

Our Town Speakers Biographies

Kevin Soucie, Soucie & Associates

Topic: The future of transportation financing, moving towards new approaches that embrace market principles and attract private capital

Kevin Soucie is a consultant on transportation policy and government affairs with Soucie & Associates, based in Milwaukee. He received his B.A. in Economics and Political Science from McGill and his M.A. in Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Soucie also studied at Catholic University in Lublin, Poland and at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

He was elected to three terms in the Wisconsin Assembly from 1974 through 1980, and chaired its transportation committee during his third term. He served as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Milwaukee County from 1989 through 1992.

His transportation consulting work has encompassed freight rail, highways, and urban transit issues in the U.S., Canada, New Zealand and Poland. He has chaired the Milwaukee City Transportation Commission and has been a member of the Milwaukee City Planning Commission. Soucie recently co-authored a Wisconsin Policy Research Institute study entitled "Rebuilding the Marquette Interchange via a Public-Private Partnership." In October 2003, Soucie received the "Innovator of the Year" award from the Daily Reporter construction trade publication.

Jim Hatter, FHWA

Topic: Finance Strategies

Jim Hatter has 28 years' municipal finance experience, including 11 years in the public sector. As an investment banker, Jim specialized in financing infrastructure projects with a wide variety of tax-exempt and taxable municipal bonds. While serving in the public sector, Jim was Chief of Community and Business programs for Farmers Home Administration United States Department of Agriculture. His responsibilities included the management of loan and grant programs financing community infrastructure within the state of California.

He is a graduate of California State University Fresno, with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree. Jim is currently an Innovative Finance Specialist with the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration located in their Resource Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Shirley J. Ybarra, President of The Ybarra Group, Ltd

Topic: Public – Private Initiatives and Experiences in Virginia

Ms. Ybarra was appointed Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia, January, 1998 and served through January, 2002. As Secretary she oversaw the development and implementation of Virginia's transportation program, including management and budgetary responsibility, legislative, regulatory and policy leadership for the Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Aviation, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Motor Vehicle Dealer Board and Virginia Port Authority.

Ms. Ybarra served as Chair of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, which oversees and approves highway and transit construction contracts, regulations and administration of transportation funds including priority transportation fund initiated as part of the Virginia Transportation Act of 2000, Governor Gilmore's \$3.0 billion Innovative Progress initiative for transportation funding.

In April 1994 she was appointed Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia. As Deputy, she developed and implemented a strategic plan for transportation secretariat that focused on Governor Allen's priorities of privatization, deregulation and economic development. Legislative initiatives included The Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995, One-Stop Shopping for Motor Carriers and major streamlining of Virginia's railroad code. She served as Chair of Public-Private Transportation Advisory Panel, which reviews and recommends projects undertaken pursuant to the innovative 1995 Act. She also served as one of four Administration members of the Commonwealth Competition Council, which examines and promotes privatization initiatives throughout the Commonwealth.

Between 1991 and 1993, Ms. Ybarra was Executive Vice President and Principal, Stateside Associates, Arlington, VA where she developed the strategy enabling a major financial services company successfully to resist tax increases and regulatory restrictions at state levels. She coordinated liaison with national associations of state officials, and recruited in-state lobbyists to lead local opposition to proposed tax measures.

As President of the Americas, ABC International (now: Reed Travel Group), in Boston, MA from 1987 to 1990 she restructured operations of an American subsidiary of the United Kingdom's largest publishing and information company. Revenues increased 54% and profits increased 66% in a 18-month span while streamlining 200-employee division.

As Special Assistant to the Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. between 1983 and 1987, she served as the senior policy advisor to Secretary Elizabeth H. Dole. She devised and implemented a program to transfer Washington metropolitan airports from federal to local control. Ms. Ybarra developed and managed passage of federal legislation transferring National and Dulles Airports to a newly-created independent authority. She also chaired the transition team through planning and implementation of financial and administrative structures and systems to

enable the new Authority to operate the Metropolitan Washington airports. Ms. Ybarra served as the primary liaison between the Secretary and the aviation industry, and handled numerous sensitive and confidential political duties.

As Vice President and Partner in the consulting firm of Simat, Helliesen & Eichner, Inc., New York, NY (1971 –1983), Ms. Ybarra designed and directed transportation and economic consulting projects for airlines, aerospace firms, related trade associations and Federal and State government agencies. Studies included financial plans for new carriers, marketing and pricing strategies for domestic and international air carriers, merger strategies, and antitrust filings. Ms. Ybarra appeared as an economic expert witness in numerous rate, route and certification proceedings before the Civil Aeronautics Board as well as state regulatory bodies and court proceedings.

