**Transportation Works: Speaker Bios**

**Alida Tallman, Project Advisory Committee Member, Transportation Works**

Alida Tallman has spent her career working for nonprofits in the Austin area, most recently serving as VP of Development for Big Brothers Big Sisters. She holds a Master’s of Public Affairs from the LBJ School at the University of Texas at Austin, and a Bachelor’s of Sociology from Rice University. She is currently an entrepreneur and small business owner of Eco Estate Jewelry, a boutique estate jewelry store located in Lakeway just outside of Austin.  For years, Alida has been an advocate for accessibility issues, stemming from her close relationship with her 27-year-old sister who has special needs.  Alida currently serves on Texas SILC’s Project Advisory Committee for Transportation Works.

**Daniel Curtis,** **Project Advisory Committee Member, Transportation Works**

Daniel would've likely continued in this industry but in 2011 at the age of 29 he sustained a spinal cord injury which resulted in quadriplegia. In the two years following his injury, Daniel was dedicated to his recovery and rehabilitation spending 40 hours a week in the clinic/community gym. Daniel's spinal cord injury and the recovery thereafter was a very transformational experience in that it forced him to redefine himself while also providing an incredible amount of perspective and clarity. Daniel has spent the past five years in the clinical environment where he has quietly been observing how things operate and the politics involved in healthcare. At the age of 30, he returned to ACC to obtain his associates degree in business administration and then onto the University of Texas where he would get his BBA. Daniel hopes to sharpen his management tools over the next 21 months and plans on going into the medical nonprofit sector. This is one of the reasons that the Baylor Healthcare EMBA appealed to him.

Daniel is still very active in the community and mentors those with new injuries and is also a summer camp director for camp Xtreme, a wheelchair sports camp for kids. He volunteers for several nonprofits including the University of Texas and the University of St. Augustine. He is a board member with the Lone Star Paralysis Foundation and hosts an annual fundraising event in August. He was recently married to an occupational therapist, whom he proposed to underwater while scuba diving in Bonaire. He also plays wheelchair rugby for the Texas Stampede and won the Division I national championship in 2016. Daniel believes the Baylor EMBA is a great fit for him because it allows some flexibility to continue to be a mentor, advocate, and athlete.

**Session Title: Texas on the Move: Emerging Issues and Advances in Accessible Transportation.**

**The Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)** is the nation's largest university-based transportation research and education institute. TTI’s objective is to solve transportation problems through research, to transfer technology and to develop diverse human resources to meet the transportation challenges of tomorrow. To achieve this objective, the Institute participates on local, state, regional, and national levels in conducting interdisciplinary research programs that extend into the planning, operation, safety, economic, ecological, and social aspects of transportation.

**Michael Walk** is an associate research scientist for the Transit Mobility Program at TTI. Michael has 8 years of management and executive experience in public transit and over 12 years of experience conducting research, leading projects, and training. He specializes in transit performance management and measurement; collaborative problem solving; process improvement; data collection and analysis; transit planning, operations, and scheduling; transit technologies; and customer and community outreach.

**Zachary Elgart** works with the Transit Mobility Program at TTI. Zachary’s research focus is on innovation, accessibility, emerging modes, and use of technology and automation in transportation. Before joining TTI in 2013, Zachary was a researcher with the METRANS transportation institute at the University of Southern California where he focused on transportation finance and public private partnerships. Zachary earned a bachelor’s degree from Cal State Long Beach and a Master of Planning degree from the University of Southern California.

**Todd Hansen** works with the Transit Mobility Program at TTI. Todd’s work focuses on best practices for public transit, accessibility for persons with disabilities, innovative practices for transit and transportation network companies, and analysis of transit agency operations and finances. Todd has created tools to prioritize bus stop accessibility improvements. Todd earned a Bachelor’s in Business Administration and a Master’s in Urban Planning from Texas A&M University, and is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

**Session Title: Austin Strategic Mobility Plan: A Glance at the Future**

**Lianne Miller, Austin Transportation Department**

Liane Miller is a Project Coordinator with the Systems Development Division of the Austin Transportation Department. In this role, she works on transportation-related planning and policy initiatives, such as the development of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, the City’s first Street Impact Fee program, and the Austin/Travis County Community Health Assessment. She has previously worked in other City departments on infrastructure planning, zero waste programming, and the City’s award-winning comprehensive plan, Imagine Austin. Liane has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and Master’s degrees in Planning and Public Administration from the University of Southern California. When not working to improve mobility in Austin, she spends her time running Lady Bird Lake and various half marathons, learning to cook, and volunteering through the Junior League of Austin.

