

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

9:00 am Keynote Remarks	Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC)
9:15 am Hill Experts Weigh In	Shant Boyagian, Nossaman LLP Susan Binder, Cambridge Systematics Levon Boyagian, HNTB Matthew Chiller, Jacobs Cameron O'Brien, WSP
10:00 am Building the Port of the Future	Noel Hacegaba, Port of Long Beach
10:45am Growing the Federal Focus on Freight	Wes Lujan, GATX Corporation Erin Aleman, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Chuck Baker, American Short Line & Regional Railroad Assn Kristin Decas, Port of Hueneme
11:30am Interstate 70 th & Charting America's Next Bold Vision	Paula Dowell, HNTB John Drake, US Chamber of Commerce Andrew Okuyiga, UPS Will Reid, Tennessee Commissioner of Transportation
1:00pm Keynote Remarks	Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)
1:15pm The Scoop- A Conversation With the Press	Ryan Fierst, Port Tampa Bay Samantha Handler, Punchbowl News Chris Marquette, Politico Eugene Mulero, Transport Topics Zach Williams, Bloomberg
5:30pm Dinner Keynote	Michael Rutherford, USDOT

Thursday, April 23, 2026

10:30am The Last Exit	Jeff Davis, Eno Center for Transportation
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Rep. David Rouzer

David Rouzer proudly represents North Carolina's 7th Congressional District, stretching from the beautiful coastline of Southeastern North Carolina west to the small-town, agricultural communities around Lumberton and Fayetteville. Elected to the United States Congress in 2014, David is in his 6th term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

David serves on the House Agriculture Committee, the House Space, Science, and Technology Committee, and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where he currently serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit and serves as a member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. David is also Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit, and serves as a member of the Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development, as well as the Subcommittee on Forestry. He has served as a ranking member or chairman of a subcommittee on both since his first day in office, which has enabled him to better address the unique needs of his district and state. He is a member of a number of caucuses in Congress including a founding member of the Primary Care Caucus and the Supply Chain Caucus, as well as co-chairing the United Kingdom Caucus.

Prior to Congress, David formed his own business doing consulting and sales work, predominately in the agricultural arena. His public service includes two terms in the North Carolina Senate representing Johnston and Wayne counties (2009-2012) where he was consistently ranked as one of the most effective pro-business legislators. David also served as assistant to the dean and director of commodity relations for the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at NC State University in between two stints with U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, where he started out as a legislative assistant and later served as senior policy advisor. He was also senior advisor for U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole. In 2005, he took a senior level appointment at USDA Rural Development and helped manage a program level budget of more than \$1.2 billion and a loan portfolio of more than \$5 billion in investments in rural America. David has garnered a number of awards during his career for his work in each of these capacities as well as a Member of Congress.

David, a Southern Baptist, was raised in Durham and spent his summers working on the family farm just outside of Four Oaks, N.C. The money he earned those summers enabled him to pay his tuition at N.C. State University where he graduated with three degrees in Agricultural Business Management, Agricultural Economics, and Chemistry. He is also a graduate of The Fund for American Studies. David resides in Wilmington, N.C.

Shant Boyagian, Nossaman LLP

Shant Boyajian advises public agencies on a wide range of innovative methods to procure and deliver the nation's largest, most complex infrastructure projects. Clients have found tremendous value in his deep experience in public-private partnership (P3) delivery methods, including revenue risk and availability payment models, pre-development agreements, and other forms of alternative delivery, such as construction manager/general contractor and design-build.

