

2021 CHOOSING TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

SPEAKER BIOS

Toks Omishakin

Director, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Toks Omishakin was appointed director of the California Department of Transportation by Governor Newsom in 2019. He manages a \$15 billion budget and nearly 21,000 employees who oversee 50,000 lane miles of highways, maintain 13,000 bridges, permit more than 400 public-use airports, fund three of Amtrak's busiest intercity rail services and support more than 200 transit agencies.

Previously, he spent eight years as deputy commissioner with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and served in the Nashville Mayor's Office.



Omishakin is chair of the Active Transportation Council for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and is an America Walks board member. A Tennessee native, Omishakin and his wife have two children. He is completing a Ph.D. in Engineering Management at University of Tennessee, Knoxville; has a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Jackson State University and bachelor of arts in Engineering Technology from Mississippi Valley State University.



Katie George Hooser

Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations, IMC Companies, LLC

Katie George Hooser is the Chief Marketing Officer for IMC Companies, the largest marine drayage company in the United States. Katie spent her early career in local Memphis sales before rebranding IMC Companies and launching the marketing department in 2012.

As CMO, Katie is responsible for branding, public relations, internal and external communications, driver marketing and recruitment.

Katie is a former president of the Memphis World Trade Club and currently serves on the advisory board. She earned her undergraduate degree from Emory University and a Master's in Business Administration from Christian Brothers University. Katie is married to Andrew and they have three children - Adelaide (8), George (8) and Howard (4).

Joseph Niegoski

Senior Director Educational Services, American Public Transit Association



Joseph W. Niegoski, senior director – educational services, supports and provides leadership for the educational and professional development needs of the members and staff of the American Public Transportation Association. He supports several industry workforce development strategic programs and priority initiatives. He serves as staff advisor for the Leadership APTA Committee and manages the industry’s highly successful Leadership APTA program. Working with industry leadership, he serves as co-staff advisor for APTA’s Workforce Development Committee, Labor & Employee Relations subcommittee. Working with his fellow staff colleagues, Mr. Niegoski manages and promotes a variety of professional development programs for APTA staff and has served on several internal special working groups. Representing APTA, he is an active board member on the Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium, and the TRB Education and Training Committee. He served on the Editorial Advisory Board for Rosalind Franklin University, He is a past member of the National Network of Business and Industry Associations, He is often invited to speak at industry events and APTA member special programs. Prior to joining APTA, Mr. Niegoski was principal of his own consulting practice. Mr. Niegoski spent over twenty years in the high-tech consulting industry, living in the US and Europe, leading and supporting learning and education programs in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Mr. Niegoski is a member of the Society of Human Resource Management and the American Society of Association Executives. He received his Master of Science from Georgetown University, Washington, DC and his Bachelor of Arts from St. Lawrence University, Canton N.Y. Over the years he has served on various boards and advisory groups in the Washington DC area. He has sung and performed with various choral groups and choirs in the US and overseas.



Robbin Page

Vice President Human Resource, FedEx Express

Robbin is the Vice President of Human Resources at FedEx Express where she is responsible for Safety, Global Compensation and Innovation, Development and Organizational Strategies. She is the co-sponsor of the FedEx Express Women’s Network and a member of the FedEx Express Vice President Diversity Council.

In 1996 Robbin joined FedEx Express as a Staff Attorney in Employment Litigation. She has served in several management roles prior to taking on her current position. Before joining FedEx Express, Robbin practiced law with Baker Donelson in Memphis, Tennessee as a litigation and employment associate. While at Baker Donelson she also worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis School of Law.

Robbin holds a bachelor’s degree in History, Political Science and Economics from Michigan State University. She completed her Juris Doctor (JD), with honors, at the University of Tennessee College of Law where she was a member of the Tennessee Law Review and a member of the National Moot Court team. Robbin is a four-time Five Star Award winner at FedEx Express. The Five Star Award is the most prestigious awards given to employees to recognize outstanding leadership and contributions to support the FedEx Purple Promise.

Robbin serves on the board of directors for the International Aviation Women’s Association. She is a Master in Leo S. Bearman Sr., American Inns of Court and is a Memphis Bar Foundation Fellow. Before COVID-19 Robbin spent considerable time at soccer fields and basketball courts across the mid-south cheering for her children and their teams, now she is playing board games and cards and has adopted a second rescue puppy!