**Information on Austin Transportation Department**: The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) is a department of the City of Austin responsible for a variety of transportation, mobility, and safety functions throughout the community. ATD works with all modes of transportation and many Austin-area partners and agencies to deploy an all-ages and abilities network.

* **Mission:** The Austin Transportation Department is committed to providing the safest and most efficient, cost-effective and sustainable roadway, bikeway, walkway and transit system for our community.
* **Functions:** ATD is responsible for the following aspects of transportation, mobility and safety in Austin:

Roadway signage and markings, traffic engineering, traffic and pedestrian signals, ground transportation service regulation, on-street parking, parking meters, City-owned parking lots and garages, transportation systems planning, the active transportation network, permitting and coordination of special events in the City’s right of way, permitting and coordination of construction or maintenance in the City’s right of way, traffic calming, the City’s Complete Streets Policy, and more.

ATD works with several partners in the Central Texas region to design, plan for and construct mobility and safety improvements on our region's transportation systems.

**Title Session: The Importance of Data Driven Advocacy**

**Mack Marsh**

Mack Marsh, was named the Executive Director of Access Empowerment and Project Director for Parking Mobility on April 1, 2012 and is responsible for the daily operations of the Parking Mobility program to end accessible parking abuse. Before coming to Access Empowerment, Mack was the Executive Director of the Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living (TACIL). Prior to coming to Texas to lead TACIL, Mack was a life-long resident of Louisiana where he owned a successful wholesale company for 13 years. In 2001, Mack experienced a spinal cord injury resulting in quadriplegia. After his injury, Mack worked as an Independent Living Specialist at New Horizons Independent Living Center (NHILC) in Shreveport, LA. In 2002, Mack was named Director of IL at NHILC. He was instrumental in helping secure equipment and funding to address the critical needs of people with disabilities following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, helping to raise and distribute over $6.5 million in durable medical equipment. In 2007, Mack turned his attentions to injury prevention becoming the Marketing Director for ThinkFirst, the National Injury Prevention Program. In two years with ThinkFirst, Mack educated over 400,000 youth and young adults on how to prevent traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. In 2009 and 2010, Mack was the director of the Louisiana Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, tripling the grant’s income and helping leverage in excess of $8 million for non-profit organizations providing supports and services toward employment for people with disabilities and helping over 6,000 people go to work. Mack believes in the power of data driven advocacy and has a proven record of organizing and motivating volunteers and staff to achieve objectives of the organizations he has lead. Mack currently serves as a member of the Texas State Independent Living Council Board of Directors.

Most importantly, Mack is “Dad” to two children and is actively involved in their school and sports careers with his older son recently beginning his college career. Mack’s younger son is a high school student and aspiring baseball star. On any given weekend, Mack and the boys can be found at any local fishing spot, camping in the great outdoors or on an adventure pushing the boundaries of their abilities. Since Mack’s injury, he and the boys have planned a different adventure every year, the only requirement is that it has to include something they haven’t done before.

**Session Title: Developing a Transportation Plan that Accommodates Today’s Needs and Tomorrow’s Options**

***Note: This is the first of two luncheon presentations.***

**Scheleen Walker, Long Range Planning Manager with Travis County**

Ms. Scheleen Walker, AICP, CNU-A

Long Range Planning Manager

Transportation & Natural Resources Department

Travis County (TX)

A fifth generation Texan, Scheleen received her undergraduate degree in English/Policy Studies from Rice University. Following graduation she worked for Dallas Congressman John Bryant for 9 years as a Senior Legislative Aide in Washington, DC, then returned to Texas to pursue a Master of Science degree in Community and Regional Planning at UT-Austin in 1996. Scheleen has lived and worked in Travis County ever since.

In 2001, Scheleen joined the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department (TNR) as a planner, serving as the Executive Team’s community and Commissioners Court liaison, as well as TNR’s legislative manager. In 2004, she became the County’s first Air Quality Program Manager. In 2006, she joined Texas Representative Donna Howard’s staff as her first Legislative Director. Scheleen returned to Travis County in 2014 to replace the retired Long Range Planning Manager and help implement the county’s Land, Water & Transportation Plan.

