Representing the Ninth Congressional District, Stephen Ira “Steve” Cohen, a native Memphian, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives November 7, 2006. He serves on the Judiciary Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Upon becoming a member of congress, Steve Cohen immediately distinguished himself as a passionate, progressive and forthright voice, receiving national media recognition from The Washington Post, The New York Times, NBC Evening News, CNN, Air America and The Daily Show, among others, for his strong stance against continuing the Iraq War and as a proponent of an increased minimum wage, stem cell research, universal health care, increased funding of the COPS program, and energy innovations and independence. On a lighter note, Congressman Cohen was a featured guest on the Colbert Report’s Better Know a District on Comedy Central. Cohen is a member of both the Progressive and Out of Iraq Caucuses. Congressman Cohen earned a B.A. from Vanderbilt University and a J.D. from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphrey School of Law. From 1978 until his election to Congress, Cohen had a private law practice in Memphis. Born on May 24, 1949, in Memphis, Steve Cohen is the son of Genevieve Cohen and the late Dr. Morris Cohen. To find out more about Congressman Cohen, visit his website at www.house.gov/cohen.

Dr. Mihalis M. Golias is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Memphis. He is also a faculty associate with the Center for Intermodal Freight Transportation Studies (CIFTS) at the University of Memphis, and an affiliated faculty of the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation at Rutgers University. His core research lies in the field of logistics and supply chain management with a focus on intermodal freight transportation. His recent research work concentrated on the modeling of intermodal freight terminals (IFTs), as they are critical parts of the transportation system network, and their efficiency, affects significantly the entire intermodal freight transport chain.

In his work he has developed mathematical models and solution algorithms to tackle operational problems at IFTs. The novelty of these models is that they capture real world environments and provide robust solutions against the uncertainty that every day operations entail. Recently, the focus of his research has been on market based mechanisms and their applicability in operational problems at IFTs. This approach has been motivated by the fact that such mechanisms may offer significant advantages, over classical approaches used to date (limited communication is needed between the players; mechanisms can be implemented to elicit information to achieve optimality etc). Dr. Golias holds a Diploma in Civil Engineering from Aristotle University, and a M.Sc. in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering from Rutgers University.
Dr. Stephanie S. Ivey is an Associate Professor with the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Memphis. Her primary research interests are in transportation policy, transportation planning, transportation workforce development, and undergraduate STEM education. She is currently conducting research related to journey to school in urban areas, assessment of resources (including freight) available for long range planning models, and livability assessment in areas surrounding freight corridors. She also has worked with multiple community groups to develop neighborhood transportation plans and assessments, as well as strategies to engage citizens in the transportation planning process.

Dr. Ivey is currently PI/co-PI on over $2 M in funding for undergraduate STEM education research from the National Science Foundation. She has been a program director for the Herff College of Engineering’s targeted outreach program, Girls Experiencing Engineering, since its inception in 2004, and also serves as program director for the Transportation Engineering Careers (TREC) program for high school students. Dr. Ivey is the faculty advisor for the student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers at the University, is Volunteer Coordinator for the ITE Transportation Education Council, and serves on the Board of Directors for the West Tennessee Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Dr. Lipinski is Director Emeritus of the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute (IFTI) at the University of Memphis and Ensaf Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Memphis. He received his Bachelors, Masters, and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana – Champaign and a certificate in Highway Traffic from Yale University. He has over 35-years experience in transportation engineering. Prior to assuming the Director’s position he served as Chairman of the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Memphis for 15 years.

Dr. Lipinski currently serves as principal investigator for the University of Memphis’ participation in several major intermodal freight transportation studies which address issues related to analyzing system capacities and needs and developing recommendations for enhancing freight movement and supporting economic development, including the Lamar Avenue Corridor Study and the Memphis Regional Freight Infrastructure Plan.

He continues to be active in the area of transportation safety. He was co-developer of a National Highway Institute (NHI) course on Road Safety Audits and Road Safety Audit Reviews. He has served as instructor for this course to over 20 state DOTS. He is co-author of the chapter on Transportation Safety in the 2009 edition of the Traffic Engineering Handbook. He is a registered engineer in Tennessee and Mississippi and a registered Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE).
John Morris is the Leader of C&W’s Industrial Services group for the Americas. He has responsibility for the Industrial service line at C&W, including oversight for the performance of the company’s nearly 600 brokerage professionals in North and South America. He also oversees the Industrial service line’s collaboration with C&W’s other service lines, such as Corporate Occupier and Investor Services (CIS), Global Consulting and Capital Markets. John assumed this position in 2013 and reports to C&W’s CEO of the Americas, Jim Underhill. Mr. Morris is based in Rosemont, IL.

John was previously Head of C&W Global Consulting, where he was the lead practitioner for C&W’s Supply Chain Solutions Consulting practice. Mr. Morris has been an industry leader in network and location strategy for manufacturing and distribution operations. He has an extensive background in supply chain strategy, network design, supply chain cost reduction and transportation operations. He joined C&W from A.T. Kearney in April, 2005.

Mr. Morris is experienced in leading supply chain transformation initiatives at Fortune 500 companies in multi-million dollar consulting engagements working directly with client senior management. Responsibilities have included: network design, location selection, organizational design and network rollout plan development.

