

**PROGRAM**

**INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION  
2022 INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM**

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**Friday, April 22, 2022**  
Embassy Suites by Hilton-South Jordan  
10333 South Jordan Gateway  
South Jordan, Utah



**The ROADMAP for TRANSPORTATION**  
**“Planes, Trains and Automobiles – the Next Chapter”**



**2022 IRWA International Transportation Committee (ITC) Symposium  
Embassy Suites by Hilton-South Jordan, 10333 South Jordan Gateway, South Jordan, Utah  
Thursday, April 22, 2022**

## **Agenda**

- 7:00 AM Registration – **Foyer Lobby next to Meeting Rooms**
- 8:00 AM Welcome and Sponsor Recognition: Christie Saenz, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
- 8:10 AM Carlos Braceras, Executive Director Utah Department of Transportation
- 8:45 AM Nancy Volmer, Director Public Relations and Marketing, Salt Lake City International Airport & Joel Nelson, Airport Property & Real Estate Manager, Salt Lake City Department of Airports
- 9:30 AM Dominic Spaethling, California High-Speed Rail
- 10:00 AM **Networking Break**
- 10:15 AM Blaine Leonard, Technology and Innovation Engineer in the Traffic Management Division of UDOT
- 10:45 AM Whitney Ward, AIA, Principal of VCBO Architecture
- 11:15 AM Jordan Culimore, Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman
- 11:45 AM Todd Provost,
- 12:15 PM **Lunch**
- 1:30 PM Pendalum Land Podcast, Kristen Bennett, SR/WA, R/W-RAC  
Dave Arnold, SR/WA and Greg Jackson
- 2:30 PM David Barraza, Tierra Right of Way
- 3:00 PM **Networking Break**
- 3:15 PM Patrick McCallister, SR/WA is the Right of Way Acquisition Manager for WSP
- 4:00 PM Clubhouse Podcast: Interview with Jake Farrell
- 5:30 PM Reception: **Need location**

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### **Speaker Biographies**



**Carlos M. Braceras, P.E.,** Executive Director Utah Department of Transportation

Carlos was appointed executive director of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) by Governor Gary Herbert on May 6, 2013. He was reappointed to serve as executive Director by Governor Spencer Cox in January 2021. In this capacity, he is responsible for UDOT's more than 1,600 employees and the design, construction, and maintenance of Utah's 6,000-mile system of roads and highways. He has recently launched a redefining of the Department's goals and mission and has overseen the completion of several massive highway projects like the Utah County I-15 Corridor Expansion (I-15 CORE) and the Mountain View Corridor in west Salt Lake County. Both projects used innovative contracting methods that allowed each to be completed in record time.

Braceras joined UDOT in 1986. Prior to being appointed as executive director, he served as deputy director for 12 years. Braceras has also served as the director of UDOT's Region Three Office, chief geotechnical engineer, chief value engineer, a member of the Legacy Parkway/I-15 North Project team and as a roadway design engineer. He was named the "1998 State of Utah Governor's Manager of the Year" and was the 1998 recipient of the "UDOT Leader of the Year" Award. Prior to joining UDOT, Braceras worked as a well-site geologist doing oil and gas exploration and development. Braceras is currently chair of the AASHTO Design Committee, chair of the Center for Environmental Excellence Advisory Board, member and past chair of the TRB Executive Committee, member of the board of directors and past president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, member of the board of directors and past president of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, past chair of ITS America, and past chair of RUC West.

Braceras received an undergraduate degree in Geology from the University of Vermont and an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah. He is a registered professional engineer.

Braceras moved to Utah in the summer of 1980 and instantly fell in love with the mountains and the people. Soon after he arrived, Braceras met his wife Laurie while both were working at Snowbird Ski Resort. In their free time, he and Laurie enjoy spending time in the Utah outdoors. Their favorite activities include skiing, bicycling, golfing, camping, windsurfing and sailing on the Great Salt Lake.

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**Nancy Volmer**, Director Public Relations and Marketing, Salt Lake City International Airport  
Nancy Volmer is the director of communication and marketing for the Salt Lake City International Airport where she oversees the art program, air service marketing, community relations and media relations.

