

2021 Nevada Rail Summit Panelists



Lee Bonner
State of Nevada – Department of Transportation
State Railroad Program Manager
Government | Tribal Liaison

Lee is a native of Atlanta, GA, and avid Georgia Bulldog fan, but is blessed to live in Nevada. Having worked in the energy and oil and gas industry with GE, he lost all common sense and was elected County Commissioner for Douglas County Nevada. Since that time, he has served multiple start ups while working as a government liaison for the State of Nevada and the Department of Transportation. He has multiple black belt certifications in Six Sigma, Lean and Communications.



Sydney Wilson
NDOT Cartographer

Sydney Wilson is a cartographer in the Location Division of the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) in Carson City, NV. Sydney joined NDOT in November 2019, and has previous experience in the GIS, cartography, and environmental science fields. She received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Soil and Water Science from the University of Arkansas, and a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from the University of Denver. She moved to Nevada a few years ago from Tyler, Texas and is still learning the geography of Nevada. Sydney enjoys the technical and creative aspects of cartography and is always excited to create maps.



Bob Potts
Deputy Director
Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development

Bob Potts is the Deputy Director for the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development. He accepted this position two years ago after serving for seven years as the agency's Research Director. Mr. Potts brings to the position over 30 years of experience in data research and analysis. Specializing in data collection and dissemination, economic impact analysis, statistical modeling and survey research, Mr. Potts is considered a leading expert in the business, workforce and economic environment for the state of Nevada. In his position, Mr. Potts oversees the collection, analysis and reporting of business, labor, socioeconomic and performance information to aid the GOED in the development and diversification of Nevada's growing economy.



Rob Hooper
CEO Northern Nevada Development Authority

Rob Hooper, a Carson City resident, is the President & CEO of Northern Nevada Development Authority. NNDA is the state-designated regional development authority for the five counties comprising Nevada's Sierra Region: Carson City, Douglas County, Lyon County, Mineral County, and Storey County. He also chairs the Western Nevada College Institutional Advisory Council that is focused on workforce development to meet the needs of Sierra Region residents and employers. Rob is a well-recognized business leader, entrepreneur, and seasoned executive with over three decades of experience in multiple industries including health care, financial services, manufacturing, retail, and resort development and tourism. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of California, Riverside.



Randy Carpenter
Founder/President Cargo Flow Solutions

Randy Carpenter, Multi-modal Transportation, Warehousing and Supply Chain logistics professional, Business Owner, Founder, President, Director, Family man, Father and Stepfather, Sibling and Grandparent to 5. Randy's professional career in distribution warehousing and supply chain logistics started in 1987 with a U.S. based publicly held and internationally operated distribution company for nearly 17 years (1987-2004). In 2004 Randy then partnered to become a principal owner in a privately held business focused on multi-modal international cargo flow between ocean, rail, and truck into supply chain solutions. Based on experience and involvement, Randy was invited and served as a member for many years to the U.S. Customs TSN (Trade Support Network) and TLC (Trade Leadership Council) assisting with the build out and integration of new cargo security measures and the ACE (Automated Commercial Environment) program used to process shipments from around the world to and through the U.S. Randy was the committee chair that led to a White Paper regarding a house bill release recommendation that is under consideration and review by U.S. Customs. Based on the noted experience and continued involvement in the transportation and supply chain industry as both a director of a local NW based transportation company and as the founder and owner of Cargo Flow Solutions, Randy has seen the growing need for change in how international cargo flows, specifically from our ocean port terminals throughout the rest of the United States. As a result, over the past several years Randy has authored the concept of IMCTF (Integrated Multimodal Cargo Transload Facility) and provided consulting services to discuss the benefits the IMCTF model shift could bring.



Bill Thompson
State of Nevada
NDOT Freight Program Manager

Bill Thompson is the Freight Program Manager for the Nevada Department of Transportation. Mr. Thompson is responsible for statewide freight planning issues and federal legislation requirements that pertain to leadership, operation, and planning that work to improve the freight transportation system in Nevada. Bill is also responsible for the development of Nevada's first State Freight Plan and oversees the Freight Formula Funds administering over \$59 million for freight related projects. He holds a BA Degree from the University of North Carolina.



Paul Marcinko
Union Pacific Railroad
Economic and Industrial Development

During his 29 year career, Paul Marcinko has held various positions in Marketing, Sales, and Business Development at Union Pacific Railroad. Paul is currently Union Pacific's Economic & Industrial Development Manager for Nevada. In this role, Paul identifies new business opportunities, new markets, new partnerships, new ways to reach existing markets, and new ways to extend the railroad into new markets. Paul received an Economics degree from California State University, Long Beach and MBA from Pepperdine University. He resides in Newport Beach with his wife and four children.



Kris Sanchez
Deputy Director
Governor's Office of Economic Development

Kristopher Sanchez is the Deputy Director for the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED). Mr. Sanchez previously held several leadership roles in state government including GOED's Interim Executive Director and Director of International Trade, As Deputy Director, Mr. Sanchez is responsible for facilitating economic development opportunities with new and existing businesses, identifying industries and creating strategies to serve entrepreneurial environments to further grow and diversify Nevada's economic base. He currently manages five divisions within GOED which include: Business Development, Nevada Film Office, International Trade and the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC).