He is also one of the nation's leading experts in the policy issues behind infrastructure strategy, having previously served as Senior Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, where he led the development of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which provided more than \$300 billion in funding for surface transportation programs. Prior to his position in the Senate, Shant served as Counsel to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit for the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where he helped negotiate and draft the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act – the surface transportation authorization bill for fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

Earlier in his career, he served as a law clerk to the General Counsel's Office at the U.S. Department of Energy, and as Legislative Aide to the Vice Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Susan Binder, Cambridge Systematics

Ms. Binder is an acknowledged expert in transportation policy and program delivery. Her career-long emphasis on transportation funding and financing brings both executive and strategic perspectives to national, State, and local clients. She is an expert in road user charge policy, responsible for the Federal provisions that authorized the pilot program and serving as a member of the Advisory Board of the Mileage Based User Fee Alliance. Her experience advancing challenging projects in the field was demonstrated, for example, during her tenure as Division Administrator for Maryland. Her understanding of the wide variety of transportation stakeholders was developed during her service leading up to leading FHWA's Office of Policy, serving as Executive Director of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, and conducting prominent policy research. She has also served on professional Committee staffs in both the U.S. House and Senate. In addition to leading Cambridge Systematics, Inc.'s Federal Market and Transportation Policy practice, she is currently an adjunct professor at the Mineta Transportation Institute, teaching transportation funding and financing and Chairs The Road Gang, Washington DC's Transportation Fraternity.

Ms. Binder earned a BS in Consumer Economics and Textile Engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park and an MBA from the George Washington University School of Business.

Levon Boyagian, HNTB

Levon Boyagian is an HNTB Government Relations Director and Associate Vice President, where he advises HNTB Leadership, and clients on Federal policy and funding. Levon is a seasoned public policy strategist with over twenty-five years of experience shaping federal transportation and infrastructure legislation. Prior to joining HNTB in 2019 Levon was managing principal at Boyagian Consulting, LLC, a federal government relations firm based in Arlington, Virginia, where he developed legislative strategy and advised clients on Federal transportation infrastructure issues. Prior to establishing Boyagian Consulting in April of 2008, Levon worked three years as Vice President of a public policy and government relations firm in Washington, DC, where he managed the federal transportation practice.

Before entering the private sector Levon served fourteen years as a professional staffer on Capitol Hill. He served for ten years on the staff of Representative Don Young (R-AK). His last four years on the Hill, Levon worked for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, first as special assistant to the Chairman, then as staff director for the House Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines. As the subcommittee staff director, Levon led its efforts in drafting, negotiating, and passing through the House of Representatives several bills including SAFETEA LU, the major surface transportation construction and safety bill signed into law in 2005.

Matthew Chiller, Jacobs

Matt Chiller serves as a Senior Vice President of Government Relations for Jacobs, the nation's leading engineering and infrastructure program management firm across the transportation, water and energy sectors. In this role, Matt is responsible for managing and pursuing the firm's diverse, bipartisan federal policy goals before Congress and the Administration, including the promotion of legislation to increase the flow of federal funding to states and clients for infrastructure needs.

Matt has served on the Government Relations team for 15 years, which includes his tenure at CH2M, who acquired Jacobs in 2017. Prior to his time in the private sector, Matt spent 9 years working in the U.S. House of Representatives in a variety of roles, including Legislative Director and Deputy Chief of Staff for multiple Members of Congress in the Florida and California Delegations. During his tenure, Matt worked on federal authorizing and appropriating bills, as well as a variety of other policy initiatives ranging from national security to environmental protection. Matt is also the veteran of several Presidential and Senate campaigns.

Matt holds a B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park and a Master of Public Administration from California State University. He lives in Fairfax, Virginia with his wife Kate and three children.

Cameron O'Brien, WSP

As Senior Director of Government Relations, O'Brien helps manage WSP's engagement with Congress and federal agencies, tracks legislation, shapes advocacy strategies and represents the firm in federal policy and industry forums.

Prior to joining WSP, he most recently served as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Appropriations Committee's Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee, responsible for crafting annual appropriations bills that provided funding and set policy for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Previously, O'Brien advised Senator Susan Collins on transportation, infrastructure, and telecommunications issues, including work supporting development of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

He is a graduate of the University of Maine with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Noel Hacegaba, Port of Long Beach

Dr. Noel Hacegaba is the Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Long Beach, a world leader in customer service, supply chain innovation and environmental sustainability. Dr. Hacegaba leads a team of 600 staff and manages an annual budget of \$834 million. He also oversees the delivery of a \$3.2 billion capital improvement program, the largest of any port in the nation. Each year, the Port processes nearly 10 million container units carrying \$300 billion in goods that power the local, regional and national economy by supporting nearly 3 million jobs.