Volmer has worked for 30 years in the communication and marketing field. Before joining the airport, she worked for organizations such as the Utah State Courts, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the Salt Lake Chamber and the Park City Chamber/Bureau.

Volmer graduated of the University of Utah with two Bachelor of Science degrees and earned a Master of Professional Communication degree from Westminster College.

**The New SLC: Rebuilding for the Future**

Salt Lake City has secured its position as a global aviation hub by opening a brand-new airport that will serve and grow with the region for decades to come. The New SLC Airport is a state-of-the-art facility and the first new U.S. hub airport built in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Salt Lake International Airport will highlight features of Phase 1 of the new airport as well as current construction underway for Phase 2 and 3.

**Joel Nelson, SLC Airport**

**Bio**

Joel will explain how the project used the Uniform Act for its acquisitions and provide a summary of these acquisitions.

**Dominic Spaethling, California High-Speed Rail**

**Bio**

**Topic & Summary:**



**Blaine Leonard, P.E. F.ASCE**, Technology and Innovation Engineer in the Traffic Management Division of UDOT

Blaine Leonard is the Transportation Technology Engineer at the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) in Salt Lake City. In this role, he leads the planning and deployment of connected and automated vehicles and related traffic management technologies. His team is on the forefront of operational, connected vehicle deployments. He is co-chair of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Technology Subcommittee, the co-chair of the Cooperative Automated Transportation (CAT) Coalition Strategic Initiatives Working Group. Prior to joining UDOT in 2001, Blaine spent 20 years in the consulting engineering business.

Mr. Leonard served as the President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in 2010. He has received the AASHTO Alfred E Johnson Achievement Award, the ASCE William Wisely

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American Civil Engineer Award, the SAE Lloyd Withrow Distinguished Speaker Award, has been named the Utah Engineer of the Year. He is a licensed engineer in six western states and is the Chair of the Utah Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors Licensing Board. He holds Bachelors and Master's Degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah, and was named a Distinguished Alumni by the Department in 2010.

**Topic & Summary:** "Innovations in Transportation: Is our Infrastructure Ready?"

Our vehicles are becoming increasingly automated, gradually taking some of the driving functions away from the human driver. Systems are evolving which allow the vehicle and the infrastructure to communicate. What do the sensors see? When the cars talk to the roadside, what are they talking about? As agencies, are we ready to provide the features, data, and reliability that the vehicle needs? Let's have a discussion about what is being done, and what needs to be done to make this future transportation system possible.



**Whitney Ward, AIA**, Principal of VCBO Architecture

Whitney is a Principal of VCBO Architecture and has been with the firm since 2007. She has extensive experience in programming, facility planning, and community master planning and is a community outreach specialist. Whitney embraces a holistic design approach that ensures functionality, flexibility, and durability are at the forefront of each project. She is an advocate for sustainable design and provides expertise in the planning, design, and documentation processes for sustainable buildings. In her spare time, Whitney teaches Site Design and Sustainable Development as an Adjunct Professor with the University of Utah City and Metropolitan Planning Department.

**Topic & Summary:**

Whitney will discuss transportation infrastructure design and some of the future options of transportation including, Autonomous vehicles, Train and Bus rapid transit, and bike lanes, etc.



**Jordan Culimore, esq.**, Lead Attorney, Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman

Jordan Culimore serves as the Lead Attorney in the Office of Property Rights Ombudsman, a neutral, nonpartisan state agency that helps to resolve property rights disputes in Utah. Prior to his appointment as Lead Attorney, he served as a Staff Attorney in the Office. He has been with the Ombudsman's Office since September 2015.

**Topic & Summary:**

The Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman is a neutral division of the Utah state government that protects and preserves the property rights of Utah citizens. After 20 years of assisting property owners and mediating hundreds of eminent domain disputes, the Ombudsman has learned a few lessons. Preventing problems in acquisition, and understanding dispute resolution principles, helps not only the property owner, but results in a smoother, faster, and fairer process for the agency.

