



NASHVILLE AREA

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Nashville Area School Siting Symposium

Martin Professional Development Center
2400 Fairfax Avenue | Nashville, Tennessee 37212
January 19, 2010

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

In order of presentation.

Ernest Burgess – Ernest Burgess is the Mayor of Rutherford County and Chair of the MPO Executive Board. Mayor Burgess is in his first term as Rutherford County mayor, having won election in August 2006 over two challengers. He succeeded longtime county mayor Nancy Allen. He previously served on the Linebaugh Library board as well as the Discovery Center, Main Street Murfreesboro, Hospice of Murfreesboro and MTSU Foundation boards. He has been married to Peggy Bryant for 47-plus years and has three children and seven grandchildren.

Matt Dalbey - Matthew Dalbey is a senior policy analyst with the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Development, Community and Environment Division. The division collaborates with a network of environmental, land use, transportation, design and community-based organizations to highlight the environmental benefits of best practices and innovations in smart growth development. Dalbey writes about and has spoken to a variety of audiences around the country on smart growth in rural areas, states policies that support better development patterns, school siting, and a range of other issues related to growth and development. Prior to joining EPA in 2004, Dalbey spent five years on the faculty at Jackson State University in Jackson, MS where he taught in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He is a practicing planner and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

The author of one book and several articles on planning, Dalbey is also co-author of the soon-to-be-released Voluntary Model School Siting Guidelines that will be published by the EPA this spring. He lives with his family in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Mayor Beth Lothers – Mayor of the Town of Nolensville, TN. Mayor Lothers has lived in Nolensville for over 10 years and has been Mayor since 2006. She was appointed to Nolensville's Board of Mayor and Aldermen in March 2006 to fill a vacancy on the board and was elected as Mayor in the General Election that November. She has a Political Science degree from Arizona State University and worked for the Vice-Mayor's office in the City of Phoenix prior to moving to Tennessee.

A few of her priorities are revitalization of the downtown area, urban design standards for new residential and commercial developments, and comprehensive transportation planning. She is happily married to husband, Ted, and has a twelve year old son and nine year old daughter.

Gary Clardy – Mr. Clardy serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Engineering and Construction for Rutherford County Schools, a school system with 44 schools and over 34,000 students. A Tennessee native, Mr. Clardy is a Civil Engineer and is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University.

David Salvesen – Dr. David Salvesen is the Deputy Director of the Center for Sustainable Community Design at the Institute for the Environment, University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill. His research focuses on land use policies, issues and trends and their impact on the environment and the quality and character of communities.

He is currently working on a two-year research project with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that examines the impact of State Policies on School Siting. The project will examine the factors that motivate states to adopt policies limiting the size of sites for new schools and the impact of such policies on the size of school sites.

Dr. Salvesen received his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is the author of many peer-reviewed journal articles on land use and physical activity, school siting, collaborative school planning, active transportation, smart codes and the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. He has conducted research on Hazard Mitigation Policy, Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Hazards exposed to children in public schools.

Sharon Roerty – Sharon Z. Roerty is the Executive Director at the National Center for Bicycling and Walking and is the Director of the Active Living Resource Center (ALRC). Her expertise is in environmental, transportation and land use planning; and advocating for change. Sharon serves on the America Bikes Board of Directors; SRTS National Partnership Steering Committee and Federal Initiatives Committee; Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center International Advisory Group; was appointed to the Federal SRTS Task Force by the Secretary of the USDOT; and is a member of the National Center for SRTS National Review Group. She is a member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals; NJ Council of Physical Fitness & Sports; and the Pedestrian Injury Prevention Program in Newark, NJ. She has a Masters in City and Regional Planning, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Sharon is an avid walker and bikes for fun.

Pat Anderson – Ms. Anderson is the Chairman of the Williamson County Public School System and represents the 8th District on the School Board. Williamson County Public School system is one of the most well-respected school systems in the state, known for its high quality of education including high test score achievements, high graduation rate and low teacher-to-student ratios. In addition to regular academic classes, Williamson County Schools offer a Culinary Arts Program at Franklin High School, an Automobile Mechanics program and several other technical programs.

Joe Edgens – Joe Edgens is the Director of Operations for Metro Nashville Public Schools. Mr. Edgens was born in Nashville and graduated from the Nashville Public Schools. He graduated from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a Bachelor of Architecture degree as a member of the first graduating class from the School of Architecture at the University of Tennessee.

Mr. Edgens accepted the position of Director of Planning and Construction with the Metro Board of Public Education in March of 1989. In 1995 Joe was appointed to the position of Executive Director of Facilities and Operations. The Departments under his supervision are Planning and Construction, Maintenance, Operations (custodians and grounds), Transportation, and ADA Compliance. These Departments have approximately 1800 employees and operating budgets exceeding \$80,000,000. Since he was employed, in 1989, MNPS has invested over \$833,000,000 in capital facility improvements, which have been under his direction. Metro Nashville Public Schools operates 137 schools in more than 13,000,000 square feet in over 180 permanent buildings and approximately 380 portable classrooms.

