City of Toronto/TTC Expert Advisory Panel

Panel Member Biographies

Enid Slack (Co-Chair and Panel Facilitator) is the Director of the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG) at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto. Enid has written extensively on a range of topics including property taxes, intergovernmental transfers, development charges, financing municipal infrastructure, municipal governance, and municipal boundary restructuring.

Recent publications include Financing Infrastructure: Who Should Pay? and Is Your City Healthy? Measuring Urban Fiscal Health (both co-edited with Richard Bird). Enid has also chaired or been a member of numerous panels and commissions, including the Who Does What Panel in Ontario and the City of Vancouver's Property Tax Policy Review Commission.

Enid consults on municipal finance and governance issues in countries around the world, including with international agencies such as the World Bank, IMF, UN Habitat, Asian Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. In 2012, she was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work on cities.

Pedro Barata is United Way's Senior Vice President, Community Impact & Strategy. Pedro works with United Way teams and community partners to develop and implement strategies that can drive impact and change. Pedro provides strategic leadership at United Way in the areas of community investment and partnerships, communications, policy and public affairs, research and evaluation, as well as cross-organizational strategy, Pedro first joined United Way in 2011 as Director, Public Affairs.

His work and extensive volunteer activities in the non-profit sector span two decades. Pedro's prior experience included roles at the Atkinson Charitable Foundation and Family Service Toronto. During this time he has advised all levels of government on social policy including: poverty reduction, income security reform, housing and homelessness, as well as community benefits initiatives. Pedro holds a Bachelor of Arts from York University and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Toronto.

Joe Berridge is an urban planner and city builder who has had an integral role in the development of complex urban planning and regeneration projects in Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Europe and Asia. He has been strategic advisor for the development of the city centres of Manchester, Belfast and Cardiff and for the waterfronts of Toronto, Singapore, Sydney, Cork, London and Governors Island in New York City. He has prepared campus master plans for the University of Manchester and Waterloo, Queen's and Western in Canada and is now planning the new hub for Toronto Pearson International Airport. His book Perfect City was recently published by Sutherland House.

Drew Fagan is a professor at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Prior to joining the University of Toronto and establishing his own consulting company, he spent 12 years in leadership positions with the governments of Ontario and Canada. With the Government of Ontario, he was Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport with responsibility for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games. Drew joined the Ontario Public Service in 2009 from Ottawa, where he was Assistant Deputy Minister for strategic policy and planning at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (now Global Affairs Canada).

Before becoming a public servant in 2004, Drew worked at The Globe and Mail, where he was parliamentary bureau chief, editorial page editor and columnist, foreign editor, associate editor of Report on Business and Washington correspondent.

Steven Farber is a transportation geographer and spatial analyst. His research investigates the social and economic outcomes of transportation and land-use decision making in urban areas. He is working on projects related to the distributional aspects of transit accessibility, personal mobility, and participation in the activities of daily life.

He has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, is on the editorial board of multiple international geography and transportation journals, and chairs the Social and Economic Factors Committee at the Transportation Research Board, one of the US National Academies of Science.

Debbie Gillespie has recently retired and works as a consultant specializing in built environment and transit. She recently facilitated the rollout of Unified English Braille across Canada. In her advocacy role, she works with City staff to improve access to goods and services, and with local transit agencies to enhance way-finding strategies, and provide recommendations on usability. Debbie is former chair of the TTC Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit.

Shirley Hoy has had a lengthy public service career including serving as Toronto's City Manager from 2001 to 2008 and working as an Assistant Deputy Minister in three Ontario ministries. She held various policy and planning-related positions in the former Metro Toronto government, including with the Department of Community Services, as General Manager of the Corporate Secretary at Exhibition Place and as Executive Director in the Metro Chairman's office. Ms. Hoy also served as Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, where she provided leadership on many major services ranging from social assistance, homes for the aged, housing and support, public health, and parks and recreation. Following her term as Toronto City Manager, she served 5 years as the CEO of the Toronto Lands Corporation

Andy Manahan is the executive director of the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario. RCCAO was formed in 2005 as a coalition of contractor associations and construction unions to speak with a stronger voice and offer solutions to government on infrastructure investment. It has commissioned almost 50 independent research reports and produced 10 videos on topics that have covered funding and governance structures to better deliver transit, roads, bridges, and water and sewer systems. Mr. Manahan is also on the advisory board of the University of Toronto's Transportation Research Institute. He also served on the 13-citizen Transit Investment Strategy Advisory Panel which presented its recommendations to the Province in 2013.