**Session Title: Developing a Regional Active Transportation Plan for a safe, well connected, and easy-to-use active transportation network of trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and streets.**

**Kelly Porter, Regional Planning Manager at Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Kelly Porter, AICP, is Regional Planning Manager for the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). In his role with CAMPO, Mr. Porter manages the Regional Transportation Plan, the Short-Range Planning Program, the Active Transportation Program, and the Platinum Planning Program. Current projects he is overseeing include the area's first ever Regional Active Transportation Plan, the Walkability Action Plan, corridor studies, as well as the upcoming regional arterials, and transit plans. Mr. Porter has over ten years of planning experience and has worked in the public, private and nonprofit sectors, as well as with communities of varying scale from small rural towns to dense urban communities. Before CAMPO, Mr. Porter worked for the Houston-Galveston Area Council where he worked as part of the team developing the Regional Transportation Plan and a Regional Sustainable Development Plan, in addition to working on safety programming, sub-regional planning initiatives and healthy communities planning. He also managed multiple land use/transportation studies, two award winning sustainability case studies, and the pedestrian-bicyclist, parks, and floods programs. Mr. Porter is active in the leadership of the American Planning Association at the local, state and national levels. Mr. Porter received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Prairie View A&M University in 2006 and his Masters of City and Regional Planning with an emphasis in Land Use, Environmental Planning and Growth Management from University of Pennsylvania in 2008.

**Session Title: Accessible Transportation Collaborations and Developing Non-traditional Partnerships**

**Kari Banta, TxDOT**

Kari a Manager at the Texas Department of Transportation where she oversees services for the elderly and Texans for disabilities. She is a long time employee and coordinates millions of federal funds to special transportation services for individuals with disabilities.

**Dr. Jackie Pacha**

Jackie is the founding executive director for the newest center for independent living in Texas, BVCIL, located near the home of Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. She has over twenty-five years’ experience working with people who have disabilities as a Sign Language Interpreter, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, and Special Education Teacher & Administrator. Additionally, she has taught Adaptive and Assistive Technology at Texas A&M and worked with school districts in establishing structured work experience programs for students with disabilities.

Jackie has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Texas A&M and is a certified rehabilitation counselor. She received her master’s degree in counseling and undergraduate degree in rehabilitation services from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

**Martin Kareithi**

Martin Kareithi is the Accessible Transportation Specialist for Capital Metro where he oversees compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensures accessibility across numerous agency divisions including operations, communications, information technology and planning. He is the agency’s community liaison to organizations serving the needs of persons with disabilities and older adults. He holds a Master’s in Public Administration from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin and is a graduate of Leadership Austin.

**Judy Telge**

Judy is the director of transportation services at the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, where she use to serve as Executive Director for many years. Coastal Bend provides services for Texans with disabilities living in the Corpus Christi and surround areas.

**Pam Robers**

Pam serves as the Executive Director for the Drive a Senior Program in Austin. Since her doctoral studies and research, Dr. Robers has focused on the quality of services for elderly in our society. She moved to Austin to become a professor at the University of Texas – Austin, then moved on to conduct research under a grant by the Health Care Finance Administration. She was an executive for the TX Department of Human Services, TX Department of State Health Services, and Texas Health and Human Commission. When she retired from the Commission, it was to fulfill a dream of working with a non-profit agency that provided services to seniors. That was wish was realized when she became the Executive Director last year for Drive a Senior – North Central Austin.

**Session Title: Transportation Network Companies and Leveraging Technology to Increase Mobility**

**Kris Dudley, Moderator**

Kris is a long time Texas Department of Transportation employee and lead the transportation services for the elderly and Texans with disabilities. She was Kari’s predecessor. Kris has recently retired from TxDOT and to pursue new initiatives. She is loved by all and enjoys golfing and other outdoor activities.:

**Joe Deshotel, Austin Ride**

Joe Deshotel is the Community Engagement Director for RideAustin, the nonprofit ridesharing startup.

Born and raised in Beaumont, Texas, Joe received his Bachelor's degree from Lamar University and has spent the last decade working in political communications. Over the past 5 years, Joe's served as Political Director for Former Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Communications Director for the Travis County Democratic Party, has run two successful citywide ballot initiatives and is currently Vice Chair of the City of Austin's Community Development Commission addressing the affordable housing crisis.

