Western Regional Alliance Symposium
Creating Our Own Future

Thank you to our sponsors!

September 30, 2014  I  Rice-Eccles Stadium
at-a-glance agenda

September 29
2:00 - 5:00

Commuter Rail Facilities Tour: Jon Cluff, Project Manager
Tour departs from UTA FLHQ, 669 West 200 South; SLC, UT 84101

8:30 - 9:00
Registration / Networking / Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15
Opening Remarks: Michael Allegra and Carlton Christensen

9:15 - 10:30
Creating a Vision for the Region in the 21st Century
Global Network: Phase Two
Introduction: Tom Skancke; Speaker: Michael Gallis

10:30 - 10:45
Break

10:45 - 12:00
Vision for the Future
Moderator: Michael Gallis; Panelists: Robert Grow, JD; Mayor Michael LeVau; Pamela Perlich, PhD; and Tom Skancke

12:00 - 1:15
Lunch and Keynote Address:
The Importance of Infrastructure in the Digital Economy
Jonathan E. Johnson, III, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Overstock.com

1:15 - 2:15
Connecting the West: a High-Speed Rail Update
Moderator: Alan Wulkan; Panelists: David Carol; Hal Johnson; and Ram Kumar, PhD, TE

2:15 - 2:30
Break

2:30 - 3:30
The Politics of Connectivity
Moderator: Tina Quigley; Panelists: Mayor William Applegarth; Rick Pilgrim, PE; and Mayor Greg Stanton

3:30 - 3:45
Break

3:45 - 4:45
Competitiveness: the Business Case for Connectivity
Moderator: Lee Gibson; Panelists: Angela Creedon, Jeff Edwards, Hillary Foose, and Mike Kazmerski

4:45 - 5:00
Closing Remarks: Michael Allegra and Tom Skancke

1.00 Denotes the number of AICP CM credits pending.

speakers and panelists

Rick Pilgrim, PE, Vice President and Senior Project Manager, HDR
Rick Pilgrim has project and business development responsibilities for HDR’s transportation market sectors in the West and Central regions. He has managed more than 25 major multimodal corridor transportation planning, environmental and design projects. Rick serves on the American Public Transportation Association’s Major Capital Projects Subcommittee and the Transportation Research Board’s Commuter Rail Committee, and is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and Women in Transportation Seminar. Additionally, he is mayor of the Town of Bow Mar, Colorado and is vice chair of the Metro Mayor’s Caucus.

Tina Quigley, GM, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada
Tina Quigley oversees one of the few agencies in the country responsible for public transportation, roadway planning and funding, and traffic management. Under her leadership, the National Transit Database named the RTC the most efficient transit provider in the nation. Tina’s strong leadership, clear vision, and collaborative spirit led to the passing of bi-partisan legislation, generating up to $700 million in revenue to fund 199 regionally and locally significant transportation projects and help create more than 9,000 jobs. She is a member of the American Public Transit Assoc. and serves on the Luminous Park Advisory Committee and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Host Committee.

Tom Skancke, President and CEO, Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance
Tom Skancke and his team are transforming economic development in southern Nevada and throughout the west and have been the lead advisors on hundreds of national transportation infrastructure projects. He is widely recognized as one of the top transportation strategists in the US, whose vision is transforming the way surface transportation is perceived and marketed throughout the country. Since 2013, he has served on the Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors and executive committee for the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Western Regional Alliance.

Greg Stanton, Mayor of Phoenix
Since taking office in 2011, Mayor Greg Stanton has worked tirelessly to build a modern economy that works for every Phoenix family. By boosting trade with Mexico, investing in the biosciences, and lifting up local small business, he is leading the way to create an innovation based, export economy built to last. He is also committed to making his community a welcoming place for military veterans and their families. Phoenix became the first U.S. city to end chronic homelessness among veterans, as well as match veterans with local employers and good jobs. He attended Marquette University and earned a law degree from the University of Michigan.

Alan Wulkan, President, The Wulkan Group
Alan Wulkan has been in the forefront of new start transit system development in the US for more than 35 years. He is nationally recognized for his work in Washington, DC on legislative issues affecting the transit industry and was appointed to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission Blue Ribbon Panel of Transportation Experts. Alan currently serves on the American Public Transportation Association Executive Committee and Board of Directors as well as the Re-Authorization Task Force. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Arizona Transit Association and Phoenix Friends of Transit.
speakers and panelists

Jonathan E. Johnson, III, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Overstock.com
A former Judicial Clerk in Utah, trained attorney Jonathan E. Johnson, III has been Chairman of Overstock.com since April 2014. He joined Overstock.com in 2002 as the company’s General Counsel and held various business and legal related positions before becoming the company’s President. Jonathan has been part of Overstock.com’s meteoric growth from a small start-up to a publicly-traded company with $1.1 billion in sales and over 1,400 employees. Prior to joining Overstock.com, he had held various positions, including Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel of TenFold Corporation.

