

# KeepLAMoving

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019

### TENTATIVE AGENDA

#### Friday, October 4

##### **6:30pm-8:00pm: Optional guided walking tour of the Venice Boulevard road diet in Mar Vista.**

Join our experts on a tour of the infamous Venice Boulevard road diet. Talk with business owners about the devastating effects on their livelihoods, including some of the 22 who have closed. You'll also witness firsthand the impacts on congestion.

##### **8:00pm-9:30pm: Cocktail mixer at The Mar Vista restaurant's bar**

Meet conference participants and attendees in a casual environment over beer and wine.

#### Saturday, October 5

##### **7:45am-8:30am: Check-in and registration**

Coffee, tea, juice, and pastries will be provided.

##### **8:30am-8:45am: Opening remarks and introductions**

Christopher LeGras, Attorney and journalist

##### **8:45am-10:15am: The Big Picture: How Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and road diets fit into the latest land-use fads**

Randal O'Toole, Cato Institute

Wendell Cox, Demographia

Jay Beeber, Safer Streets L.A.

##### **10:15-10:25 Video presentation of business owners affected by road diets**

##### **10:30am-12:00pm: Impacts of road diets on local businesses and economies**

James Moore, University of Southern California

Matthew Schneider, Entrepreneur and business owner

Demetrios Mavromichalis, Entrepreneur and business owner

**12:00pm-1:00pm: Lunch**

A three-course lunch will be provided by the terrific team at The Mar Vista restaurant. A selection of appetizers will be followed by your choice of entrée and dessert. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

**1:00pm-1:10pm: Video of emergency equipment delayed by road diets**

**1:15pm-2:45pm: Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and road diets are supposed to be safer. Are they?**

Baruch Feigenbaum, Reason Foundation

Kathleen Calongne, American Dream Coalition

Thomas A. Rubin, CPA, CMA, CMC, CIA, CGFM, CFM

John Forester, author, *Effective Cycling*

**2:45pm-2:55pm: Break**

**3:00pm-4:30pm: Streets to courtrooms: How communities can fight back, and are**

John Russo, Keep The U.S. Moving

Shelia Dunn, National Motorists Association

Lydia Grant, Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

**4:30pm-4:45pm: Concluding remarks**

**5:00pm-7pm: Wine & beer reception at the Mar Vista restaurant's bar**

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### CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

#### **Panel 1: The Big Picture: How Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and road diets fit into the latest land-use fads**



**WENDELL COX** is principal of Demographia, an international public policy consulting firm in St. Louis. He is a senior fellow at the Center for Opportunity Urbanism (Houston), senior fellow for municipal policy at the Frontier Centre for Public Policy (Winnipeg) and member, Board of Advisors, Chapman University Center for Demographics and Policy. He is co-author of the Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey and author of Demographia World Urban Areas and the COU Standard of Living Index. He served as a visiting professor in the *Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers* (Paris), the largest university in France. He was appointed to three terms on the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission by Mayor Tom Bradley. Former Speaker of the House Newt

Gingrich appointed him to complete the term of New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman on the Amtrak Reform Council.



**RANDAL O'TOOLE** is a Cato Institute senior fellow specializing in land-use and transportation issues. His recent books include *Romance of the Rails: Why the Passenger Trains We Love Are Not the Transportation We Need* and *American Nightmare: How Government Undermines The Dream of Homeownership*. Before working for Cato, he taught environmental economics at Yale, UC Berkeley, and Utah State University.



**JAY BEEBER** is the Executive Director of Safer Streets L.A., a grassroots organization dedicated to the interests of the motoring public through the adoption of scientifically sound and sensible transportation and traffic laws. Mr. Beeber is best known for ending L.A.'s abusive and costly red light camera rip-off, saving Angelinos over \$200 million dollars. As a City Council candidate in this year's special election, he made zoning, development, and congestion central to his campaign. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he lives in Los Angeles.

## **Panel 2: Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and “road diets”** **are supposed to be safer. Are they?**



**KATHLEEN CALONGNE** is the former Assistant Director of the American Dream Coalition, and a speaker on impacts of traffic calming devices on safety and other issues at ADC *Preserving the American Dream* conferences. Her 400-page report on *Problems Associated with Traffic Calming Devices* has been widely requested by concerned citizens and fire departments as reference material in cities considering traffic calming projects. As ADC's Conference Coordinator, she has organized five national conferences.



**BARUCH FEIGENBAUM** is Assistant Director of Transportation Policy at Reason Foundation. He is involved with various transportation organizations, and is a member of the Transportation Research Board Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee, Secretary of the Bus Transit Committee and chair of the Bus Transit Conference Subcommittee. He is Executive Vice President of the Transportation and Research Forum, a reviewer for the Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA) and a contributor to *Planetizen*. He has appeared on NBC Nightly News and CNBC. His work has been featured in the *Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal*. Prior to joining Reason, he handled transportation issues on Capitol Hill for Representative Lynn Westmoreland. He earned his Master's degree in Transportation Planning with a focus in Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



**THOMAS A. RUBIN, CPA, CMA, CMC, CIA, CGFM, CFM** has more than forty-five years of public transit experience as a senior executive in major transit agencies and as an auditor, consultant, and author. He has served over 100 transit operators and is now a sole practitioner consultant specializing in major transit and educational capital projects and long-term transit capital/operations/financial planning. Tom founded and directed the transit industry practice of what is now Deloitte & Touche, LLP, growing it to the largest transit/auditing/consulting firm in the country. As the Controller-Treasurer of the Southern California Rapid Transit District, he was the senior executive responsible for safety for the third largest transit operator in the U.S. and he has served as an expert witness on safety in Federal lawsuits.



