

Transportation Committee Biographies

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James Barton

Jim is a resident in the Cathedral Hill Neighborhood. He is retired from the Metropolitan Council as a senior transportation planner. As a transportation planner he carried out a broad range of special projects and policy implementation assignments in commuter rail, freight movement planning, federal regional air quality compliance and the regional disbursement process of federal transportation funds. He has a strong interest coordinating the land use/transportation relationships in a manner that supports adopted city development strategies. While at the Metropolitan Council, Jim coordinated the publication of its Transit Oriented Development Guidebook, an advisory publication intended to promote transit supportive development along transit corridors. He has taught urban design courses at the U of M School design as an adjunct instructor. The courses explored the land use-transportation connections needed to promote more sustainable development.

Dan Dunn

Dan is a product of a hard working St. Paul family with a rich railroad history, and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Minnesota. He worked in the automotive field during college and has spent his entire work life in the automotive and truck transportation industry. Currently he is the Director of Dealership Infrastructure and IT at Rihm Kenworth on University Avenue, where he has held various Management level positions and been employed for his entire 36 year career. Outside interests include family, motorcycling, cooking and golf.

Thomas Heini

For the last 44 years as a totally blind person I have served as President of advocacy groups; on the Mayor's committee for the handicap; various city, county and state boards councils and advisory groups. I have also participated in many studies of how to accommodate the disabled in transportation and construction zones. As a blind person traversing the city using a white cane or guide dog I have a different perspective than most, of what things will make that process safe and enjoyable.

Ian Houmas

Ian Houmas was born and raised in Philadelphia, attending high school on the South Shore of Lake Superior in Wisconsin. With a background in utilities, he now runs Midway Green and Granite with his partner, Kenyatta Arradondo. Ian is a proud father of three budding actors and musicians, and has lived on the East side for 21 years since attending the U of M. Because the stability and future of his neighborhood and of our planet are ultimately important, Ian organized the non-profit, Adonis Eco-Housing, with a mission to turn blighted buildings into affordable, sustainable homes using components such as solar power and urban wind.

William Lindeke*

Bill Lindeke is a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota Department of Geography, working on bicycle transportation, urban planning, and public space. He has taught classes on the history of public space in US cities, global cities, and biogeography. He works with Streets.mn (a local planning and urbanism website), Civic/Media-Minnesota (a local public affairs media organization), and KFAI radio. Bill has an avid interest in jazz and baroque music and baseball ritual, and is the sole proprietor of the Twin City Sidewalks website, named one of the Twin Cities' top 11 blogs by WCCO. He was born in Minneapolis and grew up in Mendota Heights. He has lived in St. Paul's North End since 2004.

Christopher Ochs*

Christopher Ochs is a twenty-one year resident of Ward 1 Saint Paul where he and his wife are raising their young family of four children. He is an award-winning landscape designer with Windsor Companies; holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Design, two Master degrees from the University of Minnesota in Landscape Architecture and Urban & Regional Planning; and has served the District 8 Planning Council, Selby Area CDC, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. Chris is well traveled and draws a considerable amount of geographical and cultural experiences from visiting or residing in bustling cities and rural villages across the globe. He hopes his experience and sense of community will contribute to the wellbeing of the City of Saint Paul.

John Tompkins

John is currently a Project Manager in Freight Planning and Program Development at the Minnesota Department of Transportation. John has been in the transportation field for 25 years; with experience in Freight Traffic Management, United States Air Force; and Freight Planning in the private and public sectors. He is also served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Newport, MN. Currently, John is with the Minnesota Department of Transportation responsible for the coordination of freight research, the Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee and is a lead project manager for major projects. John holds a B.A. degree from Metropolitan State University (St. Paul MN), a graduate of I-95 Coalition Freight Academy, and Board Member for the following: Transportation Research Board, Urban Freight Transportation Committee; U of Minnesota CTS Transportation and Economic Council; and Twin Cities Council of Supply Chain for Management Professionals.

Jessica Treat

Jessica is passionate about how transportation shapes the quality of life in St. Paul and the Twin Cities Region. Growing up in Bloomington and studying civil engineering as an undergraduate in Tempe, Arizona planted seeds of discontent with the sprawling nature of suburban development in America. Post undergrad travels in Europe and her time as a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa taught her two valuable lessons: that suburban sprawl isn't the only option and that grassroots activism can effect change. Equipped with these lessons she earned a Master's in City and Regional Planning in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and then finally returned home to the Twin Cities to put her passion to work. She served as the director of the Lexington-Hamline Community Council when major development projects like the Wilder headquarters, Carty Heights and the Super Target were proposed. Lex-Ham was part of a broad coalition that fought to incorporate Transit Oriented Development principles into these developments. This work led her to the Midway Transportation Management Organization where she served as a program director. She later oversaw a merger between the Midway and downtown St. Paul TMOs to become St. Paul Smart Trips where she has served as director since 2008. Jessica lives a car-free life in the Midway with her husband and young daughter.

Wendy Underwood***Jun-Li Wang***

Jun-Li Wang is a connector of people, places and ideas. As Artist Community Organizer at Springboard for the Arts, she creates and delivers programs that organize and empower artists, build reciprocal relationships between communities and their artists, and train artists to address community interests – locally, regionally and nationally. Jun-Li has extensive local and international experience in asset-based community development, neighborhood leadership, and training. Jun-Li worked in China for 5 years for several international non-profits including The Asia Foundation and Project HOPE before returning to obtain a MPS in International Development from Cornell University. Prior to joining Springboard, she has

worked for Farm in the City, Hamline Midway Coalition, Intermedia Arts, and Public Art Saint Paul. On occasion, she sells her textile craft art in local stores. Jun-Li also manages Paint the Pavement and is active on the board of Urban Boatbuilders, a metro non-profit serving at-risk youth.

Anne White

After moving to Saint Paul in 2003, Anne retired from her career as a professional photographer to work on issues related to the Central Corridor LRT, which she considered essential to the future of Saint Paul. She was a founding member of the District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (DCC), formed in 2006 to ensure that community members' concerns were fully considered in LRT planning. Now that the Green Line is up and running, her main focus is on the first and last mile to transit, making sure that people of all ages and levels of mobility can get around safely and comfortably by walking and biking as alternatives to driving. Before moving to the Merriam Park neighborhood of Saint Paul, Anne lived on the east and west coasts for most of her life, including 25 years in Manhattan where she raised her children and 10 years in Los Angeles. She is currently the Land Use Chair for the Union Park District Council (District 13) and continues in a leadership role for the District Councils Collaborative.

*Planning Commissioner