Mike Kazmierski, Exec. Dir., Economic Development Authority of Western NV (EDAWN)
Mike Kazmierski leads a team of economic development professionals to recruit, expand, and retain primary businesses that create quality jobs in the greater Reno-Sparks-Tahoe region. Prior to his position at EDAWN, Mike managed the Regional Economic Development Corporation of Colorado Springs where he assisted in the attraction and expansion of more than 70 companies, creating more than 10,000 new jobs. Mike is a retired Army Colonel and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), a Master’s degree in Business Administration, and a Master’s degree in Military Arts and Science.

Ram Kumar, PhD, TE, Vice President and Director of Transportation, ARCADIS-US
Dr. Ram Kumar has been involved in the planning, design and delivery of multimodal transportation projects and programs for over 40 years. He has conducted feasibility studies and alternative analyses for rail transit projects; completed bus rapid transit (BRT) implementation plans; managed delivery of rail projects; and has expertise in the planning and delivery of federally funded transportation capital improvement projects. In his current role, Dr. Kumar is the North America Liaison for the Global Infrastructure Business Lines of Highway, Rail Transit and Ports, providing strategic and technical leadership to the transportation market sector nationally.

Michael LeVau, Mayor of Youngtown
Michael LeVau became the Town of Youngtown’s 39th mayor in 2007. He worked as an intern with the Dept. of Local Government Affairs for the State of Illinois in 1973, followed by a local government liaison in the Dept. of Business and Economic Development, and personnel officer in the governor’s office. Michael left state government in 1978 to work in a variety of positions, including sales representative, manager, and executive vice president for Financial Insurance Service; president and CEO of Financial Insurance Agency, Inc.; owner and operator of Mississippi Delta Micro Brewery and Restaurant Inc.; division sales representative for Verizon; and a realtor.

Pamela Perlich, PhD, Senior Research Economist, Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR), University of Utah
Pamela Perlich, PhD, serves as director of the Utah Community Data Project (UCDP) which provides frequently updated neighborhood portraits that highlight the great diversity in our communities and how these change over time. Prior to joining BEBR, she worked in the Utah Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, concentrating on long run economic and demographic projections. Although trained as an economist, she applies a multidisciplinary approach to develop data, modeling, and analysis that identifies ongoing demographic, economic and cultural transformations.

sessions

Creating a Vision for the Region in the 21st Century Global Network: Phase Two | 9:15 - 10:30
Michael Gallis will present phase two of his study, Creating a Vision for the Region in the 21st Century Global Network, and discuss the drivers of economic change in the future. Michael will touch upon how the region can plan for and benefit from larger global trends.

Vision for the Future | 10:45 - 12:00
Currently, significant economic and demographic changes, as well as restructuring, are occurring in the Intermountain West. This panel will discuss the importance of having a vision for the future, as well as the tools needed to better plan for transportation connections and regional mobility, long-term, sustainable, economic growth; and regional cooperation and collaboration.

Keynote Address: The Importance of Infrastructure in the Digital Economy | 12:00 - 1:15
Overstock.com is an online vendor that relies on digital "connectivity" and physical connectivity (infrastructure) to place orders, access warehouses, and deliver goods to clients in an efficient manner.

Connecting the West: a High-Speed Rail Update | 1:15 - 2:15
This panel will discuss the progress being made to connect the west with high-speed and regional rail. As population growth outpaces infrastructure development, it is critical to develop high-capacity and regional mobility options.

The Politics of Connectivity | 2:30 - 3:30
An exciting group of panelists will discuss navigating the political waters of regional connectivity and the development of a consensus for action in regards to infrastructure.

Competitiveness: the Business Case for Connectivity | 3:45 - 4:45
This combined panel of professionals from the economic development, and agency sectors will discuss the importance and value of developing infrastructure with land use, in an effort to obtain long-term, positive, environmental, and economic outcomes.

speakers and panelists

Michael Allega, President/CEO, UTA
Michael Allega has worked through nearly every aspect of the UTA organization, ultimately overseeing UTA’s program to expand the system to include the addition of 140 miles of rail in just over a decade. Professional highlights include participation in Salt Lake City’s Olympic bid and coordinating the transportation efforts during the 2002 Olympic Games; acquisition of 200 miles of ROW; and transforming UTA into a multi-modal operation. Michael sits on several boards, including the American Public Transportation Association, the Transportation Research Board, the Transportation Learning Center, the Utah Foundation, EDCUtah, and the Salt Lake Area and Greater Sandy Area Chambers of Commerce.
speakers and panelists

William Applegarth, Mayor of Riverton City
William Applegarth has been Mayor of Riverton City since 2006, and presently chairs the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TRANSCOM) of the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRG). He is a retired educational administrator, and holds a doctoral degree in Education Administration from Brigham Young University. He and his wife, Jeanne, have made their home in Riverton City since 1975.