Stephanie Ivey

Director, Southeast Transportation Workforce Center, Univ. of Memphis



Dr. Stephanie Ivey is the Associate Dean for Research with the Herff College of Engineering and a Professor with the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Memphis. She directs the U of M's Southeast Transportation Workforce Center and the West TN STEM Hub, and is Associate Director of the Division of Transportation and Logistics in the Center for Applied Earth Sciences and Engineering Research. Her technical research includes focus on journey to school in urban areas, transportation planning (particularly related to freight impacts), livability assessment in urban communities, and strategies to engage citizens in the transportation planning process. She has a strong record of STEM workforce and education research, with special emphasis on transportation workforce development, partnerships between industry and academia, and increasing representation of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM.

Ivey is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers Diversity and Inclusion Committee- STEM Sub Committee and the TRB Standing committee on Maintenance and Operations Personnel. She also serves on the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Transportation Industry Council, the TennSMART board and the Board of Directors for the Greater Memphis IT Council.



William (Bill) Albritton

General Manager, Gulf Division, CN

Bill Albritton is General Manager, Gulf Division, for CN, a world-class transportation leader. He is based out of Memphis, with responsibilities for planning, developing and overseeing carload operations activities within the territory to ensure safety and meet customer needs. CN safely transports more than 300 million tons of natural resources, manufactured products, and finished goods throughout North America every year; and CN is the only railroad connecting Canada's Eastern and Western coasts with the U.S. South through a 19,500-mile rail network.

Bill started his Railroad career in 1989 and joined CN in 1995 as a locomotive engineer. He began his management career with CN in January 1998 as Transportation Manager and has since held positions of increased responsibility in Memphis, Detroit, Toronto and Chicago. He is recognized for his management, operations and customer relations skills.

Erika Conley

Manager, Culture, Diversity & Inclusion and Citizenship - FedEx Freight



Erika Conley has worked tirelessly to help organizations hone in on their story and their people in the nonprofit, education and now, as a diversity, equity and inclusion leader shaping workplace culture. She currently serves as Manager - Culture, Inclusion & Citizenship (CIC) at FedEx Freight in Memphis, TN. She and the CIC team lead a robust collection of programs that connect core elements of the FedEx Freight culture and promote an environment where all team members feel respected, empowered and valued.

Before joining FedEx, Erika served as director of community engagement at Teach For America (TFA) where she exceeded community engagement and fundraising goals. She also elevated DEI as a core consideration in training, events and procurement. Erika is an experienced facilitator in group and organizational dynamics, organizational communications and has developed customized learning modules for universities.

A native Memphian, Erika earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville and Master of Science degree in Mass Communication from Arkansas State University. She is married to Damon and they have three children - Daniel (10), Dylan (8), and Evie (3). She enjoys cheering on the Memphis Tigers and Grizzlies and volunteering throughout her local community.

Laurie Matkowski

Director of Connected and Automated Vehicle Services,
Gannett Fleming, Inc.



Laurie is the Connected and Automated Vehicle (CAV) Services Director for Gannett Fleming. Spanning an over 20 year career in both public and private sectors in planning and engineering, she has a Civil Engineering degree from Clemson University. Laurie is considered a Subject Matter Expert on strategic planning for future technologies in the transportation industry, including CAV, Automated Driving Systems (ADS) readiness, Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO), traffic and transportation engineering, planning, multimodal connections, Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS), Smart Cities/Communities, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and Traffic Incident Management (TIM). Join us as Ms. Matkowski discusses exciting career opportunities in transportation!

Dan Pallme

Assistant Chief of Environment and Planning / Freight and Logistics
Director - Tennessee Department of Transportation



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 short-line railroads, Section 130 rail program, rail inspection, freight planning, water, highway freight and technology, freight advisory committees and the freight and state rail plan updates.

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.



Dominic Sun

Director of Trade Development - Port Houston

Dominic Sun was named Director of Trade Development in January 2019. He has 29+ years of professional experience with ocean carriers, domestic and international freight forwarders, and global 3PLs in the US. His most recent position prior to joining the port was as Director of Strategic Accounts with CMA CGM, the world's third largest ocean carriers, where he had a 11-year tenure and held expanding roles in the US West and Gulf Coasts.

Sun earned his bachelor's degree in Finance with concentration in Real Estate from University of Southern California.

Michelle Epps

Sr. Vice President IT and CIO, FedEx Freight



Michelle is the Sr. Vice President IT and CIO for FedEx Freight. In this role, Michelle brings her energy, passion, and drive into modernizing information technology (IT) systems, digital transformation, and building technology to evolve the Less Than Truckload (LTL) market share leader. In current her role, Michelle is leading the modernization and digitization of FedEx Freight IT systems which will transform the LTL industry.