Prior to his appointment as CEO, Dr. Hacegaba served as Chief Operating Officer and managed the Port's day-to-day operations, including Commercial Services, Engineering, Finance and Administration, Planning and Environmental Affairs, Strategic Advocacy and Human Resources. Dr. Hacegaba began his career at the Port as the Executive Officer to the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

He has also served as the Executive Director of the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility Joint Powers Authority, which governs a major near-dock rail facility serving the Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles, before he was appointed to its Board of Directors.

He is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where he earned degrees in economics (BA and MA), business administration (BS) and planning (MPL). He also earned his doctorate in public administration from the University of La Verne. Dr. Hacegaba is a Certified Port Executive (CPE) and earned the Port Professional Executive (PPX) and Port Professional Manager (PPM) professional designations from the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA).

Dr. Hacegaba also serves on various influential industry boards, including the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (Vice Chair), California Association of Port Authorities (President), American Association of Port Authorities Professional Development Board (Chair), USC Kendrick Global Supply Chain Institute (Chair), Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority and the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility. He is also past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Intermodal Association of North America, the only association that represents the combined interests of the entire freight transportation industry.

Wes Lujan, GATX Corporation

Wes Lujan is a seasoned leader in external relations and government affairs with extensive expertise in the rail transportation industry. Currently, he serves as Vice President of Government and Industry Affairs at GATX Corporation, where he leads advocacy initiatives and cultivates strategic partnerships with policymakers and industry leaders.

He began his career in rail transportation at Union Pacific Railroad in 2007, where he held several executive roles across Chicago, IL, Sacramento, CA, and Washington, DC. In these various capacities, he spearheaded legislative advocacy and public affairs strategies, engaging with Congress, federal agencies, and 11 state governments to address pressing challenges in transportation, public private partnerships, supply chain and freight and passenger rail policy.

Erin Aleman, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Erin Aleman is a planning and public policy expert, accomplished leader, and a positive change agent. She leads the award-winning Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) — the regional planning agency for 7 counties, 284 municipalities, and 8.6 million residents in northeastern Illinois. She is the first woman to serve in this role and the first professional planner to lead the agency.

From helping to create a first-of-its-kind regional economic partnership, developing solutions to transform the region’s transit system, and building consensus among the region’s leaders on the highest-priority transportation projects, Erin and CMAP have left their mark on this region since Erin became CMAP’s executive director in July 2019.

Aleman’s career journey brought her full circle. Fresh out of graduate school in 2007, she joined CMAP as the agency’s Phillip D. Peters Regional Planning fellow. Over the next eight years, she rose through the ranks to become principal planner in 2011 and played key roles in creating the highly successful Technical Assistance program, leading regional outreach for GO TO 2040 — the agency’s first long-term comprehensive plan — and completing more than 20 local planning projects.

She also held leadership positions at the Illinois Department of Transportation’s (IDOT), first as a bureau chief and then as director of the Office of Planning and Programming. During her IDOT tenure, she provided strategic guidance, implemented performance-based tools, developed the state’s first asset management plan, and was responsible for developing multimodal policy initiatives. In 2019, Erin was named as one of Crain’s distinguished 40 under 40 designees and the Women in Transportation (WTS) Chicago Chapter’s Woman of the Year in 2020.

Erin holds a master’s degree in urban planning and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in printmaking. She holds advisory roles for UIC’s Stuart Handler Real Estate program, the Southland Development Authority, and the Chicago Chapter of WTS. Erin also had the honor of being a strategist for the Obama Foundation Scholars Program in 2018.