**Todd Provost, ??**

Bio

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**Kristen Bennet, SR/WA, R/W-RAC**, President Blackbird Right of Way LLC and CEO of Pendulum Land Services

Kristen is a CLIMB Certified Instructor and was the recipient of the 2020 W. Howard Armstrong Instructor of the Year award. She is currently serving as the Chair of the IRWA International Professional Education Committee (IPEC). Kristen has presented relocation sessions at the IRWA annual conference, as well as at regional seminars and symposiums around the country. She is a past winner of both the Chapter 36 Professional of the Year and Young Professional of the Year Awards. Kristen is the Co-Host of the Pendulum Land Podcast and is an official Infrastructure Junkie!



**Dave Arnold, esq, SR/WA**, Attorney, Co-Host of the Pendulum Land Podcast

Dave Arnold is an eminent domain / right of way attorney licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of North Carolina. He has litigated over 400 eminent domain and inverse condemnation cases, as well as lawsuits brought under the Uniform Relocation Act. He graduated from the University of Virginia and received his law degree from the College of William and Mary. Dave is co-host of the Pendulum Land Podcast, which covers all facets of the right of way industry, and he is a certified Infrastructure Junkie.



**Greg Jackson**, Professor, UVU

Professor Greg Jackson is best known as the creator, host, and head writer of the US history podcast, History That Doesn't Suck. He's also appeared on History Channel documentaries, other major history podcasts, radio, and served as a historical consultant for the podcast, American Elections: Wicked Game.

Greg is an Associate Professor at Utah Valley University, where he teaches courses in National Security Studies and Integrated Studies. He was a Burton Scholar and earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Utah. Greg also holds an M.A. in French Studies and B.A. in history from Brigham Young University.

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**David Barraza**, Acquisition Agent for Tierra Right of Way

David Barraza is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and the Corporate Safety Officer for Tierra Right of Way in Tucson, AZ. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Soils and Water Science from the University of Arizona, an MBA, and Doctorate in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. Mr. Barraza has 37 years of land development, environmental, road improvement, construction, and project management experience, and is semi-retired after 25 years with the City of Tucson as the Administrator of the Environmental Services Department. He has worked on EPA Superfund projects in AZ and has been involved with over 93-state highway and municipal road improvement projects. Mr. Barraza has extensive project management expertise in right-of-way clearance and acquisition, landowner negotiations, business and residential relocations, eminent domain, power transmission line utility easement expansion, and environmental site assessment clearance. He is a member of the IRWA, International Transportation Committee representing Region 1, Chapter 73 (Tucson, AZ), and is involved with many non-profit organizations in his community.

**Topic & Summary:**

During the planning phases of a project, it's critical to understand the environmental risks associated with land acquisitions and the potential liability associated with landowner rights to ensure landowner liability protection under federal guidelines. To achieve and maintain statutory landowner liability protections, a landowner must meet certain threshold criteria and satisfy certain obligations. Many of the conditions are similar under three landowner provisions. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund, provides important liability limitations for 3 landowners categories that qualify as: (1) bona fide prospective purchaser (BFPPs), (2) contiguous property owners (CPOs), and (3) innocent landowners (ILOs). If a property is essential to a project, and landowner property rights are conveyed with a known environmental liability linked to the property, the new landowner can still obtain liability protections if specified obligations are met. These federal mandates, which fall under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), were intended to be self-implementing in most private party transactions and to minimize any federal involvement.



**Patrick A. McCallister, SR/WA**, Right-of-Way Acquisition Manager - Technical Principal, WSP

Patrick has served as the Indiana Chapter 10 President from 2018 to 2019. He was presented the Professional of the Year in 2018 by his Chapter and presented the Professional of the Year by his Region in 2020 and currently serves as the Region 5 Secretary/Treasurer. Patrick is the Right of experience in the industry, managing right of way acquisition projects for both federally and locally funded transportation projects. Patrick also presented at the 2017 and 2018 IRWA International Education Conferences and symposiums. Patrick is also Co-Host of the Eminent Domain and Right of Way Club on the Clubhouse App