Joe Pennachetti has more than 35 years of municipal financial management experience and was Toronto's City Manager from 2008 to 2015. He is currently a senior fellow at the Institute of Municipal Finance and Governance, a Director of OMERS sponsors corporation, Chair of the Ontario Clean Water Agency Board of Directors, and the Executive Advisor, Global City Strategy for the World Council on City Data. Joe previously served as Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer for the City of Toronto from 2002 to 2008. He was Treasurer and Commissioner of Finance for the Regional Municipality of Peel for seven years, from 1995 to 2002. From 1990 to 1995, he was Treasurer and Commissioner of Finance for the Regional Municipality of York. Prior to that, he worked in the finance departments of the Regional Municipality of Durham and the City of Edmonton.

Bill Robson is President and CEO of the C.D. Howe Institute. He previously served as the Institute's Senior Vice President since 2003 and Director of Research since 2000. He has written more than 230 monographs, articles, chapters and books on such subjects as government budgets, pensions, healthcare financing, inflation and currency issues. His work has won awards from the Policy Research Secretariat, the Canadian Economics Association, and the Donner Canadian Foundation. He is a Senior Fellow at Massey College and holds an ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. He is a member of the Panel of Senior Advisors to the Auditor General of Ontario and the Ifo World Economic Survey expert group, and a regular commentator on BNN/Bloomberg. Bill taught public finance and public policy at the University of Toronto from 2000 to 2003, and currently teaches a Master's level course in public finance at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Shoshanna Saxe is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering at the University of Toronto. Prof. Saxe 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. Prof. Saxe 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.

Prof. Saxe 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 recognize by Clean 50 as one of Canada's emerging environmental leaders.

Matti Siemiatycki is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography & Planning, Canada Research Chair in Infrastructure Planning and Finance, and Interim Director of the School of Cities. His research focuses on delivering large-scale infrastructure projects, public-private partnerships, and the effective integration of infrastructure into the fabric of cities. Professor Siemiatycki was a faculty leader of StudentMoveTO, a joint initiative between the University of Toronto, York, Ryerson and OCADU that successfully developed a model for inter-university research collaboration and mobilization on city-building issues. He has undertaken studies on major cities in Canada and around the world including Vancouver, London, Los Angeles, Sydney, Bilbao, and Delhi.

Hana Syed is the Co-Founder of the internationally recognized non-profit organization Global Youth Impact (GYI) – a platform that empowers youth to be leaders and changemakers locally and globally. She is a motivational speaker, singer/song-writer, community organizer, and advocate. Hana is a featured TEDx speaker and is regularly invited to share her expertise, deliver speeches, and host workshops for schools, community initiatives, various levels of government, international conferences, and news media. Alongside her siblings, she writes and performs music as DEYSofficial. Notably, their music is featured with the United Nations Music Against Child Labour Initiative. Their song "Champions" garnered attention for the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games hosted in Toronto. Hana has been a Youth Ambassador for the City since childhood. She continues to advise and advocate for the City's best interests through research, public consultations, and deputations, specializing in transit, housing, mental health and youth engagement.

Patricia Wood is Professor of Geography and co-founder of the City Institute at York University. She does research on democracy, governance and political practice, particularly as they concern issues of mobility and belonging. She writes a column for Spacing.com on urban transit and transportation issues, and is a co-author of CodeRedTO's recent transit report, Mixed Signals: Toronto Transit in a North American Context.