2015 American Dream Conference Speaker Biographies

Trey Baker
Richard “Trey” Baker is an Assistant Research Scientist with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute’s Mobility Management program located in Austin, Texas. He has over seven years of experience in the qualitative and quantitative analysis of transportation policy, transportation funding and finance, road pricing, and public acceptance.

Trey is an expert on usage-based and other alternative revenue generating mechanisms such as Mileage-based User Fees (MBUF), Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) fees, and other usage-based revenue generating mechanisms. He has been a principal in state federal studies evaluating potential technology applications, public perceptions, and institutional issues associated with the implementation of usage-based revenue mechanisms. He has participated in the evaluation of various road user fee assessment and collection technologies and has worked to develop several road user fee concepts of operations (ConOps) for the State of Texas as well as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Scott Beyer
Scott Beyer is a cross-country traveler who covers U.S. urban issues. For three years, he is circling America to live for a month each in 28 cities, starting from Miami and ending in New York City. The point is to write a book about revitalizing cities through Market Urbanism—which is the intersection of free-market economics with urban issues. The name of the book will be The Sparks From Within—How Market Urbanism Can Revive U.S. Cities.

Originally from Charlottesville, VA, Scott studied at nearby Bridgewater College, but his work is mainly inspired from the time he spent throughout his twenties living in New York City and backpacking America. Along with regular speeches and radio interviews, he is a columnist for Forbes, Governing Magazine, and MarketUrbanism.com. His work has also appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Atlantic, National Review, Cato, and various other respected publications across the political spectrum. His blog is BigCitySparkplug.com.

Wendell Cox
Wendell Cox is Chair of Housing Affordability and Municipal Policy for the Frontier Centre for Public Policy (Canada). He is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Opportunity Urbanism (Houston) and a member of the Board of Advisors at the Center for Demographics and Policy at Chapman University. He is also principal of Demographia, an international public policy and demographics firm (St. Louis).

Wendell Cox is co-author of the “Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey” and author of “Demographia World Urban Areas.” He was appointed to three terms on the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission by Mayor Tom Bradley. He was appointed to the Amtrak Reform Council by Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich. He served as a visiting professor at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers, a national university in Paris. He holds a BA in Government from California State University, Los Angeles and an MBA from Pepperdine University, Los Angeles.
Dave Dobbs
A long-time light-rail advocate, Dave Dobbs published lightrailnow.org, a web site that maintains an authoritative database of all light-rail projects in the country. He is a proponent of light rail in Austin, and has written numerous articles and columns on the subject.

Representative Blake Farenthold
Blake Farenthold is a native of Corpus Christi, Texas, where he practiced law and founded a computer consulting and web design firm. In 2010 he ran for Congress against a nine-term incumbent and won by 799 votes. Since that time, he has been an active member of the Tea Party Caucus in Congress and a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Baruch Feigenbaum
Baruch Feigenbaum is a policy analyst at Reason Foundation, a non-profit think tank advancing free minds and free markets. He specializes in transportation policy. Prior to joining Reason, Feigenbaum handled transportation issues on Capitol Hill for Representative Lynn Westmoreland. He earned his Master’s degree in City and Regional Planning with a concentration in Transportation from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Feigenbaum holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Policy from Georgia State University. - See more at: http://reason.org/experts/show/baruch-feigenbaum#sthash.fS06eTw8.dpuf

Meagan Forbes
Meagan Forbes is an attorney with the Institute for Justice Minnesota office. She joined the Institute in September 2014 and litigates cutting-edge constitutional cases protecting economic liberty, free speech, property rights, and school choice in federal and state courts.

Prior to joining the Institute for Justice, Meagan served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable M. Jacqueline Regis of the Minnesota Fourth Judicial District in Minneapolis, Minn. Meagan graduated cum laude from Louisiana State University’s Law Center in 2012. While in law school, she was a Senior Associate of the Louisiana Law Review. She is originally from New Orleans, La.

