

2021 STRIDE Products Showcase – Day 3



Day 3: Equity in Transportation November 18th, 12 PM to 2 PM, ET (virtual)

Lily Elefteriadou, Ph.D., University of Florida (Moderator)

Lily Elefteriadou, Ph.D., is the Director of the UF Transportation Institute (UFTI), and the Barbara Goldsby Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Florida. Her research focus is traffic operations, traffic flow theory and simulation. She is the principal investigator of the US DOT-funded Regional University Transportation Center for Region 4 (Southeast Transportation Research Innovation Development and Education, or STRIDE), which focuses on reducing congestion, and addresses research, education, tech transfer, and workforce development for transportation. Dr. Elefteriadou has served as the principal investigator for several other federal and state projects, funded by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Federal Highway Administration, PennDOT, and FDOT. She has authored or co-authored more than two hundred publications and reports related to traffic operational quality and highway design, as well as a textbook titled “Introduction to Traffic Flow Theory”. She serves on the Editorial Board of the Transportation Research: Part B and is a former Chair of the Transportation Research Board’s Highway Capacity and Quality of Service Committee. She is also a past President of the Executive Board of the Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC).



Virginia L. Whittington, MPA, Director of Regional Partnerships MetroPlan Orlando, FL (Panelist)

Virginia L. Whittington, MPA, is the Director of Regional Partnerships for MetroPlan Orlando, the regional transportation planning agency for Orange, Seminole and Osceola Counties. Virginia is responsible for government relations, regional partnerships, and oversight of all aspects of the organization’s communications and marketing, community outreach and public involvement. She serves as the staff liaison to several advisory committees including the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board and Central Florida MPO Alliance. Prior to joining the MetroPlan Orlando team, Virginia worked for Orange County Government in the Office of Management and Budget. A transplanted native of Central Florida, Virginia received both, her undergraduate and graduate degrees, from the University of Central Florida, School of Public Administration. Virginia is an alumna of Leadership Orlando Class 45, Class Chair of Leadership Orlando Class 79, and a graduate of the Orlando Business Force Political Leadership Institute. She has served in many leadership roles with WTS Central Florida, including Membership Chair, Programs Co-Chair, Secretary, Vice-President, and President. While Chapter President, Virginia represented WTS Central Florida on the WTS International Membership Committee and Southeast Regional Council. Also, a graduate of the WTS International Executive Leadership Program, Virginia was recently appointed to serve on the National Association of Regional Councils Diversity and Equity Officers Working Group.



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Alison Stettner, MURP, Director of the Office of Policy Planning Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

(Panelist)

Alison Stettner, AICP, serves as the Director of the Office of Policy Planning. She has worked for the Florida Department of Transportation for the past 5 years serving both at District 5 as the District Planning & Environmental Management Administrator and at Florida's Turnpike as the Planning Manager. She has more than 20 years of experience in transportation planning and growth management. Prior to her work at FDOT, she was the Development Services Director at Orange City, the Planning and Development Manager at Seminole County, and a transportation planner for both PBS&J and Orange County. She received her Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University in Environmental Science and Management and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Florida.



Eleni Bardaka, Ph.D., North Carolina State University

(STRIDE Researcher/Speaker)

Eleni Bardaka, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University. Her work focuses on the social and economic impacts of transportation investments and policies. Dr. Bardaka holds a Ph.D. and M.S. degree in Transportation Engineering and a master's degree in economics from Purdue University. She earned a five-year diploma in Civil Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens in Greece.



Mehri Mohebbi, Ph.D., University of Florida

(STRIDE Researcher/Speaker)

Mehri "Mehrsa" Mohebbi holds, Ph.D., is the UFTI's lead the Equity in Transportation Initiative. She holds Ph.D. Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Cincinnati, College of Design, Architecture, Arts, and Planning (DAAP). Dr. Mohebbi has over 12 years of professional and academic experience focusing on equity issues in urban and regional planning in the United States and overseas. As of May 2020,-- she has been serving on the steering committee of a nationwide health equity initiative, the Planning for Health Equity, Advocacy, and Leadership (PHEAL). Additionally, Dr. Mohebbi has extensive experience in designing and leading equitable planning processes and developing online and in-person community engagement methods.



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Siva Srinivasan, Ph.D., University of Florida

(STRIDE Researcher/Speaker)

Siva Srinivasan, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil & Coastal Engineering with an affiliate appointment in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. His research expertise is in the areas of travel demand forecasting, transportation safety, and transportation analytics. He was the former chair of the TRB committee on Effects of Information and Communication Technologies on Travel Choices and is a current member of the editorial advisory board of the journal Transportation Research Part B.



Ruth Steiner, Ph.D., University of Florida

(STRIDE Researcher/Speaker)

Ruth L. Steiner, Ph.D., is a professor and director of the Center for Health and the Built Environment in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and an affiliate faculty in the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) and the Transportation Institute (UFTI) at the University of Florida. Her research focuses on the coordination of transportation and land use, with a particular focus on planning for all modes of transportation, especially walking, bicycling, and transit, and its impact on communities, the environment, and public health. Her current research is on school transportation and safe routes to school; transportation and aging; the impacts of new transportation technologies on transportation systems; equity in planning, and the incorporation of risk into long-range transportation planning. She is co-author of Energy Efficiency and Human Activity: Global Trends and Prospects (Cambridge University Press, 1992) and author of over one hundred book chapters, journal articles, reviews, and research reports. Dr. Steiner has served on the Pedestrian Committee, Transportation and Land Development Committee and Transportation History Committee of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and the Scientific Committee of the World Congress on Transportation Research Society (WCTRS). She received her B.A. in History from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, and a Master of City Planning (MCP) and Ph. D. from the University of California at Berkeley.



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Noreen McDonald, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (STRIDE Researcher/Speaker)

Noreen McDonald, Ph.D., specializes in how infrastructure investments and technology changes influence travel and the downstream impacts on road safety, public health, energy demand and city form. She is an internationally recognized expert on the travel behavior of youth and young adults. Her work on children's travel has shown that improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities can increase travel by foot. She has assessed the causes of declines in driving in the US and UK and looked at how transportation planning practice can respond to recent behavioral shifts and those anticipated due to changing technology. Her most recent work explores disruptions associated with shared mobility, e.g., Uber/Lyft, and autonomous vehicles. Some of the projects Dr. McDonald is currently working on include: quantifying the impacts of shared mobility on non-emergency medical transport, considering the role of planning with the advent of autonomous vehicles, exploring how autonomous vehicles will impact vulnerable road users, measuring how recent changes to planning for new development have influenced practice, analyzing the travel of young adults, i.e., the millennial generation, to understand the potential transport and energy impacts, and assessing the multi-modal costs of school transportation.



Ishtiak Ahmed, Ph.D., North Carolina State University (STRIDE Researcher/Speaker)

Ishtiak Ahmed, Ph.D., is a post-doctoral research scholar at Institute for Transportation Research and Education, North Carolina State University. He finished his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University in 2020. His research is related to highway capacity, alternative intersections, and freeway operations