Scott Spencer
Senior Analyst
Strategic Rail Finance

Scott Spencer is a Senior Analyst at Strategic Rail Finance. He comes to Strategic Rail Finance with decades of experience in freight and passenger rail business development, marketing and strategic planning. Prior to working at Strategic Rail Finance, Scott was a consultant and advisor on a wide range of projects from business development for ILC Dover's Flood Protection Technology to acting as Chief Project Advisor on government affairs, financing and operations for the InterContinental Railway. He's also held the position of Senior Transit Consultant at CHANCE Management Advisors where he developed transit service improvements and solutions for university, medical center, municipal and commercial clients. As Director at Railway Service Corporation, Mr. Spencer developed public/ private partnerships in rail transportation, managing relationships with Amtrak and government agencies including FRA, USDOT and the U.S. House Subcommittee on Railroads. Earlier in his career Mr. Spencer was a Senior Technical Specialist at Parsons Brinckerhoff where he advised on operations planning, development, financing and management for public and private sector transit and railroad projects. Mr. Spencer consulted on many projects during his time with Parsons Brinckerhoff in several U.S. states including New Jersey, Arizona, California, New York and Illinois as well as internationally in Cairo, Egypt and Hsin-Chu, Taiwan.



Andrew Hwang
Port of Oakland

Andrew Hwang is the Manager of Maritime Business Development and International Marketing at the Port of Oakland and leads a team responsible for the Seaport's Marketing, Business Development and Customer Relations functions. A 20-year maritime, rail and logistics veteran, Andrew has worked for EVA Air, Sea-Land, APL, CSX and HMM. Mr. Hwang graduated from the University of Michigan with degrees in Economics and Marketing Communications, and has an MBA from University of California at Irvine.



Andrew Cook
State of California
Caltrans Chief of the Planning and Operations

Andy Cook is the Chief of the Planning and Operations Office with the California Department of Transportation Division of Rail and Mass Transportation. Mr. Cook is responsible for overseeing the development of the California State Rail Plan, strategic service plans to integrate the state's commuter and intercity passenger rail systems with High Speed Rail, statewide capital project priorities for passenger service and rail freight, and other ridership modeling and service planning support activities at Caltrans. Mr. Cook also oversees performance analysis and budget development for California's state-supported intercity passenger rail corridors. Prior to joining Caltrans, Andy was a Senior Planner at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County and was responsible for development of regional transportation plans and regional transit planning and funding programs.



Dominique Etchegoyhen
Deputy Director
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Dominique became a Deputy Director in 2017. Prior to working for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Dominique co-founded a land use consulting firm dedicated to protecting and enhancing natural and cultural resources in Nevada. Dominique is licensed to practice law in Nevada and California, and served as a law clerk to Judge Howard D. McKibben in the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada. Dominique is a graduate of the University of Colorado and Golden Gate University School of Law, where he was a Member and Editor of the Law Review, and received the Faculty Award for Academic Excellence in Environmental Law. Prior to his legal career, Dominique worked in Washington, D.C., as a Legislative Aide to U.S. Senator Richard H. Bryan.



Dr. Kristen Averyt
Nevada State Climate Policy Coordinator

Dr. Kristen Averyt serves as the Nevada State Climate Policy Coordinator. She is also a Research Professor at UNLV, and previously served as President of the Desert Research Institute. She holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University and earned a Master of Science as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Otago, New Zealand. Dr. Averyt's expertise cover a range of issues including the energy-water nexus, climate and western water, and regional impacts of climate change. She has extensive experience in science policy, including Fellowships in the US Senate and at the National Academies of Science. Among her awards and honors, she was one of many scientists who shared in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).



Scott Carey
State Lands Planner
Nevada Division of State Lands

Scott Carey, AICP is the State Lands Planner for the Nevada Division of State Lands. In this role he is responsible for managing the State Land Use Planning Agency, the Nevada State Clearinghouse program, and the Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Scott received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from the University of Nevada, Reno, his Masters of Science degree in Management & Leadership from Western Governor's University-Nevada, and is member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.



Sheldon Mudd
Executive Director

Sheldon Mudd is the Executive Director for the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA). Mr. Mudd oversees the economic development pursuits of four Nevada Counties (Lander, Eureka, Elko, and White Pine) or roughly 1/3 of the State of Nevada. Mudd and his team work to enhance local infrastructure, housing, and workforce development in an effort to support their primary objective, business development and recruitment within the region. Previously, Mudd served as the Mining Industry Specialist for the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development, spent ten years in Nevada mine exploration, and is a military veteran. Mudd graduated from Wayland Baptist University with a B.S. in Business Administration and a M.A. in History.



Jeff Fontaine
Executive Director
Lincoln County Economic Development Authority

Jeff Fontaine is the manager of Nevada Authority Management, LLC which provides executive director services to Lincoln County Regional Development Authority. Prior to establishing NAM, LLC Mr. Fontaine held executive and engineering positions during his career in public service. He was the Executive Director of the Nevada Association of Counties from 2007 to 2017, the Director of the Nevada Department of Transportation from 2003 to 2006 and NDOT Deputy Director from 1995 to 2003