Tory Gattis
Tory Gattis is a Founding Senior Fellow with the Center for Opportunity Urbanism, and co-authored the original Opportunity Urbanism studies and City Journal article with noted urbanist and Center Director Joel Kotkin about creating a city philosophy focused on upward social mobility for all citizens as an alternative to the popular smart growth, new urbanism, and creative class movements. Tory writes the popular Houston Strategies blog and its twin blog at the Houston Chronicle, Opportunity Urbanist, where he discusses strategies for making Houston a better city (and has published numerous Houston Chronicle op-eds on these topics as well). He is the founder of Coached Schooling, an educational technology startup to create a high-tech network of affordable private schools ($10/day) combining the best elements of eLearning, home and traditional schooling to reinvent the one-room schoolhouse for the 21st century. Tory is a McKinsey consulting alum, TEDx speaker, and holds both an MBA and BSEE from Rice University.
Leonard Gilroy

Len Gilroy is the Director of Government Reform at Reason Foundation, a nonprofit think tank advancing free minds and free markets. Gilroy researches privatization, government reform, fiscal, transportation, infrastructure and urban policy issues.

Gilroy is the editor of the widely-read Annual Privatization Report, which examines trends and chronicles the experiences of local, state, and federal governments in bringing competition to public services. Gilroy also edits Reason’s annual Innovators in Action report, which profiles public sector innovators in their own words, including former U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, former New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani and more.

Vance Ginn

Vance Ginn, Ph.D., is an Economist in the Center for Fiscal Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation in Austin, Texas, one of the nation’s top free market, state-level think tanks. He has expertise in fiscal policy and energy economics. In 2006, Ginn graduated with honors from Texas Tech University with a B.B.A in economics and accounting and minors in political science and mathematics. After interning for a U.S. Texas Congressman in Washington, D.C., he started his doctoral degree in economics at Texas Tech University and graduated in 2013. Before joining the Foundation in September 2013, Ginn taught at three universities and one community college across Texas. Ginn has successfully published peer-reviewed articles in top tier academic journals, commentaries in major media outlets, and posts on free market blogs. He is a Director on the Missouri Valley Economic Association’s Executive Committee and presents high quality research at professional meetings.

Ginger Goodin

Ginger Goodin is a Senior Research Engineer in Texas Transportation Institute’s Austin Office, where she has spearheaded leading-edge research and supported the practical application of innovative strategies with Central Texas transportation agencies since 1996. She serves as the Director of the Transportation Policy Research Center at TTI, supporting the Texas State Legislature with objective, data-driven transportation policy research in the areas of finance, freight, congestion, public engagement and technology. Ms. Goodin has 30 years of broad experience in all areas of roadway planning, development, maintenance and operations and has led diverse research for TTI on the forefront of emerging topics, including congestion pricing, managed lanes, mileage-based user fees, and automated vehicles.

As Policy Center Director, Ms. Goodin provides strategic direction for automated and connected vehicle research studies performed under the center. She has been invited as a speaker and thought leader on the topic of state and local policy implications of automated vehicles, covering issues ranging from the multiplicity of policy roles to infrastructure investment opportunities for connected automation. She serves on several national research committees related to innovations in technology and transportation.

Barb Haselden

Barb Haselden was the Campaign Manager for No Tax for Tracks during the 2014 election on light rail in St. Petersburg, Florida. The all volunteer working team of No Tax for Tracks, led by
insurance executive Barb Haselden, boiled the complex issues of the light rail referendum down to simple truisms that resonated with the public starting with their very name, No Tax for Tracks.

Greenlight was sacked by a band of Happy Warriors who educated the voters against being looted! Barbara will give a fun talk with the details of the Grassroots Campaign that knocked down the establishment.

