

## Speaker Bios

(in order of appearance)



**Derrick Toigo**  
**City of Toronto**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Derrick Toigo is Executive Director of the City of Toronto's Transit Expansion Office. With over 28 years of experience, he brings a high level of expertise in engineering, construction, and project management to the city. Previously, Derrick worked at Infrastructure Ontario where he successfully led provincial teams that procured and delivered numerous civil and social projects, such as healthcare and correctional projects, as well as the Pan Am Games sports venue legacy projects. Major transit and highway infrastructure projects included the Eglinton Crosstown project, Highways 427 and 401, Union Pearson Express rail link, the Ottawa and Waterloo Light Rail Transit projects and the GO Transit East Rail Maintenance Facility. He also collaborated in the planning, procurement and implementation for the government's Regional Express Rail program, together with Metrolinx. Derrick is a Professional Engineer, and a certified Project Management Professional. He is a member of CSA – Technical Standards Facility for Healthcare institutions; the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (CET); and the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA).



**David Dimmer**  
**Thales Canada**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

David Dimmer is the Director of Product Strategy for the Urban Rail Signalling Business Line of Thales Group. He has been a member of the urban rail signalling and train control competence centre since 1987. David played a leading role in the design of the SelTrac™ MS radio based product, which has been installed on more than 20 lines in China including 5 lines in Shanghai and Beijing, and lines in Kuala Lumpur, New York, Hyderabad, Santiago, and Disney World. It is currently being implemented in seven other projects worldwide including the Doha Metro, and the MTR Seven Line Modernization program in Hong Kong. David participates in international standardization work. He is the Canadian representative on the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Working Group 40, which is developing the IEC 62290 standards for Communication Based Train Control systems. He is also representing Thales on the IEEE WG2, which has recently restarted and is updating the IEEE 1474 standards. David was also the Technical Leader for the recently completed Next Generation Train Control (NGTC) research project in Europe, led by UNIFE, which investigated synergies between ETCS and CBTC systems and developed solutions for future urban and mainline systems. David graduated from University of Toronto and has a Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree in Engineering Science.



**David Crowley**  
**Retired Transportation Planner**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

David Crowley is a retired senior transportation planner who specialized in travel market research, demand forecasting (including investment grade T&R studies for toll roads and rapid transit projects), transit service planning, and transportation policy analysis. He has had considerable experience in the design, conduct and analysis of travel habits surveys (including the Transportation Tomorrow Survey which he helped establish during this time at the TTC Service Planning Department in 1985) as well as parking surveys and related policy studies. David has more than 40 years of professional experience includes seven years in senior service planning positions with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and over 30 years in consulting. His consulting experience included transportation, parking and/or transit planning and policy studies for BC Transit, Transport Canada, Halifax Regional Municipality, Metro Toronto, City of Toronto, City of Ottawa, Ottawa-Carleton/National Capital Region, Burlington, Oakville, HSR (Hamilton), GO Transit, Mississauga, TTC, Whitby, Lethbridge, Saskatoon, Dubai Municipality (U.A.E.), Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Region of York, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority and the Region of Waterloo. Has also served as a transportation planning/demand forecasting specialist on World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank assignments, and undertook international assignments for Toronto Transit Consultants, the former consulting arm of the TTC. Since he started transitioning from full employment to full retirement, starting in 2012, he has focused on trying to figure out why “facts and evidence” related to urban transportation have become almost irrelevant to transport decision making both in the GTA and across Canada.



**William Denning**  
**Walmer Consulting**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

William Denning is a transport economist and human geographer with over 35 years of professional experience. Skilled in transport and spatial policy formulation, advisory and strategy development, project evaluation, and market research, Mr. Denning has worked at all levels of government (local, sub-national, national, and international) and for a major private sector transport company. His career has included work and assignments in Canada, South-east Asia, East Asia, Europe, Africa, Latin America, and South Asia. William's strengths are his creative urbanism, wide curiosity, and fanatic application of analysis. He is a keen urban and touring cyclist.



**Shoshanna Saxe**  
**University of Toronto**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Shoshanna Saxe is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering at the University of Toronto. She investigates the relationship between the infrastructure we build and the society we create, with a particular focus on environmental sustainability. Recent research includes life cycle thinking for transportation infrastructure and examining the timelines of transportation infrastructure delivery. Shoshanna received her Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from MIT (2009) and her PhD from the University of Cambridge in Engineering - Jesus College (2016). Previously, she worked on the design and construction of transport infrastructure in Toronto, including four new subway stations. Shoshanna is an alumna of Action Canada, a member of the Transportation Research Board's standing committee on Transportation and Sustainability, sits on Waterfront Toronto's Capital Peer Review Panel, and was recently recognized by Clean 50 as one of Canada's emerging environmental leaders.



**MPP Jessica Bell**  
**New Democratic Party of Ontario**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Jessica Bell is the Member of Provincial Parliament for University—Rosedale, and serves as the Ontario NDP critic for Transit. Prior to being elected in June 2018 she served as the founding Executive Director of TTCriders, fighting to improve Toronto transit. She's been a lecturer at Ryerson University, Director of the California Food & Justice Coalition, and an advocate for environmental justice. She has received several leadership awards, including the Toronto Community Foundation's Vital People Award. Jessica lives in University—Rosedale with her husband and two children.



**MPP Michael Coteau**  
**Liberal Party of Ontario**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Michael Coteau is a politician in Ontario, Canada. He is a Liberal member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario who, since 2011, has represented the riding of Don Valley East in Toronto. He served in cabinet in the government of Kathleen Wynne from 2013 to 2018. The Liberal party was defeated in the 2018 Ontario general election, and Coteau was one of seven Liberals re-elected. He serves as the MPP for the riding of Don Valley East and is the Ontario Liberal Party Critic for Infrastructure, Energy, Labour, Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. He placed second in the 2020 Ontario Liberal Party leadership election with 16.9% of the vote.

**MPP Mike Schreiner****Green Party of Ontario  
Guelph, Ontario, Canada**

Mike Schreiner is the leader of the Green Party of Ontario and the MPP for Guelph, the first ever Green MPP elected to the Ontario Legislature – and with a resounding 45% of the vote. He was elected leader of the Green Party of Ontario on November 14, 2009. For close to a decade, Mike has been a leader in Ontario politics, being a champion on issues such as campaign finance reform, as well as advocating for the Guelph community on matters such as protecting Guelph’s drinking water from local quarries. He has led successful policy campaigns to push the provincial government to fund the Experimental Lakes Area, protect local food supplies by restricting the use of neo-nicotinoid pesticides, support small business by increasing market access for local craft breweries and fight climate change by putting a price on carbon pollution. A successful entrepreneur and small business owner, Mike is a leading advocate for small businesses, local food and sustainable communities. Mike is well known for his leadership in co-founding the award-winning Local Food Plus organization and for his successful Guelph-based small businesses, WOW Foods and Earthdance Organics. He has served as a volunteer on boards and committees such as the Lakeside Hope House Fundraising Committee, the Board of Directors of the Guelph based FarmStart, the Brewer’s Plate Steering Committee, Green Enterprise Ontario Steering Committee, a governor for the Canadian International Peace Project, Treasurer and Board member of Campus Coop Daycare, the Toronto Food Policy Council, among others.

**Moderators**

- **Steve Paikin**, Host, TV Ontario’s *The Agenda* Current Affairs Program
- **Judy Farvolden**, Executive Director, University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute