

B303 – AVs in Rural America- Equity and Mobility for All



Omar Ahmad
University of Iowa

Mr. Ahmad is Deputy Director of the National Advanced Driving Simulator at the University of Iowa. For the past 25 years, Mr. Ahmad has worked on research studies related to studying vehicle safety and human performance. More recently, Mr. Ahmad has worked on automated vehicle demonstration projects looking at work zones, slower moving vehicles and rural roadways.



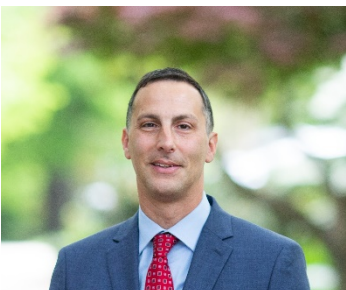
Jonathan Dowds
University of Vermont

Jonathan Dowds is a Senior Research Analyst at the University of Vermont Transportation Research Center and holds an MS in Natural Resources. His research examines the nexus of travel behavior and climate change with a focus on rural communities. Under the broad umbrella of transportation sustainability, Dowds studies how mode and travel choices impact VMT, transportation energy consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions as well as studying how new and emerging vehicle technologies (both electrification and automation) meet individuals' travel needs and shape their travel choice across a range of urban/rural settings.



Rich Granger
DriveOhio (ODOT)

Rich Granger is Managing Director of Workforce and Economic Development at DriveOhio, the state's center for smart mobility — focused on automated, connected, and electric vehicles and infrastructure, on the ground and in the air. In this role, Rich manages workforce development programs from Pre-K to PhD to prepare Ohio's workforce for smart mobility jobs of the future. He also manages economic development activities to accelerate statewide investments in the fast-growing sectors of automated vehicles (DriveOhio) and advanced air mobility (FlyOhio). Rich has spent his career at the intersection of technology, innovation, and education. He grew up in Northeast Ohio and lives in the Columbus area with his wife and their young daughter, who wants to own a self-driving car and design a delivery drone when she grows up.



Rob Hyman
U.S. DOT

Rob Hyman is the staff lead for the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative, in the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation Policy at the US DOT. He has been working in the transportation field for two decades, with positions at the Federal Highway Administration, at Cambridge Systematics (a transportation planning consultancy), and a short stint as a ski bum.



Cynthia Jones

DriveOhio

Cynthia Jones is a Project Manager for DriveOhio which is the state's center for innovation, incubation and implementation of autonomous and connected vehicle technologies. DriveOhio's efforts are focused on the future of SMART mobility through the pillars of Safety, Mobility, Access, Reliability and Talent. Cynthia is managing the USDOT Automated Driving Systems grant award for Ohio exploring feasibility of automated vehicles in rural areas, focused on Athens and Vinton counties. She also led deployment of the Columbus SmartCircuit shuttle in December 2018. She joined ODOT in 2009 after 19 years in the private sector with finance and banking. Cynthia is a PMP, has a B.A. degree in Public Policy from Duke University and an MBA from Loyola College in Maryland. She is Co-Chair of the Transportation Research Board Committee on Research Innovation and

Implementation.



Amy Kessler

North Central RPO

Amy Kessler, holding a Bachelor Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, is the Director of Community Development and Regional Planning for the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, a 6-county Local Development District serving Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean and Potter counties - and which serves as one of PennDOT's Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs). For the past 20 plus years, she has been responsible for regional transportation planning, project and program development, community outreach, environmental justice, and intermodal and transportation research. She serves on numerous state and national committees and

most recently was selected to the Washington DC based National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Board of Directors.



Carrie Kissel

National Association of Development Organizations

Carrie Kissel serves as the Associate Director for the NADO Research Foundation's transportation research and capacity building programs, RPO America, and wealth creation and other economic development work. In this position, Carrie conducts research on noteworthy practices in regional transportation and economic development, produces a range of written materials from research reports to website articles and social media posts, provides technical assistance on various topics, plans training events, develops and implements training and facilitation materials for sessions, and conducts frequent outreach to rural and small metro transportation and development practitioners. Carrie initially joined NADO in 2005. She has completed many projects related to transportation, rural wealth creation, brownfields redevelopment, and environmental stewardship. Carrie

completed a Master of Arts in Public Anthropology at American University and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Ball State University.

**Kristin White**

Minnesota Office of Connected and Automated Vehicles

Kristin White is Executive Director of Minnesota's Office of Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV-X), a public sector tech startup and idea incubator that researches and deploys transformational technology and policy. Kristin is a lawyer, policy strategist and innovator who brings empathy and leadership into the transportation sector, challenging us to harness revolutionary technologies and grow new partnerships to build tomorrow today. The CAV-X program is one of the leading CAV programs in the nation, with its projects, research and partnerships winning the National Cronin Award, WTS Innovative Solutions Award, and AASHTO America's Transportation Award. Kristin has a B.A. from St. Olaf College, law degree from Hamline University School of Law and global arbitration certification from Queen Mary University of London. She began her career as a Fulbright Fellow with the U.S. State Department and has since represented Fortune 500 companies, cities, and states.