**Jesse Hathaway**

Jesse Hathaway is the managing editor of the Budget & Tax News, a publication of The Heartland Institute. Before joining Heartland, Hathaway worked for Media Trackers, a conservative non-profit news organization active in 5 states. His investigatory research has appeared in local, state, and national publications including The Daily Caller, Drudge Report, and the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Hathaway received his bachelor's degree from Ohio University, where he majored in English. In 2010, he was one of several featured presenters at the Conservative Political Action Conference, giving an address on the subject of government transparency and accountability.

**Mike Heiligenstein**

Mike Heiligenstein is the Executive Director of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, an independent government agency created in 2002 to design a modern, regional transportation network for Central Texas. The Mobility Authority's current and future projects are key elements in a carefully planned, multi-modal transportation system designed to meet the diverse mobility needs of this fast-growing region. Mike has been with the Mobility Authority since its inception and has overseen the development of their first project, 183A in Williamson County. 183A is one of the first projects in the country to transition to all-electronic, cashless toll collection. Before taking the helm at the Mobility Authority, Mike served the citizens of Williamson County for 23 years as a public official. During his years of public service, Mike initiated and helped supervise $1.5 billion in capital improvement projects.

**Jeff Judson**

Jeff Judson is a public policy consultant and member of the Board of Directors of The Heartland Institute. He was named one of the “most influential people in San Antonio in 2014” by the *San Antonio Express-News* for his successful efforts to block construction of a light-rail system. He is currently running for the Texas State House of Representatives.

Judson is the former president of the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Under his leadership the TPPF became one of the largest and most influential free market state think tanks in the U.S. and became known for its influence on public opinion, the news media, state legislators and top elected officials, a fact acknowledged by major newspapers in the state. In the year 2002 alone, TPPF earned over $17 million in statewide news media coverage.

**Ed Kilduff**

Ed Kilduff has been an environmental consultant for over 20 years. Kilduff has worked on environmental cleanups for the Navy and the Department of Energy in both California and Washington, where he is licensed as both a hydrogeologist and engineering geologist. He has
particular experience with groundwater monitoring and cleanup in shoreline areas, including fate and transport of chemicals and radioisotopes. Prior to working in the environmental field, Kilduff was a marketing and advertising Brand Manager in Europe, and also worked as an oil exploration geophysicist for prospects on the North Slope of Alaska. He earned a BS in Geology and Mathematics from Tufts University, an MS in Geophysics from the Colorado School of Mines, and an MS in Management from the MIT Sloan School of Management. He is president of the Common Sense Alliance, a grassroots effort to alert the public to San Juan County, Washington’s proposed regulations of wetlands, streams, lakes, ponds, and shorelines.

**Marlo Lewis**

Marlo Lewis, Jr. is a Senior Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, writing on global warming, energy policy, and public policy issues. Marlo has been published in The Washington Times, Investors Business Daily, TechCentralStation, National Review, and Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy. He has appeared on various television and radio programs, and his ideas have been featured in radio commentary by Rush Limbaugh and G. Gordon Liddy. Prior to joining CEI in 2002, he served as Director of External Relations at the Reason Foundation in Los Angeles, California. He holds a Ph.D. in Government from Harvard University and a B.A. in Political Science from Claremont McKenna College. His interests include the science, economics, and politics of global warming policy; the precautionary principle; environmentalism and religion; and the moral basis of free enterprise.

**Vince May**

Vince May has been a longtime resident of Elgin, Texas, a suburb of Austin. Over the last 30 years he watched the devolution of the City of Austin from a reasonably well run city to a prime example of Smart Growth. Vincent says, “It was amusing at first. Next, there was a proliferation of new taxes and fees. Then the taxes and fees began going up inexorably.”

As this was happening, pressure was put on suburban cities to adopt Smart Growth policies. When the city of Elgin agreed to a $516 million light rail line connecting to Austin, Vince led a revolt which killed the rail project and is now working to get road funding restored for US 290, the main route connecting Austin, Elgin and Houston. Vince will discuss the use of petitioning to steer public policy.