**Trevor Theuniseen, Uber**

Trevor Theunissen serves as Public Affairs Lead for Uber based in Austin where he is responsible for policy and communications for Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Trevor works with elected officials and other stakeholders at the local and state levels to help build a regulatory environment that fosters innovation, builds economic growth and promotes Uber’s mission. Before arriving in Texas, Trevor served as Public Policy Manager for Uber in the Southeast region across eight states. He has roots in New Orleans where he worked for the law firm of Coats | Rose, served as Chief of Staff to a City Councilmember and worked for the Louisiana Recovery Authority. Trevor received a B.B.A. from The George Washington University and a J.D. from Louisiana State University.

**Nick Torres,** **Fare**

Nick serves as the Communication Director at Fare.

**Aaron Fox, Lyft**

Aaron is the General Manager of Lyft Dallas-Fort Worth and Lyft Austin. In this role, he is responsible for the growth, marketing and operations in those markets. He joined Lyft after several years at Dell, where he held roles across management, online operations and merchandising. Prior to Dell, Aaron was a consultant at Bain and Company, a management consulting firm. Aaron is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and received his MBA from Goizueta (Emory) Business School. He resides in Austin with his wife and three young sons.

**Jean Langendorf, Disability Rights Texas**

Jean Langendorf is a Policy Specialist at Disability Rights Texas covering issues related to housing, employment, accessibility and transportation. Prior to joining DRTx, she served as the Vice President, Community and Housing Services at Easter Seals Central Texas. She had been Executive Director, United Cerebral Palsy of Texas, prior to the merger with Easter Seals and previously served as the Project Director for the Texas Home of Your Own Coalition. Her experience also includes managing the City of El Paso Community Development Block Grant social service programs; serving as coordinator of neighborhood development and property management programs, union organizing and nursing home research. Ms. Langendorf is Chairperson of the Purchasing from People with Disabilities Advisory Committee and serves on the IDD Systems Redesign Advisory Committee, the Promoting Independence Advisory Committee and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Disability Advisory Committee. She has also previously served on the national Fannie Mae Housing Impact Advisory Council and as an appointee of Governor Rick Perry on the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council.

**Session Title: Consumer Advocacy in Transportation: Public Service and Involvement in Transportation Planning to Increase Accessible Transportation.**

**Craig Davis, Moderator**

Craig serves as the Executive Assistant and Financial Authority for the Texas State Independent Living Council. Craig provide administrative operations support and ensures the organization fulfills its mission to help Texans with disabilities live independently. Craig is also a comedian and enjoys improv.

**Damion Tabor, Consumer Advocate in Transportation**

Damion is a former employee at Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living and is an active accessible transportation advocate.

**Mike Bates, Consumer Advocate in Transportation**

My name is Mike Bates, and I am a 64 year old legally blind man living in West Texas. I spend my time advocating for others with the idea of serving, inspiring, and trying to make a difference by helping others find hope, and provide information for services all over the Permian Basin. I do this not only for blind/visually impaired persons, but persons with any disability.

I began my quest of advocacy after attending a blind/visually impaired support group and realized how others in other communities could benefit from such support. As transportation is an issue in rural communities, I helped form such groups in three other towns and continued support meetings into assisted living and retirement communities and nursing homes. To reach these locations, I utilize West Texas Opportunities transportation services, which is the only rural option in West Texas.

From peoples’ needs discovered in these settings and my attendance in various conventions, I learned of assistive technologies that were available and began sharing what I learned.

In addition to assistive technologies, I received a certificate as a Coach Trainer for "A Matter of Balance”, attended The Lighthouse for the Blind in San Antonio, started a weekly radio talk show at the Recording Library of West Texas with a question/answer session and help get radios ordered and set up for individuals, am a member of NFB, member and Past President of The Able Center, the only Independent Living Center in West Texas, formed the West Texas Desert Chapter of ACBT and am a State Director, as well as this year’s recipient of Who’s Who Among Blind Texans.

Also, I am Vice President of PBCSO, a large organization of over 30 agencies, including TX DOT, counseling services, medical companies, hospice, Area on Aging, Able, Adult Protection Services, Doctors and medical staff, that meets monthly to network the needs of disabled persons in our community. From this group, I was asked to be a stakeholder in Midland-Odessa Transportation Authority. It has approximately 30 stakeholders, and includes TXDot and all types of transportation agencies; i.e., Greyhound bus, city bus, assisted living companies, as well as city officials. From this group, the mobility manager formed a Citizens Advisory Board for Transportation, on which I also serve, and help address individual disability transportation needs.