She has served on the Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) Board since 2019, and currently serves as Board Chair. Erin has been part of CAGTC’s Board leadership since 2021, having previously held the positions of Treasurer and Vice Chair.

Chuck Baker, American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

Chuck Baker joined ASLRRA as President in February 2019 after a 15-year career in the railroad industry. Before joining ASLRRA he was a Partner at Chambers Conlon & Hartwell (CC&H), where, in addition to the ASLRRA, he represented clients such as the National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association (NRC), the OneRail Coalition, the American Railway Development Association, Norfolk Southern, and Canadian National.

For the NRC, Mr. Baker also served as President. In that capacity, he had responsibility for all of the Association's core financial, operational, and legal programs, including the development and execution of the federal legislative and regulatory program in front of both Congress and the Administration. For the OneRail Coalition, which brought together freight rail, intercity passenger rail, commuter rail, rail labor, and rail supply industry interests, Mr. Baker coordinated the group's activities and messaging.

Prior to joining CC&H, Mr. Baker worked with the Surface Transportation Policy Project in Washington, D.C. Mr. Baker has also worked for Deutsche Bank Securities as an investment banker specializing in Corporate Finance and Mergers & Acquisitions in San Francisco, CA. Mr. Baker is a native of Baltimore, MD, and a graduate of Rice University in Houston, TX.

Kristin Decas, Port of Hueneme

Kristin Decas is CEO & Port Director of the Port of Hueneme. Since beginning her tenure with the Port of Hueneme in February 2012, the Port has realized several successes. Tonnage totals reached significant new milestones with cargo growing from 1.3 million tons in FY 2012 to over 2.3 million tons in FY 2023, marking the Port's strongest sustained trade years since its inception in 1937. With cargo up 80% since Kristin took the helm, revenues have grown an impressive 133%. Known for its niche in automobiles, bananas, fresh fruit, fertilizer, high and heavy, and project cargo, Port of Hueneme's trade-related activities generate \$2.8 billion in annual economic impacts, this represents more than a 250% increase since 2012. Trade through the Port spurs 24,997 direct, indirect, induced, and influenced jobs and \$236 million in state and local tax revenues, increases of 144% and 342%, respectively, over 2012 performance. Kristin's leadership has brought millions of dollars to the Port in grant funding.

Prior to coming to the Port of Hueneme, Kristin served as CEO and Port Director at the Port of New Bedford, MA, the nation's number one value fishing Port. Under her leadership, the Port realized significant growth in port development, cruise, and recreational boating activity. Kristin is recognized by Trade Administration officials for her impressive work in leveraging economic development through international trade promotion and for her service on several federal shipping and port committees.

From 2015 through 2019, Kristin served as the President of the California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA) representing California's 11 deep water ports, providing educational leadership and advocacy on issues related to transportation, trade, the environment, land use, energy, and other subjects affecting port operations. Kristin was awarded high-profile appointments by the U.S. Department of Transportation to the National Freight Advisory Committee (NFAC) and the U.S. Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC). In 2015, Kristin served as The National Chairperson of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), a trade association representing more than 130 public port authorities in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

In 2017, Kristin was named Maritime Executive of the Year at the Green Shipping Summit USA, acknowledged as Top Port Director of the Year by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP), and was named Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade by Women in Transportation – Los Angeles Chapter (WIT-LA).

Kristin also supports her community by serving as the current Chair of the Economic Development Collaborative Executive Board. She lives in Oxnard, CA, with her husband and is the proud mother of two daughters.

Paula Dowell, HNTB

Paula Dowell is a nationally recognized leader in freight economics, multimodal goods movement planning, and transportation investment strategy, with more than 25 years of experience advancing federal and state freight policy. As Senior Vice President and National Practice Leader for Integrated Planning Services at HNTB Corporation, she directs the firm's freight and goods movement portfolio, spanning planning, operations, emerging technologies, and policy analysis. Her work supports agencies across the country in making data-driven investment decisions that strengthen supply chain performance and national economic competitiveness.