Mr. Edgens just finished oversight of an energy, environmental and operational project for 135 facilities in Metro Nashville Public Schools that saved the school system over \$3 million in energy costs.

Joan Randall – Joan Randall is Assistant Professor of Medical Education and Administration at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Administrative Director of the Vanderbilt University Institute for Obesity & Metabolism/Diabetes Center. Her work includes expanding the role of Vanderbilt in obesity and diabetes-related public health outreach, policy development and advocacy. She also serves as the Chair of the Tennessee Obesity Taskforce. Prior to moving to Vanderbilt, she was Administrative Director of the Center for the Study of Weight Regulation and Associated Disorders at the Oregon Health & Science University (2004-2008). From 2003-2004, she was a research analyst at Shaping America's Youth, a collaborative effort created by the Surgeon General to form a National Action Plan to address childhood and adolescent obesity. Ms. Randall received her Masters of Public Health (Health Administration and Policy Track) in 2001 from the Oregon Health & Science University/Portland State University, with an emphasis on childhood obesity. Prior to entering the field of public health, she served as Department Administrator for the Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon.

Andrea Cain –Ms. Cain is a Registered Nurse and the Supervisor of Coordinated School Health with the Murfreesboro City Schools in Rutherford County.

Dan Brown - Dan Brown has served the Tennessee Preservation Trust as Executive Director since July 2007. He was previously the Deputy Director of the Vieux Carre Commission in New Orleans and has been teaching as an Adjunct Professor of History at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. Dan has a background in nonprofit/public administration as well as Historic Preservation rehabilitation contracting. He has a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from the Tulane University School of Architecture in New Orleans. Dan has finished his coursework for an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Historic Preservation at Tulane and is currently completing his dissertation. He grew up in Tennessee and his extended family resides in Nashville and throughout the state.

Travis Todd – Travis Todd is a civil engineer with Littlejohn Engineering Associates, a local engineering, planning, environmental and landscape architecture firm. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, Travis is engaged in land-use and transportation issues as an active member of the Urban Land Institute's Infrastructure Committee and as President of the Board of Directors for Transit Now Nashville, a grassroots, mass-transit advocacy group. He also currently serves as Board President of Global Support Mission, an organization focused on holistic community development in areas of the world burdened with extreme poverty. Todd is a LEED AP (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional) and has worked on several school facilities projects in the Middle Tennessee area. Travis has also worked on plans such as greenway plans that provide bicycle connectivity and emphasize the relationship between the built environment and health.

Jay Everett – Jay Everett is a Project Manager, Landscape Architect, LEED® AP (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional) with Lose and Associates, Inc. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and conducted his Senior Thesis on *Smart Growth, Smart Schools, Safe Routes*. Jay has won several awards for his work in Landscape Architecture, including a 2009 Land F/X Design Awards – Award of Excellence in Government Design for the Tennessee Department of Transportation Landscape Design Guidelines. Jay has worked on safe routes to schools projects as well as the impact of the built environment on child obesity.

Ed Wansing - Ed Wansing is a Leed AP and architectural project manager with Architectural Energy Corporation. Ed is the Middle Tennessee United State Green Building Council's Green Schools Advocate, and he is also associated with the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS). He is currently working on the CHPS transportation plan, which is intended as a resource to help CHPS schools reduce peak hour trips and green house gas emissions by up to 75% by thinking differently about transportation.

Tracey DeMoss – Tracey DeMoss is the route coordinator for Metro Nashville Public Schools bus system. Metro employs over 570 school bus drivers who bus over 44,000 public school children on a daily basis. Tracey helped write two successful Safe Routes to School grant applications totaling \$500,000 that were awarded to Metro Nashville Public Schools by the Tennessee Department of Transportation in 2008.

Kevin Fortney – Mr. Fortney is the Director of Facilities and Construction for the Williamson County School System, a school system of 37 schools and 31,000 students. Williamson County is one of the fastest growing counties in Tennessee, and has added an additional 1,400 students each of the past five years to the school system. Mr. Fortney oversees a multi-million dollar 5-year school facilities plan with approximately \$125 million dollars of projects that is updated annually.

Mark Fly – Dr. Fly is a Professor in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries and the Director of the Human Dimensions Research Lab at The University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture. Dr. Fly is the co-author of the new Tennessee State Recreation Plan entitled *Tennessee 2020: Vision for Parks, People, and Landscapes*. Dr. Fly emphasizes the importance of siting parks and recreation facilities with schools and the connection with place-based education. He also advocates the importance of using the environment as an integrating concept (EIC) across the curriculum. He stresses the important relationship between public health, economic efficiency, schools and communities.