**Topic & Summary:** Overcoming ROW Challenges in the Bus Lane

The Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IndyGo) Purple Line BRT project is the second phase of IndyGo's bus rapid transit program. The Purple Line consists of 14.8 miles of urban corridor along 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Post Road in the City of Indianapolis. During this presentation, the discussion will be about overcoming the challenges of right of way acquisition for this project. Beginning with the scope growing from 60 parcels to 287 parcels and making changes to our team to accommodate the increase in parcel count on a very challenging corridor with some very challenging parcels. Working with an agency that rarely has the need to acquire land and this being their largest project ever. Overcoming hostile owners who opposed the project and still delivered a successful project to the client.



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**Eminent Domain & Right of Way Club Lounge Event**

Join Eminent Domain & Right of Way Club co-hosts Patrick McCallister and Beth Smith, live from the IRWA Region 9 International Transportation Committee Symposium in Salt Lake City, Utah. In this event we welcome special guest, Connor McDonald, with the IRWA Young Professionals and discuss the Young Professionals Committee.



**Patrick A. McCallister, SR/WA**, Right-of-Way Acquisition Manager - Technical Principal, WSP  
Patrick McCallister, SR/WA has served as the Indiana Chapter 10 President from 2018 to 2019. He was presented the Professional of the Year in 2018 by his Chapter and presented the Professional of the Year by his Region in 2020 and currently serves as the Region 5 Secretary/Treasurer.

Patrick is the Right of Way Acquisition Manager for WSP USA's Indianapolis, Indiana office and has 29 years of experience in the industry, managing right of way acquisition projects for both federally and locally funded transportation projects. Patrick has presented at previous IRWA International Education Conferences and is the co-host of the Eminent Domain & Right of Way Club on the Clubhouse App.



**Beth Smith, SR/WA**, Real Estate Specialist

Beth Smith, SR/WA has been with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) for 4 years and currently is their Real Estate Specialist. She has 23 years of experience in the right of way industry. In 2009, she and 3 colleagues founded TerraVenture Advisors, an eminent domain consulting firm, where she continues to consult on an as-needed basis. Her primary areas of expertise are property management, relocation assistance and project management. She also enjoys researching complex title and legal issues.

Beth is currently a co-chair of the International Strategic Planning Committee for the International Right of Way Association, and is a secretary for the International Professional Education Committee. From 2018-2020, she was the Chair of Region 5 and in 2021 was selected as the Region 5 Professional of the Year. She has served in many roles for Badger Chapter 17 (Wisconsin), including all officer positions as well as Newsletter Editor and Relocation Committee Chair.

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**International Transportation Committee**

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <i>Chair</i><br>Christie Saenz, SR/WA, R/W-RAC | <i>Vice Chair</i><br>Nancy Sinclair, SR/WA | <i>Secretary</i><br>Patrick A. McCallister, SR/WA |
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**Region 9**

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|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Chair</i><br>Tony Pollack, SR/WA | <i>Vice Chair</i><br>Richard Pittenridge, SR/WA, R/W-NAC | <i>Secretary</i><br>Carmelita Delgado, SR/WA, R/W-NAC |
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**Hosting Chapter 38 – The Beehive Chapter**

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| <i>President</i><br>Brady Nowers, RWP-OG | <i>President Elect</i><br>Judy A. Larsen, SR/WA | <i>Vice President</i><br>Nadia Bakr, SR/WA-GN |
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| <i>Treasurer</i><br>China Bills, SR/WA | <i>Secretary</i><br>Brandi Davenport, SR/WA |
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| <i>2<sup>nd</sup> International Director</i><br>Brady Nowers, RWP-OG | <i>1<sup>st</sup> International Director</i><br>Judy A. Larsen, SR/WA | <i>Education Chair</i><br>Judy Killgore & Jan Burnell |
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| <i>Membership Chair</i><br>Craig A. McKennon, SR/WA | <i>Professional Development Chair</i><br>Tom Denison, SR/WA | <i>Communication &amp; Marketing Chair</i><br>Cart McMillan, RWA |
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**Venue Information & Map**

**City Map**

**Exhibitors**



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