
BIOS

A DAY-LONG DISCUSSION OF TRANSPORTATION & CLIMATE CHANGE



James H. Trogdon, III

James H. Trogdon III was appointed secretary of the N.C. Department of Transportation in January 2017. A registered professional engineer with more than 30 years of experience in transportation, Trogdon began his career with the department in 1985 as a highway engineer. In 2000, he was named NCDOT's Division 4 engineer, overseeing highway maintenance, construction and operations within Edgecombe, Halifax, Johnston, Nash, Wayne and Wilson counties.

Trogdon later worked with the N.C. General Assembly as director of Strategic Transportation Planning. In this role, he made recommendations and provided analysis on transportation issues, as well as drafting transportation legislation for General Assembly members and reviewing transportation programs and projects for effectiveness.

In 2009, Trogdon was named NCDOT's chief operating officer, a position he held until his retirement in 2013. As COO, he was a key leader in the department's effort to professionalize its decision-making process and become a performance-based organization with an emphasis on accountability and transparency.

Trogdon currently serves as chairman of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Council on Rail Transportation. In addition, Trogdon has more than three decades of military service.



Nina Szlosberg-Landis

Having served three previous terms, Nina Szlosberg-Landis joined the N.C. Board of Transportation in March 2017 as an at-large member representing environmental issues.

She has been a leader in communications and civic engagement for more than 25 years and has held appointments on boards of various civic organizations, including the Triangle Transit Board of Authority, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Hillsborough Street Partnership, which she founded. She also founded and is president of Circle Squared Media, a strategic communications consulting firm. A resident of Raleigh, Szlosberg-Landis is a graduate of the University of South Carolina.



Doug Kaufman

Dr. Doug Kaufman has been with TransLoc since February 2012 when he began as the general manager of products and services. He became CEO in June 2014 and began retooling the company to take advantage of the growing storm in transit technology, as well as the company's unique capabilities and technological advantages. Since then, the team has grown considerably, the customer-base has spiked, and the company has expanded its offering from one product to five—including the first-ever transit mobile app that integrates transit with ridesharing and simplifies multi-modal travel for all. Prior to joining TransLoc, Doug founded multiple companies including clearTXT, a leading provider of mobile communication for colleges and universities, and Spring Metrics, a conversion analytics and intelligence solution.



Jeremy Tarr

Jeremy Tarr is Policy Advisor on energy, the environment, transportation, and natural resources. Tarr previously worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Durham and prior to that was policy counsel for climate and energy at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University. He is a graduate of Davidson College and UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law



Chaz Beasley

Chaz Beasley is a member of the [North Carolina House of Representatives](#), representing [District 92](#). Beasley was elected to the office on November 8, 2016.

Following law school at Georgetown, Chaz returned home to North Carolina, settling in Mecklenburg County. His work as an attorney in the financial industry has allowed him to hone his knowledge of how a healthy financial system provides the means to create (and sustain) jobs. He recognizes the importance of building the community that supports him, volunteering regularly and serving on multiple nonprofit boards.

Currently, Chaz lives in Steele Creek. He is in his second term as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, serving the people of District 92.



Ray Russell

Ray Russell is a member of the [North Carolina House of Representatives](#), representing [District 93](#). Russell was elected to the office on November 6, 2018.

Most people in Western North Carolina know Ray Russell as the founder and president of RaysWeather.com. But his professional experience expands across multiple sectors of business, education and science.

The wide ranging and varied professional projects Ray has worked on over the years include web programming, databases, meteorology, systems design and, for a time, commercial aircraft cockpit design at NASA. He also has served as a minister for churches in Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and North Carolina.

Ray and Rhonda Russell have been married for 39 years and live near Boone, North Carolina. They have two children, Leah (a clinical psychologist) and Laura (a pharmacist working as a drug information specialist).



Wiley Nickel

Wiley Nickel is a member of the [North Carolina State Senate](#), representing [District 16](#). Nickel was elected to the office on November 6, 2018. Wiley graduated from Tulane University as a Political Science major and received his law degree from the Pepperdine University School of Law. Before opening his law practice, Wiley worked for the White House, traveling with President Barack Obama in the United States and abroad. He also traveled with Vice President Al Gore during the Clinton/Gore White House. Wiley is a practicing attorney in Cary, NC, where he lives with his wife, Caroline, and their two children.



Damon Seils

Damon Seils is a member of the Board of Aldermen and the mayor pro tempore in the Town of Carrboro. He is the chair of the board of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, which coordinates transportation planning in the western Triangle. He also represents Carrboro on the Chapel Hill Public Transit Committee, which provides policy and financial guidance for Chapel Hill Transit, the second largest transit system in North Carolina.



Sig Hutchinson

Sig Hutchinson has served on the Wake County Board of Commissioners since 2014 and is currently vice chair of the board. He served as vice chair in 2015 and chair in 2016.

Sig is known in Wake County for his longtime efforts to preserve open space, expand the greenway system, and make communities healthy and livable. He has successfully led six bond referendums totaling more than \$300 million in Wake County and the City of Raleigh for open space preservation, parks, greenways, transportation and affordable housing.

He has held leadership roles in numerous regional and state boards and associations, including the Triangle Land Conservancy, Advocates for Health in Action and Triangle Transit. He is currently on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for the Upper Neuse River Basin Association.