Currently, I am working with the Texas Workforce Solutions learning assistive technology, and am scheduled to attend Criss Cole for additional assistive technology training. After certification, I will be able to provide various training for persons with disabilities.

**Patricia Albarado, Consumer Advocate in Transportation**

Patricia is involved in her West Texas community. Her activities include:

* Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities for the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD);
* Project Advisory Committee (PAC) member for the Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC)
* Consumer Advocate in Transportation (CAT) member for the Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC)
* Stakeholder for the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning Committee (RCTP) at the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
* Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) member for EZ Rider Midland-Odessa Urban Transit District (MOUTD)
* Secretary/Treasurer for the Permian Basin Marines
* Citizens On Patrol volunteer for the Odessa Police Department

**Annie Lagow, Public Involvement Division, TxDOT**

Annie has recently joined the Texas Department of Transportation, Public Involvement Division where she serves to obtain community input on transportation needs. Whether an accessible sidewalk or fixed-route change, Annie is committed to public service and ensuring the needs of all Texans can use public transportation.

**Title Session: Taxis and Innovations that Increase Mobility**

**Ed Kargbo**

Kargbo was born in Houston of immigrant parents. His mother is from Nigeria; his father from Sierra Leone. They were both cab drivers while putting themselves through MBA school at Texas Southern University. Kargbo spent part of his youth in Lagos, Nigeria; then college in North Carolina followed by a few years of professional football. He eventually made his way back to Texas where he found his calling.

In 2006, Kargbo became the General Manager of Yellow Cab Austin, which operates 461 local cars and does business with about 700 drivers. They are proud to claim status as the first cab company in the country to utilize GPS dispatching in all their cabs.

**Nega Taddesse**

Nega is the owner and driver of ATX Coop, Austin’s newest and fastest growing tax cab service. ATX is unique in its structure. All drivers are owners. ATX Coop Taxi is an organization of taxi drivers that take pride in providing taxi services in the Austin area. We pride ourselves in providing our drivers the best environment possible. We are very much aware that happy drivers makes for happy customers!

**Jamal Moharer**

Mr. Moharer received his Master of Business Administration from Letourneau University, and maintains an Airline Transport Pilot with all commercial privileges and flight instructor rating. He serves as Chairman of the Board of NDMJ, Ltd., which for the past 30 years has provided passenger and cargo transportation services in the East Texas area, and President of First Alt Fuel, Inc. which opened the first public access CNG refueling station in Tyler, Texas earlier this summer. In addition to providing safe, efficient and coordinated transportation services, Mr. Moharer is dedicated to improving air quality and American energy independence by advancing and promoting the use and distribution of abundant domestic Natural Gas resources in the field of transportation. He currently owns and operates a fleet of 65 vehicles of which 22 are accessible and powered by alternative fuel. He is Chairman of the Alternative Fuel Subcommittee for the Tyler area Chamber of Commerce and he holds numerous certifications from the Railroad Commission of Texas related to both CNG and LPG distribution, transportation, and retail sales as well as a CNG Inspector’s License. In addition to the above, Mr. Moharer was instrumental in the creation of the East Texas Regional Transportation Partners made up of Smith County Commissioner’s Court, Gregg County Commissioner’s Court, North East Texas-Regional Mobility Authority and NDMJ Transportation. Among the key goals of East Texas Regional Transportation Partners are to enhance transportation options as well as making compressed natural gas more available in both Smith and Gregg Counties.

Mr. Moharer currently serves on Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce Aviation Committee, Surface Transportation Committee, and EastTxConnects representing Smith County Commissioner’s Court.

Mr. Moharer has also served as the chairman of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee of East Texas Council of Government, and the Smith County Transportation Advisory Committee, East Texas Regional Coordination Advisory Committee, and the North Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NETRMA). He is committed to a coordinated approach to providing improved transportation services while being a good steward of transportation assets.

Other community involvement includes: Airport Advisory Board, board of directors of Tyler International School of Aviation, board of directors of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, member of East Texas Workforce Board, and the Research and Development Council of the University of Texas Health Science Center, current board member Salvation army board of directors, and member of East Texas Human Needs Network concentrating on improving access to transportation by the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Moharer and his wife, Marilyn, have 3 Aggie children, three grandchildren (future Aggies), and are members at Flint Baptist Church.