David Carol, VP and Market Leader for High Speed Rail, Parsons Brinckerhoff
David Carol has more than 25 years of experience in the rail passenger industry. He previously served as project manager for commuter rail projects for the Charlotte Area Transit System. Before that, David led the implementation of Amtrak’s $2.5 billion Northeast Corridor high-speed rail program, including electrification of the corridor and development and deployment of Amtrak’s Acela high-speed trains. He also served as Amtrak’s vice president for high-speed rail corridors development. David is a member of the District of Columbia and Virginia bars, as well as the American Public Transportation Association, serving on the organization’s Intercity Rail Committee.

Carlon Christensen, Director of the Office of Regional Development, Salt Lake County
Carlon Christensen was appointed by Mayor Ben McAdams in August 2013 to the newly created position of Director of Regional Development for Salt Lake County. Carlon recently completed his final term on the Salt Lake City Council where he has represented the northwest part of Salt Lake City for the past 16 years. Carlon is the past President of the Associates Board for the Museum of Natural History of Utah, a member of the Advisory Board for the Jordan Valley Conservancy Garden, and Chair of the Wasatch Front Economic Development District.

Angela Creedon, Community and Municipal Relations Assistant Vice President, ASU
Angela Creedon’s office serves as a liaison to local communities, municipalities, and key business organizations, and is also responsible for outreach programming including the Cesar Chavez Programs, Hispanic Convocation, Tribal Government Leadership Forum, and the State of Black Arizona, State of Latino Arizona and State of Indian Country Arizona publications. Angela is also chairman of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, East Valley Partnership and the East Valley Women’s Fresh Start. She serves on the Temple Chamber, Greater Phoenix Chamber and Arizona Chamber of Commerce public affairs committees among others.

Jeff Edwards, President and CEO, Economic Development Corp. of Utah (EDCUtah)
Jeff Edwards is President and CEO of the EDCUtah, a public-private partnership founded in 1987. EDCUtah has responsibility for recruiting new businesses to Utah by working with corporations and site consultants across the US. EDCUtah works closely with the Utah Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) and others to target recruiting in biotech, aerospace, energy, defense, outdoor products, financial services, and information technology. Over the last three years, Utah has benefited from the creation of more than 25,000 new jobs and more than $3.9 billion in capital investment in Utah through economic development efforts.

Hillary Foose, Director of Communication and Marketing, Valley Metro
As a member of the Valley Metro team since 2008, Hillary Foose helps to define and communicate the agency’s vision, mission, and capital and operating programs; oversees all communication and marketing activities; and creates messaging and strategy that grows public transit and ridership in metro Phoenix. Prior to joining Valley Metro, Hillary served as the director of communications for the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. Hillary received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Arts from the University of Arizona.

Michael Gallis, Principal, Michael Gallis and Associates
Michael Gallis is considered one of the country’s leading experts in large-scale metropolitan regional development strategies. He has served on numerous boards and commissions, including American Forests; the Governor’s Commission on a Competitive North Carolina; the Advisory Board of the International Congress of the Atlantic Rim; and the Mayor’s International Cabinet. He is a member of the Founding Board of the International Radical Innovation Institute, which is focused on accelerating the process of commercializing radical innovations in technology and helping societies and governments to better prepare for their impacts.

Lee Gibson, AICP, CEO, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County
Lee Gibson serves as the CEO of the RTC, an integrated transportation agency serving as the metropolitan planning organization, public transit operator and street and highway agency for the Reno-Sparks metropolitan area and unincorporated Washoe County. Lee has focused on customer service, partnerships, collaboration and reducing agency operating costs, as well using alternative project and program delivery methods. Under his leadership, the RTC has successfully obtained FTA TIGER and TIGER II grants to enhance the region’s transportation infrastructure. Lee is a founding member of the WRA and a member of the American Public Transportation Association’s Board of Directors.

Robert Grow, JD, President/CEO, Envision Utah
Robert Grow has a diverse career, including practicing law, leading and supporting regional visioning processes, presiding over a large manufacturing company, and chairing a national trade association. He was the primary architect of Envision Utah’s grass roots, bottom up, stakeholder driven, values based approach. For his role in helping shape the strategy for the Salt Lake region’s future transportation system, Robert received the American Public Transportation Association’s (APTA) Distinguished Service Award in October 2003.

Hal Johnson, Integrated Project Development Manager, UTA
With over 18 years of project management experience, Hal Johnson’s areas of expertise are in project development and direct management of procurements and construction. Hal holds a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning degree and a Masters of Arts in Geography degree from the State University of New York at Albany, as well as a Bachelors of Science in Urban Planning degree from the University of Utah. He is an Adjunct Instructor for the Department of Architecture and Planning at the University of Utah, and teaches the Community Planning Workshop.

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