Dr. Dowell is widely regarded as one of the industry's foremost experts in transportation economics and freight system performance. She has led more than two dozen state freight plans, numerous large-scale goods mobility and trade corridor studies, and over \$800 million in successful federal grant applications advancing critical freight infrastructure. Her experience also includes serving as principal economist for major feasibility studies for rail, river, and deep-water port facilities, as well as inland ports.

A long-standing contributor to the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC), Dr. Dowell has been actively engaged since its inception. She has represented multiple firms—Wilbur Smith Associates, Cambridge Systematics, and HNTB—in the coalition and has played a key leadership role in CAGTC initiatives. Her involvement includes organizing and speaking at annual meetings, recruiting members, co-chairing the strategic planning committee, serving on the board nominating committee, and securing sponsorship support for CAGTC events. Her depth of experience with the coalition's mission and governance makes her a strong and informed candidate for board service.

Dr. Dowell frequently provides expert testimony for state legislatures on freight funding and return on investment, and is a sought-after national speaker on supply chain trends and public-sector investment strategy. She is an active member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), the International Transportation Economist Association (ITEA), and the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP). She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

John Drake, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

John Drake is vice president for transportation, infrastructure, supply chain policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business advocacy organization. In his role, Drake is responsible for representing the business community on transportation, infrastructure, and supply chain issues before Congress, the administration, the media, the business community, and other stakeholders. Drake is also a member of the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee, which advises the U.S. Customs and Border Protection on improvements to U.S. trade.

Drake comes to the Chamber from Amazon, where he was a senior manager for public policy. He coordinated segments of Amazon's business with regulators at the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Congress.

Prior to Amazon, Drake was a senior appointee at the Department of Transportation. There he led the government affairs office of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, served as a deputy assistant secretary for transportation policy, and was deputy administrator to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. He also spent nearly 10 years on Capitol Hill, including as a professional staff member on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Transportation and Infrastructure committees. Earlier, he was the American Trucking Associations' top representative to the Senate.

Drake holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with his wife and two children.

Andrew Okuyiga, UPS

Andrew Okuyiga is Vice President, Public Affairs, at UPS. In this capacity, he leads UPS's federal advocacy on all modes of surface transportation legislative and regulatory issues including: commercial vehicle fleet matters, highway and infrastructure policy, ocean freight shipping, and railroad and intermodal transportation concerns. In addition, he is responsible for the UPS public policy portfolio related to sustainability and environmental issues.

Prior to joining UPS, Andrew led federal surface transportation policy at Amazon. He led the company's advocacy to Congress and the executive branch on surface transportation issues, including commercial trucking, transportation sustainability, infrastructure investment, and autonomous vehicles.

Before joining Amazon, Andrew served as a Professional Staff Member on the US House of Representatives Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. In that role, he advised Members of Congress on transportation policy issues and negotiated significant portions of the 2015 surface transportation reauthorization law. Andrew began his career on Capitol Hill in the office of Congressman Lloyd Doggett (TX), serving in various roles including as the congressman's Legislative Director.

Andrew serves on the Board of Directors of the American Highway Users Alliance, American Trucking Associations Litigation Center, and The Transport Project. Andrew earned his bachelor's degree in Economics from Harvard University.

Will Reid, Tennessee Department of Transportation

Will Reid was appointed Commissioner of Transportation by Governor Bill Lee on July 10, 2025. He oversees a statewide transportation system including highways, rail, airports, waterways, and transit. Having been with the department for over a decade, focused on innovative and forward-thinking business practices, Will has led initiatives to improve project delivery by establishing a culture focused on timely decision-making through reliable, efficient, and transparent processes with a primary goal to "deliver as promised." Under his leadership, TDOT developed the agency's first fiscally constrained 10-Year Project Plan in 2024, providing a roadmap for \$15 billion in state and federal funds over the next decade for surface transportation development.