**Glen Morgan**

Glen Morgan was the Grassroots Director and the Property Rights Director at the Freedom Foundation. He enjoys creating videos documenting Big Government’s abuses of citizens – particularly on property rights issues. He is a frequent writer and speaker on property rights, the environmental movement, Big Government, and the importance of citizen activism. In 2014, Bill Whittle called Glen, "The ascended high master of political messaging." Glen doesn’t consider himself a high master of anything, but he does like to expose the truth about the issues that impact average citizens in Washington State.

Glen’s articles have been reproduced in publications ranging from the Heritage Insider to local blog sites. He has also been featured on King5 News, KOMO News, Fox News (Q13), The David Boze show, among other television and radio appearances. He frequently testifies on property rights issues at local government hearings and at the Washington State Legislature.
Randal O’Toole
Randal O’Toole is a senior fellow with the Cato Institute and author of five books on the follies of government planning. Before working for Cato, he taught environmental economics at Yale, University of California (Berkeley), and Utah State University.

Bob Pishue
Bob Pishue is the Director of the Coles Center for Transportation at Washington Policy Center. Prior to joining Washington Policy Center in 2013, Bob interned at the Washington Research Council where he produced policy briefs on initiatives and referenda. His last role was the IT and HR Manager for a Bellevue-based retailer. A Washington resident throughout his life, Bob grew up in Everett and graduated from Central Washington University with a bachelor’s degree in economics. Bob serves on his church’s annual audit committee and is also an avid golfer. He lives in Kirkland.

James Quintero
James Quintero is the Director of the Center for Local Governance at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, one of America’s premier conservative think tanks. He’s been featured in The New York Times, Forbes, The Huffington Post, Fox News, and Breitbart. Since joining the Foundation in 2008, Quintero has focused his research efforts on: state & local government spending, debt, taxes, financial transparency, annexation, and pension reform.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Quintero was a Graduate Research Assistant at Texas State University, where he worked to educate high school students on financial aid and scholarship opportunities. Quintero received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.P.A. with an emphasis in public finance from Texas State University.

Tom Rubin
Thomas A. Rubin, CPA, CMA, CMC, CIA, CGFM, CFM has over four decades of experience in government surface transportation and finance, concentrating on public transit. As a consultant and auditor, he has served well over 100 transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, state departments of transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, suppliers to the transit industry, and not-for-profits.

He founded and directed the public transportation practice of what is now Deloitte & Touche, LLP, growing it to the largest of its type. He has also served as the chief financial officer of two the largest transit systems in the U.S., including the Southern California Rapid Transit District (now Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority), the third largest.

Since 1996, he has been a sole practitioner consultant, helping government agencies to improve their capital, operational, and financial planning and overseeing contraction projects. He has been named “the world’s funniest transit accountant” (not in reference to transit agency financial statements he has worked on).

Michael Sargent
Michael Sargent is a Research Associate in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation. His research analyzes trends in federal spending,
transportation and infrastructure, the federal budget and appropriations processes, and the national debt. He also examines Internet regulation and the preservation of a free and dynamic Internet.

Sargent is a regular contributor to The Heritage Foundation’s news platform, the Daily Signal. His work has also been featured in national outlets such as The Hill, Fox News, and Real Clear Policy. Sargent also authors and contributes research to Heritage’s institutional policy papers, including Issue Briefs and Backgrounders. Some of his signature products include the annual Federal Budget in Pictures, a visual chart book that dissect and depicts trends in fiscal policy, as well as All About the Money, a guide to the effects of federal spending and national debt for Millennials.

**Marc Scribner**

Marc Scribner joined the Competitive Enterprise Institute as a research fellow in 2008, where he focuses on transportation, land use, and telecommunications policy issues. These include infrastructure investment and operations, transportation safety and security, risk and regulation, privatization and public finance, urban redevelopment and property rights, and emerging transportation technologies such as automated road vehicles and unmanned aircraft systems. He frequently advises policy makers on these matters at the federal, state, and local levels.

