from American International College.

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS: TYING EVERYTHING TOGETHER



MONICA G. TIBBITS-NUTT, AICP, LEED AP BD+C

Acting Secretary and CEO, MassDOT

Monica G. Tibbits-Nutt, is the Acting Secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). As Acting Secretary, she is responsible for the four divisions of MassDOT: Highway, Rail and Transit, Registry of Motor Vehicles and Aeronautics. As Acting Secretary, she also serves on the Massport and MBTA Board of Directors. Prior to her appointment, she served as Undersecretary of MassDOT where, among other responsibilities, she led the effort to stand up the Office of Transportation and Climate Planning and Policy. She also served on the MassDOT Board of Directors and as the Vice-Chair of the Fiscal Management and Control Board (FMCB) that oversaw the MBTA.

Monica's areas of specialty include regional and transportation planning, urban design, and transit equity. In both her work and research, she is particularly interested in capitalizing upon every opportunity to better educate transportation stakeholders and the public about all aspects of the planning process.

Ms. Tibbits-Nutt is an active member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design & Construction with the U.S. Green Building Council. Monica is a first-generation college graduate with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Southern Indiana and a masters degree from The Ohio State University.

CLOSING REMARKS



ANNA DASTGHEIB-BEHESHTI, PE, ENV SP, M.ASCE

Senior Civil Engineer, Arup & Chair, BSCES Transportation & Development Institute

THANK YOU!

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