John Forester was born in England and educated at the University of California at Berkeley. A passionate cyclist all of his life, he has worked as a full-time bicycle advocate since 1973. He is the author of several books, including *Effective Cycling* (MIT Press, most recent edition 2012), which argues that bicycles are legally vehicles and that cyclists are safest "when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles." Unlike many who call themselves bicycle advocates, Forester relies on data to show what makes cycling safer and what makes it more dangerous.

### **Panel 3: Impacts of road diets on businesses and economies**



**DEMETRIOS MAVROMICHALIS** is an entrepreneur, restaurateur, real estate developer, and business owner in West Los Angeles. A native Angeleno, he was instrumental in the revitalization of the Mar Vista neighborhood through his Mar Vista Restaurant and Venice Grind Coffee Shop, both of which are anchors in the community. He was co-founder of the Mar Vista Farmers Market, the catalyst for a new era of small business growth. He continues to grow his businesses in the face of challenges like the Venice Boulevard road diet. He lives in Mar Vista with his family.



**JAMES ELLIOTT MOORE II, Ph.D.**, has been with the University of Southern California since 1988. He has faculty appointments in the Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, the Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Price School of Public Policy. He is director of the Transportation Engineering program in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Vice Dean for Academic Programs in the Viterbi School of Engineering. Prior to joining USC, he was on the faculty of Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science. He received his Ph.D in Civil Engineering/Infrastructure Planning and Management from Stanford University.



**MATTHEW SCHNEIDER** is a co-founder of Keep The U.S. Moving. He is an entrepreneur, business owner, and investor. He owns a small chain of home furnishing stores in eastern Iowa, and a chain of video game, movie, music, and lifestyle stores with locations in Iowa and North Dakota. Mr. Schneider is also co-founder of Keep Waverly Moving, a citizen group in Waverly, Iowa working both to reverse the town's road diet and improve conditions in the City of Waverly. He became interested in road diets when one was thrust onto the residents of Waverly on a corridor where one of his home furnishing stores is located. Mr. Schneider currently is running for City Council to curb what he defines as a local government that is not acting in the best interest of its citizens.



#### **Panel 4: Streets to courtrooms: How communities can fight back, and are**



**SHELIA DUNN**, is the Communications Director for the National Motorists Association. Ms. Dunn has had a varied career in business, education, the arts, associations, and the nonprofit sectors in the United States and Germany. She curates NMA's Driving News Daily email, the weekly Driving News California Report and New York City emails, and edits the NMA Foundation's quarterly magazine Driving Freedoms. She also writes various weekly newsletters and blog posts concerning automated traffic enforcement, the War on Cars, and general issues on driving in America. Contact her on LinkedIn and on Twitter @motorists or @Shelia\_Dunn.



**LYDIA GRANT** is a former Los Angeles City Commissioner and current member of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council in the San Fernando Valley. She is a veteran community and education advocate and leader. Ms. Grant was instrumental in passage of the California Parent Empowerment Act in 2010, which has helped thousands of families expand the educational options for their children. She has helped parents navigate the complexities of the Los Angeles Unified School District for more than 30 years. More recently she has been a leader in efforts across Los Angeles to assist homeless veterans. She is also a leader the fight against road diets in her community, which is in a high fire hazard zone.



**JOHN RUSSO** is the co-founder and director of Keep L.A. Moving and Keep The U.S. Moving. He became involved in transportation issues two years ago when the City of Los Angeles dieted nearly ten miles of roads in his home city of Playa del Rey. Under his leadership, Keep L.A. Moving became the first organization in the country to get a road diet reversed, in 2017. Since then, he has helped other groups nationwide fight road diets, with at least seven halted so far. He is an aerospace engineer who works on hardware critical to satellites bound for deep space. A former collegiate competitive cyclist, he lives in Playa del Rey with his family.

## **Conference Organizer**



**CHRISTOPHER LEGRAS** is a journalist and California licensed attorney. His coverage of transportation and infrastructure, homelessness, politics, and other issues has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Recorder*, *New Geography*, *CityWatch*, *California Real Property Journal*, and elsewhere. As an attorney with Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP he primarily represented renewable and legacy energy companies with an emphasis on infrastructure and delivery. In a *pro bono* capacity he represented vulnerable populations including Hurricane Katrina survivors, homeless veterans, and low income Americans. He is working on a book about road diets. A fifth generation Californian, he lives in Los Angeles.