Ms. Ybarra began her career as a consultant, at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Burlingame, CA in 1968 where she conducted financial feasibility studies to support airport revenue bond issuance and airport lease agreements.

Ms. Ybarra holds a Master's degree in Economics and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Ms. Ybarra is currently President of The Ybarra Group, Ltd. based in Washington DC. The firm focuses on strategic planning and policy issues in the transportation arena working with private clients, the Administration and the U.S. Congress. The Ybarra Group advises governments at local, state and federal level in the U.S. as well as with government and private sector clients in the international arena.

Jacquelyn Magness Seneshal, AICP, KCI

Topic: Public-Private Initiatives, current practices

Ms. Seneschal is a Senior Planner with 30 years of experience providing planning services to a variety of clients seeking professional advice related to the creation, enhancement, and preservation of dynamic, sustainable communities. Her expertise addresses topics such as land use and development, transportation, environmental conditions, historic preservation, economic development, and provision of public facilities and services.

Prior to joining KCI, Ms. Seneschal's experience has included serving as:

- **Director of Planning for Charles County Government**, where she led a professional staff responsible for the development and implementation of comprehensive planning programs including land use, transportation, water and sewer systems, solid waste, and air quality.
- **Air Quality Planning Director for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**, where she was responsible for developing a regional plan for achieving compliance with the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, reviewing conformity of transportation plans with air quality plans, developing public

education and outreach programs on air quality, and representing COG member local governments at the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Ms. Seneschal is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Economics. She holds a Masters degree in Urban Planning and Policy Management from Johns Hopkins University. She has served as a Board member of the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association and as President of the Maryland Association of County Planning Officials. She has also served as Chair of the Subcommittee for the Environment and Economic Development for the Maryland State Growth Commission.

In her life outside the office, she has worked as a volunteer, officer, and Board member for various local and regional nonprofit human service, religious, and historic preservation organizations. She is a native of Harford County, Maryland where she lives with her husband and youngest son.

Nick Harding, Halcrow

Topic: Private – Public Initiatives - Developer Perspective

Mr. Harding is Halcrow's Market Sector Manager for Strategic Highway Management in North America. He has been with Halcrow for 18 years. In that time he has been involved in highway design, construction and management in Europe, Asia and the US. He led the Halcrow team helping to develop the UK Highways Agency's new highway maintenance contracts, with responsibility for defining the performance requirements. Mr. Harding carries out technical due diligence for operators and lenders and is also working with TxDOT developing the performance requirements for their new highway concession contracts.

Ed O'Donnell, University of Delaware

Panel Discussion Moderator

Mr. O'Donnell is the former General Manager of the New Castle County Department of Land Use. He is currently working for the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration teaching, facilitating, developing municipal comprehensive plans and conducting research related to land use and transportation.

During Mr. O'Donnell's 41-year career in public-sector planning, he has acquired a broad range of expertise in land use planning, growth management, infrastructure/community facilities, natural-resource protection, state growth-management policies, and intergovernmental coordination. Mr. O'Donnell has worked at the Institute for Public Administration since 1998, initially as a Senior Policy Advisor and more recently as a limited-term researcher.

Activities have included work with the Delaware Public Policy Institute and, in conjunction with other staff in IPA, planning assistance to municipalities in Delaware (e.g., Elsmere, Frederica, Townsend). In addition, Mr. O'Donnell has worked on special

projects, such as School Facility Planning, the Municipal Clerks Program, Delaware Planning Education Program, Transportation Mitigation Agreements Policy Forum, Mobility Friendly Design Standards Policy Forum, and the Management Fellows Program. Additional activities include teaching a graduate-level course concerning land use and transportation linkages.

During his planning career with New Castle County, he directed the preparation of both the 1988 and 1996 Comprehensive Development Plans/Updates and the Unified Development Code. More recently, he assisted in the preparation of both the 2002 and 2007 Comprehensive Development Plan updates for New Castle County. Included among his research interests are intergovernmental coordination, growth management, transportation/infrastructure planning, natural-resource protection, and local, state, and regional comprehensive planning.

In October 2006, Mr. O'Donnell received the Peter Larson Memorial Achievement Award at a joint conference of the Delaware and Maryland chapters of the American Planning Association, recognizing his distinguished career as a planner.