Among his awards and recognitions, Sig has been honored as Wake County's Volunteer of the Year, Triangle Business Journal's Green Advocate of the Year, Raleigh News & Observer's Tar Heel of the Week and a recipient of the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce A.E. Finley Distinguished Service Award.

Sig is the president of Sig Hutchinson Communications. He has a B.A. from Texas Tech University, a M.Ed. from the University of South Carolina, and he lives on a greenway in Raleigh with his wife, Nancy. They have one son and three grandchildren.



Dimple Ajmera

January 17, 2017, Dimple Ajmera was unanimously selected by the Charlotte City Council to fill the District 5 seat, vacated by State Representative John Autry. In 2018, she won a successful At Large campaign and is a sitting member of the Charlotte City Council.

Dimple Ajmera, a former certified public accountant, made history, becoming the first Asian-American and youngest woman to serve on Charlotte City Council. Councilmember Ajmera works diligently towards creating a sustainable, equitable, and safe Charlotte. She is widely known for leading Charlotte to becoming a global leader in sustainability with bipartisan support and pledge to lower carbon emissions. Also, Ajmera has a record of bold accomplishments on affordable housing. She played an integral role in securing the funding and neighborhood support for the affordable housing development, St. John's Place, which serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community. She continues to advocate for expanding access to affordable housing, increasing local awareness and action on school safety, and bringing traction and economic opportunities to the 69-acre Eastland site, an area left undeveloped for years.



Kim Roney

Kim Roney is a piano teacher, activist, and service-industry worker living in Asheville, North Carolina. She uses her experience as a pedestrian, cyclist, and transit rider to advise on Asheville's Multimodal Transportation Commission, Transit Committee, Downtown Commission Sub-Committee on Parking & Transportation, and the I-26 Connector Aesthetics Sub-Committee for Haywood Road. A volunteer with Better Buses Together, Kim understands that public transit is at the intersection of environmental sustainability, equitable access, and economic mobility.



Richard Adams

Richard Adams is a senior vice president and transportation planner at Kimley-Horn—a Triangle-based engineering, planning, and environmental consulting firm. Richard specializes in leading complex transportation planning and traffic engineering projects and initiatives involving multiple modes and stakeholders, and often competing interests. In the Triangle area, Richard led the 2015 Wake County Transit Plan, which was the foundation of the transit funding referendum approved by the voters in 2016. He also led the most recent NC State University Transportation Master Plan and is currently leading the Raleigh Downtown Transportation Plan — a multimodal vision for the future of transportation in Raleigh's urban core. Richard did his undergraduate work at NC State and graduate studies at Georgia Tech. He is a licensed engineer in three states and has 24 years of experience working for public- and private-sector clients.



Elaine McVey

Elaine McVey is TransLoc's Director of Decision Sciences, ensuring that the company is making well-informed decisions by providing essential data and analysis, and by influencing decision-making practices. Prior to her role as Director, Elaine oversaw the products and services TransLoc offers to municipalities and transit agencies and identified all business opportunities and needs in the municipal space, aligning business functions to effectively serve these needs. Elaine was recently named one of Triangle Business Journal's 2019 Women in Business as the region's [Leader in STEM](#).



Bonner Gaylord

Bonner is the Managing Director of Operations for Kane. He oversees day-to-day operations and directs members of Kane's property management team on marketing, events, sponsorships, public safety, custodial, maintenance, and tenant relationships.

Prior to joining Kane, Bonner held positions as both project manager and builder with Richard Gaylord homes in Raleigh where he worked on developments in Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Apex and Wake Forest. He has also worked for DiVosta/Pulte Homes in West Palm Beach, Florida. Bonner was elected as a Raleigh City Councilor from 2009 to 2017 where he served on various committees and served as council liaison to multiple city-related organizations.

Bonner holds an undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Kenan-Flagler Business School where he was a Hobgood Fellow. He is a NC licensed general contractor, a NC licensed real estate broker, a LEED accredited professional through the US Green Building Council, and a Friday Fellow through the William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations.



Kym Hunter

Kym is a Senior Attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center where she focuses on transportation, climate change, and good government. Kym has been involved in litigation over a number of major highways in North Carolina, and, as a lobbyist in the North Carolina General Assembly, pushes for policies that favor higher spending on transit, bike and pedestrian modes, and dense urban development. Kym leads a coalition of groups in North Carolina that advocate for greater spending on non-highway transportation modes. Kym lives in Chapel Hill with her three children.



Ramona McGee

Ramona McGee is a Staff Attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, focusing on transportation matters and endangered species issues. Ramona has been involved with federal litigation under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, including challenging highway projects in the North Carolina and efforts to protect endangered red wolves. She also spends time working with national, state, and local groups in advancing transportation policy and protections for wildlife and habitat. Ramona lives in Durham with her husband and daughter.



Mary Maclean Asbill

Mary Maclean Asbill has been a Senior Attorney in the Southern Environmental Law Center's Chapel Hill office since 2011. She graduated in 1989 with a BA in English from UNC Chapel Hill, and she graduated cum laude from University of Georgia School of Law in 1993. She has practiced in our Atlanta office, and was the director of the Turner Environmental Law Center at Emory Law School. Mary Maclean lobbies at the NC General Assembly for SELC, and lives in Raleigh with her husband, three children and lots of pets.