Before being named Commissioner, Reid served as the department's chief engineer for three years. Prior to that, he held several leadership positions at TDOT, beginning as Director of Construction in 2014. Before his service in state government, Will practiced transportation engineering as a consultant for more than 15 years.

A native of Bartlett, Tennessee, Will attended the University of Memphis, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He and his family reside in Franklin, Tennessee.

Rep. Dina Titus

Serving the First Congressional District of Nevada for more than a decade, Rep. Dina Titus is the dean of Nevada's delegation. Previously she served as State Senate Minority Leader from 1993 to 2009.

Dina has been a persistent champion for average Nevadans and has been rated one of the most effective Democratic members of the House of Representatives by the Center for Effective Lawmaking.

Dina is addressing the affordable housing crisis in Southern Nevada with legislation to provide more rental housing vouchers for lower-income families. She also is pushing legislation to help homebuyers by forcing outside institutional investors to divest themselves of the thousands of homes they have bought in Southern Nevada. Dina wants those homes to be owned by people, not corporations. She has brought jobs to Southern Nevada as a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. She has introduced legislation to raise the minimum wage and she has fought to protect a woman's right to choose.

Dina serves as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee where she brings common-sense expertise to international problems. Within the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Dina serves as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials where she works to support our nation's rail workers, expand opportunities for high-speed rail, and ensure goods are moved safely and efficiently. Dina played an integral role in making the Brightline West High-Speed Rail Project possible. The train which will connect Southern California to Southern Nevada is anticipated to generate over \$10 billion in economic activity and create more than 35,000 good-paying construction jobs.

After helping the Las Vegas community recover from the deadliest shooting in modern American history, Dina has emerged as one of the leading voices in Congress for substantive action to reduce gun violence. She introduced legislation to ban bump stocks that convert rifles into machine guns.

Ryan Fierst, Port Tampa Bay

Ryan Fierst has more than 20 years of experience in law, public policy, and government. She worked on Capitol Hill as a Counsel for US House Judiciary Committee and served as Legislative Director for two Congressman representing the Central Florida region. Fierst also served as the Public Policy Director and Legislative Counsel for the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. She began her career working as a Staff Attorney for the Florida House of Representatives for Speaker Tom Feeny in Tallahassee, Florida.

Fierst most recently worked as an economic development consultant and grant writer for several statewide Florida non-profits and the Florida House of Representatives. Prior to that, Ryan worked as a Senior Management Analyst for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity where she oversaw project, contract, and grant management for many of the state's economic development agencies, including EFI, Space Florida, and VISIT FLORIDA. Fierst holds a Bachelor of Science from Liberty University and a law degree from Regents University School of Law. She is a native of Tampa and is a licensed attorney in the state of Florida.

Samantha Handler, Punchbowl News

Samantha Handler is a reporter with Punchbowl News. Samantha has covered policy on Capitol Hill since 2021. Samantha authors Punchbowl News' policy newsletter, The Portal, writing about a broad range of issues from transportation to health care. Before joining Punchbowl News, Samantha covered intellectual property and tax policy at Bloomberg, so she's no stranger to complex legislation. Samantha is a graduate of Northwestern University, and was born and raised in Los Angeles.

Chris Marquette, Politico

Chris joined POLITICO after six years at CQ Roll Call, where he covered the Capitol Police, the Jan. 6 select committee and investigations into lawmaker misconduct. In 2023, he uncovered documents that showed the Capitol Police had known for months about lapses in protection at Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco home before an intruder attacked her husband with a hammer. (The reporting was part of a series of stories that made Chris a finalist for the Livingston Awards in 2024.)

Chris has covered the Securities and Exchange Commission, financial regulation and officer misbehavior in the Capitol Police ranks, for which he received an honorable mention for the Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress. He has covered education and politics in Westport, Conn., and high school football in Pearl River County, Miss.

Chris spent the 2022-23 academic year as a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan, where he studied at the law school and focused his work on accountability in law enforcement and the singular role the Capitol Police play in the federal government.