He has appeared on Fox Business and also written for numerous publications, including USA Today, The Washington Post, CNN.com, MSNBC.com, Forbes, and National Review. His work has been cited by The Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Congressional Quarterly, Washington Monthly, POLITICO, CNN, Bloomberg, BBC, C-SPAN, and other print, television, and radio outlets.

**Jim Skaggs**

Jim Skaggs is an Austin transportation activist and retired CEO of Tracor, a Fortune-500 company. As the co-founder of the Coalition on Sustainable Transportation (COST), Skaggs helped lead two successful campaigns against light rail in Austin.

**Sam Staley**

Staley is managing director of the DeVoe L. Moore Center, an interdisciplinary research center in FSU’s College for Social Sciences and Public Policy, and the co-author of “Mobility First: A New Vision for Transportation in a Globally Competitive 21st Century,” (Rowman & Littlefield 2006). He also is a research fellow at the Reason Foundation and a senior fellow at both the Indiana Policy Review Foundation and the Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions. Staley can address the need to examine social impact, cost vs. benefits and the long-range sustainability of the proposed Hyperloop.

**Ron Utt**

Ronald Utt is an independent economic consultant and the author of a recently published book on the War of 1812 -- Ships of Oak, Guns of Iron: The War of 1812 and the Forging of the American Navy. Previously Dr. Utt was the Herbert and Joyce Morgan Senior Research Fellow at The Heritage Foundation where he wrote on housing, transportation, privatization, urban
revitalization, land use, and growth management. In the 1970s, he was Director of the Housing Finance Division at HUD. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan appointed him to lead his efforts on privatization of federal activities. He also served as Executive Vice President of the National Chamber Foundation where he created the Journal of Economic Growth, and the Journal of Regulation and Social Costs. In the early 1990s he served as an economic consultant to governments in Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, Lithuanian, Estonia and Slovakia. He is editor of the books, 21st Century Highways, and A Guide to Smart Growth: Shattering Myths, Providing Solutions.

**Joseph Warren**

Joseph Warren, Current president Washington D.C. Chapter of the Transportation Research Forum Mr. Warren is a retired economist, formerly with the Transportation Issues Group of the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Mr. Warren has an M.A. in economics from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.A. from John Carroll University.

His 23 years at GAO included work on the effects of railroad and trucking deregulation, maximum rate policies of the Interstate Commerce Commission, capital cost analysis of vessels in the domestic shipping trade, Amtrak’s economic impact on the intercity bus industry, and analysis of Amtrak’s national revenue forecasting model and cost methodology. In mid-2004 he became a member of Arlington, Virginia’s Transit Advisory Committee. As a member he did detailed analysis of two consultant reports on the proposed Columbia Pike streetcar which directly contributed to the cancellation of this project. He was a candidate for Arlington County Board in 2007.

Mr. Warren was recently appointed to Arlington’s Transportation Commission. He has participated in several debates and presentations about the streetcar, and was interviewed several times by VirginiaWatchdog.org. He has written several articles published in Transportation Quarterly.

**Kathleen White**

Kathleen Hartnett White joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation in January 2008. She is a Distinguished Senior Fellow-in-Residence and Director of the Armstrong Center for Energy & the Environment. Prior to joining the Foundation, White served a six-year term as Chairman and Commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). With regulatory jurisdiction over air quality, water quality, water rights & utilities, storage and disposal of waste, TCEQ’s staff of 3,000, annual budget of over $600 million, and 16 regional offices make it the second largest environmental regulatory agency in the world after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Prior to Governor Rick Perry’s appointment of White to the TCEQ in 2001, she served as then Governor George Bush appointee to the Texas Water Development Board where she sat until appointed to TCEQ. She also served on the Texas Economic Development Commission and the Environmental Flows Study Commission. White now sits on the editorial board of the Journal of Regulatory Science, the Texas Emission Reduction Advisory Board, and the Texas Water Foundation. Her writing has appeared in numerous publications including National Review, Investors’ Business Daily, Forbes, and major Texas newspapers. She most recently testified before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.