

Speaker Bios

Senator Tammy Baldwin has represented constituents in Wisconsin since 1986. She was elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors, the Wisconsin State Assembly, the US House of Representatives, and most recently, the US Senate, having served in her current role for 12 years.

Craig Thompson was appointed Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) in January 2019 by Governor Tony Evers. WisDOT is one of the largest state agencies, with over 3,100 employees and a biennial budget of over \$8 billion.

The department supports all modes of transportation, including state highways, local roads, railroads, public transit systems, airports, and harbors. In addition, the department includes the Division of Motor Vehicles, which serves about 50,000 customers each week, and the Division of State Patrol, which enforces laws and assists motorists throughout the state.

Thompson plays an active role in transportation policy at the national and regional levels. He serves as the 2024 president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) after serving as the organization's vice president in 2023. He also served as the 2020 president of the Mid-America Association of State Transportation Officials (MAASTO).

Previously, he was the executive director of the Transportation Development Association (TDA) of Wisconsin. He has more than 30 years of experience working with Wisconsin businesses, communities, legislators, and units of government. Prior to leading TDA, he served as the legislative director for the Wisconsin Counties Association, managing legislative initiatives at the state and federal levels.

Jim Tymon is the Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), a non-profit, non-partisan association that supports and represents the interests and missions of state departments of transportation. His experience includes service in key Congressional and federal agency roles and non-profit association management.

As AASHTO Executive Director, Tymon oversees a staff of 120 professionals who support their members in developing transportation solutions that create economic prosperity, enhance quality of life, and improve transportation safety in U.S. communities, states, and the nation. AASHTO is now in its second century of service to state departments of transportation and their highly skilled employees.

Prior to his appointment, Tymon was AASHTO's Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Policy and Management from 2013 to 2018, working closely with state DOTs in the development of AASHTO's transportation policy positions and overseeing the monitoring of legislative,

Speaker Bios cont.

administrative, and regulatory activities relating to transportation. As AASHTO's COO, he also oversaw managing the Association's internal operations.

Tymon previously served as the staff director of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. As staff director, Tymon managed the subcommittee responsible for writing legislation for the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

He was the Committee's lead staffer for the development of MAP-21 — the surface transportation bill signed into law in 2012, and SAFETEA LU – the surface transportation bill signed into law in 2005. Tymon served in the Office of Management and Budget, where he worked as the program examiner responsible for overseeing the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Tymon graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science, along with a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy.

Alison Premo Black manages ARTBA's economics staff and is responsible for over 130 studies examining national and state transportation funding and investment patterns. She completed her PhD in Economics at George Washington University and her master's work at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

She has been interviewed numerous times as an industry expert for national and local print, television, and radio, including the NBC TODAY show, the Washington Post, NPR, USA Today, the Wall Street Journal, the PBS News Hour, NOVA, The Economist, and industry publications. She has also testified on transportation funding issues before seven state legislative committees.

Her publications include the association's landmark economic profile, state bridge condition profiles, and annual modal forecast.

Chuck Baker joined the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association as President after a 15-year career in the railroad industry. Before joining ASLRRRA, he was a Partner at Chambers Conlon & Hartwell (CC&H), where, in addition to the ASLRRRA, he represented clients such as the National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association (NRC), the OneRail Coalition, the American Railway Development Association, Norfolk Southern, and Canadian National.

For the NRC, Baker also served as its President. In that capacity, he was responsible for the association's core financial, operational, and legal programs, including the federal legislative and regulatory program in front of Congress and the Administration. For the OneRail Coalition, a

Speaker Bios cont.

coalition of freight rail, intercity passenger rail, commuter rail, rail labor, and rail supply industry interests, Baker coordinated the group's activities and messaging.

Prior to joining CC&H, Baker worked with the Surface Transportation Policy Project in Washington, D.C. He has also worked for Deutsche Bank Securities as an investment banker specializing in Corporate Finance and Mergers & Acquisitions in San Francisco, CA. Baker is a native of Baltimore, MD, and a graduate of Rice University in Houston, TX.