Sample clients Mr. Morris has completed and led supply chain work with include Kohl’s, Kid Kraft, Golden State Foods, Thule, Gap, Graphic Packaging, Dale & Thomas, Southern Wine & Spirits, Novartis, Home Depot, Starbucks, Unilever, US Foods, Sears, Chrysler, Amway, VF Corporation, Five Below, General Motors, Wegmans Stores and Constellation Brands.
Senator Mark Norris was first elected Majority Leader of the Tennessee Senate on January 10, 2007. He served as Chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus in 2006. He was re-elected Senate Majority Leader of the 106th General Assembly beginning in 2009 and is the first Republican Majority Leader to serve from West Tennessee in more than a generation.

Norris came to the State Senate in 2000 as a Republican County Commissioner from rural Shelby County. He represents District 32 which is “the West Coast of Tennessee” including Dyer, Lauderdale, Tipton and Shelby County. He was re-elected by a wide margin in 2004. Norris was elected to a third term in November 2008. He currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee and is a member of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, Ethics Committee, and State and Local Government Committee.

Norris served as Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee from January 2005 to January 2007. During that time, he presided over the adoption of the state’s first long-range transportation plan and the creation of rural transportation planning organizations for grass-roots initiatives to meet the needs of local citizens. He led the fight to stop the annual diversion of taxpayers’ money from the state’s transportation trust fund to the general fund. He successfully increased funding for public transportation from existing revenues and was recognized by the Tennessee Public Transportation Association as 2006 Tennessee Legislator of the Year. Norris was also responsible for conducting legislative hearings into alleged improprieties at the Tennessee Highway Patrol which ultimately led to the resignations of high ranking Administration officials including the former Commissioner of Safety and the top officer in the Highway Patrol.

Norris has practiced law in Tennessee since graduating from the University of Denver College of Law in 1980. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Colorado College. He serves as Special Counsel to the law firm of Adams and Reese LLP. He is a member of the Litigation Practice Group where he represents small businesses, health care providers and property owners, and he provides general counseling to individuals, charities, corporations and nonprofit organizations.
John Schroer was appointed Commissioner of Transportation by Governor Bill Haslam in January, 2011. He is the 29th commissioner of the state agency that oversees a statewide transportation system including highways, rail, airports, waterways and transit. Just after his appointment, Commissioner Schroer initiated a review of TDOT including its organization and processes in conjunction with Governor Haslam’s "Top to Bottom Review" of state government. Recommendations from this review have begun and will be completed in the next two years.

During his first year, Commissioner Schroer embarked on Summer Tours, 2011 by traveling thousands of miles across the state to TDOT projects and facilities. He met with agency employees to gather ideas on how TDOT could become more efficient. It was so effective he continued this process in the summer and fall of 2012. Recently, Commissioner was appointed Chairman of the prestigious Standing Committee on Finance and Administration of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, an organization composed of peers from all DOTs across the nation.

Previous to his state service, Commissioner Schroer was the Mayor of Franklin, Tennessee beginning with his election in 2007. During his tenure, he was involved in the Middle Tennessee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving on its executive committee. By virtue of his position as mayor, he was a member of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and served as its treasurer. As Commissioner of Transportation, he continues to be a member of each of those public bodies.

Prior to his election as mayor he was a member of the Board of the Franklin Special School District for 13 years, serving as its chairman for eleven of those years. He served on the Board of the Tennessee School Board Association as Treasurer and Vice President. An Indiana native, Commissioner Schroer received a bachelor’s degree in business from Indiana University. After graduation he moved to the Franklin area and subsequently received an MBA from the University of Tennessee. He spent ten years in the commercial real estate financing business before beginning a real estate development business. He is a past board member of Williamson County United Way and a founding board member of Franklin Tomorrow.
Pragati Srivastava is the Administrator for the Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). In this capacity, Ms. Srivastava is responsible for Long Range Transportation Planning for the Memphis MPO region which looks at all modes of transportation, such as highway, transit, freight, bicycle and pedestrian. Ms. Srivastava formerly served as the Principal Transportation Planner for the Memphis MPO for four years. She was responsible for managing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and managed various transportation planning studies.

Before joining the Memphis MPO, Pragati worked as an Intern with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. She received a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture from Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, India and a Master’s degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Texas, at Austin, Texas.
Jack Wells has been the Chief Economist at the U.S. Department of Transportation since 2004. His major focus has been on using economic analysis to make the transportation system more efficient, through, for example,

- Greater use of benefit-cost analysis and asset management techniques,
- Use of economic incentives (such as congestion pricing) to enhance the operational efficiency of the transportation system, and
- Expanding deployment of innovative transportation technology, such as Intelligent Transportation Systems.

During the past four years, he has focused on improving methods for estimating benefits and costs of infrastructure investments, particularly in freight transportation and high-speed rail, including their effects on economic competitiveness and export expansion. He has also worked on the Department’s economic analysis of proposed transportation safety regulations. He is currently responsible for implementing the freight provisions in MAP-21, the surface transportation reauthorization act enacted in 2012.

He has previously served as

- Chief Economist at the Bureau of Transportation Statistics,
- Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration,
- Minority Staff Director of the House Subcommittee on Railroads,
- Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee,
- Economist at the U.S. General Accounting Office, working on transportation, regulation, and science and technology policy issues, and
- Assistant Professor of Economics at George Mason University.

Mr. Wells has a B.A. from Harvard and a Ph.D. from Yale, both in Economics.