Chris, a Washington, D.C., native, holds a B.A. in English from the College of the Holy Cross and a graduate degree in sports management from Georgetown University. He loves playing basketball and traveling.

Eugene Mulero, Transport Topics

Eugene Mulero is a senior reporter at Transport Topics where he reports on Congress, trends in intermodal connectivity and federal elections. He curates the “Road to NTDC” series and co-hosts a weekly segment on SiriusXM. In 2023, he co-authored “From Rodeo to TDC: A history of the National Truck Driving Championships and National Step Van Driving Championships (First Edition)” published by American Trucking Associations.

He has participated on panels hosted by the Society of Professional Journalists, the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors, the National Press Club, the Road Gang, the Transportation Research Board, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Western States Trucking Association.

Previously, he was a reporting fellow at HuffPost and a transportation policy reporter at E&E News. His newsroom experience also includes CQ Roll Call and National Journal. A two-time Scripps Howard fellow, Eugene has contributed for The New York Times, USA Today and The Almanac of American Politics.

He earned degrees from Seton Hall University and Columbia University.

Zach Williams, Bloomberg

Zach Williams is a Legislative Correspondent for Bloomberg. He covers transportation in Congress on the Hill, including efforts to modernize the FAA, expand US shipbuilding, and the surface transportation reauthorization. He previously covered New York politics from Albany for Bloomberg Government, the New York Post, and City & State NY. Zach graduated from the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism and UC Berkeley.

Michael Rutherford, USDOT

Michael Rutherford is the first Assistant Secretary of the Office of Multimodal Freight Infrastructure and Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation. He has over two decades of private-sector experience in transportation and consumer goods where he developed a deep appreciation for the significance of supply chains, from upstream sourcing to final distribution. Through these experiences Rutherford became familiar with the opportunities and challenges of multimodal connectivity. While working at the railroad, he often engaged supply chain partners to speed goods to market – from trucks and barges to ports and transloading facilities.

Previously he served at CSX, a Class I Railroad in the eastern U.S. During his tenure he managed a wide range of commodities and markets including aggregates, agriculture, automotive, chemicals, intermodal, fertilizers, forest products, metals, municipal waste and more. He participated in various strategic initiatives such as launching the UMAX interline container program in conjunction with Union Pacific, championing 50-foot boxcar reinvestments and assisting customers during the roll-out of Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR). He chaired the CSX Intermodal Technology Steering Committee and the Rail Sub-Committee for the National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA), working in close coordination with U.S. TRANSCOM. He was also a member of the Board for the Indiana Rail Road Company. Prior to that he worked in consumer goods at Johnson & Johnson and Adidas in Europe.

Rutherford earned a Bachelor of Science in International Finance & Commerce at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, where he graduated as a Krogh Scholar. He later earned a Master of International Economics & Management at SDA Bocconi in Milan, Italy. A native of Florida, he met his wife in Rome, whom he then married in 2003. His daughter is now a freshman and Undergraduate Research Scholar at the University of Florida; his son is in the seventh grade at a local Catholic school.

Jeff Davis, Eno Center for Transportation

Jeff Davis is a Senior Fellow with the Eno Center for Transportation and is also the Editor of the *Eno Transportation Weekly*.

Jeff came to Washington in 1988 to attend The American University and soon began working on Capitol Hill for the ranking minority member of the House Rules Committee. For six years he worked on a wide variety of legislative, budget process oversight and parliamentary procedure issues.

In January 1996 Jeff joined a transportation consulting firm and worked extensively on the FAA, Amtrak and surface transportation reauthorization laws in 1996-1998 as well as various appropriations bills. He founded his own research and consulting business in June 1998 and published Transportation Weekly, a news service covering federal transportation and public works, from 1999-2014.

He joined the Eno Center in January 2015. His work focuses on analysis of the federal transportation budget and the long-term trends in transportation funding and policy.