



**Gail Lyssy** is the Regional Administrator for the Region 6 office of the Federal Transit Administration. Based in Fort Worth, Region 6 is responsible for providing funding and oversight to transit providers in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Gail joined the FTA in 1996 as the Regional Engineer in Region 6 after working as a transportation engineering consultant in Dallas. She is a 1985 graduate of Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas.



**Dr. Maggi Gunnels** is Regional Administrator, Region 6, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, overseeing the Federal highway safety programs in Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and the Indian Nations. She came to the United States Department of Transportation in 2002, after working more than fifteen years in clinical care, emergency trauma program administration, and in academia, in Texas and Oregon. Dr. Gunnels served more than a decade in the Federal Senior Executive Service, most recently as the Associate Administrator for the NHSTA Office of Regional Operations and Program Delivery. Dr. Gunnels is a recipient of the Secretary of Transportation's Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement for her work on the surface transportation authorization team in 2016. In 2020, she received the Secretary's Transportation Safety Award for her work on the NHSTA Tribal Safety Team. Maggie resides in Texas with her family and enjoys wildlife photography and outdoor adventure. In 2020, Dr. Gunnels received her certification as a Texas Master Naturalist, volunteering in conservation efforts across the State of Texas.



**David A. Dean, J.D.** serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Dean International, Inc., an international public policy consultancy and the principal consultancy for TEX-21. He is a member in good standing of the Dallas Bar, State Bar of Texas, and American Bar Associations. David served the State of Texas for over a decade as general counsel to both Republican Governor William P. Clements, Jr., and his predecessor, Democratic Governor Dolph Briscoe. He also served as Texas Secretary of State under Governor Clements. He has been a leader in multimodal transportation policy and project development for over 4 decades. He is currently heavily involved with High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail, the Panama Canal Expansion, The Third Coast Initiative, the development of creative transportation funding solutions including Expiring Revenue Enhancements (EREs) and several transportation corridor coalitions spanning the state and nation. He has experience on numerous boards, agencies, and special committees throughout the United States. Mr. Dean is also an Emeritus member of the National Association of Secretaries of State; he is also an Eagle Scout.



**Gary Fickes** serves as Tarrant County Commissioner, and he is a native of Houston, Texas. He moved to north Texas in 1979. From 1989 to 1996, Gary served as Mayor of Southlake during which time he gained hands-on experience in helping to build a great community. He was elected Tarrant County Commissioner in 2006, then re-elected in 2008, 2012, and 2016. He is Vice Chairman of the National Association of Counties Transportation Committee, Chairman of TEX-21, former Chairman of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Transportation Council, former Chairman of the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition, and a member of the Governor's Economic Development Stakeholders Committee. Commissioner Fickes formed a Senior Task Force to address the needs of senior citizens in our community and find solutions to improve their well-being.



**Dr. Ghassan “Gus” Khankarli, Ph.D. PE, PMP, CLTD** currently serves as the Director of the City of Dallas’ Department of Transportation. In his current position, Dr. Khankarli leads the department’s multimodal strategic vision including the integration of transportation assets with emerging technology needs. Dr. Khankarli has over 30 years of professional experience including 24 years in various capacities with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Dr. Khankarli is a member of TRB’s Standing Committees on Aviation Administration and Policy (AV 010) and Intermodal Freight Transport (AT 045) as well as North Central Texas Council of Governments’ Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) working group and TxDOT’s Urban Air Mobility (UAM) committee. Dr. Khankarli holds a doctoral degree in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas, an MBA from the University of Dallas, a Master of Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington.



**Caroline Mays** joined the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in late 2012 and has held several positions including, Statewide Freight Coordinator, Freight Planning Branch Manager, Director of Freight, and International Trade/Border Section, Director of Freight, Trade and Connectivity, and currently serves as the Director of Planning and Modal Programs. She is charged with directing and overseeing all planning activities of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) through a comprehensive systems approach, ensuring the implementation of a robust multimodal, multidisciplinary, innovative, and consensus-oriented planning process. She is responsible for directing and overseeing Planning and Modal Programs; Aviation, Maritime, Public Transportation, Rail, and Transportation Planning and Programming. Ms. Mays is a member of the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners. She serves as the Vice-Chair of the Association of American State Highway Transportation Official’s (AASHTO) Special Committee on Freight and is a member of the Transportation Research Board’s (TRB) Planning and Logistics Committee. Ms. Mays serves on the World Road Association (PIARC) Technical Committee on Freight. Ms. Mays holds a Bachelor’s degree in urban and Regional Planning from the University of Waterloo, Canada, and a Master’s degree of Science in Planning from the University of Toronto, Canada.



**Michelle Hillery** was sworn in as the Place 4 Council member to fill the vacancy of Dustin Jordan and was voted into the Council on March 8. As the appointed Chairperson of the first Oak Leaf Planning and Zoning Commission in 2021 to bring citizen transparency to planned development requests, she provided leadership and experience in engineering and impact assessment analysis in the plat review and recommendation process. She moved to Oak Leaf in September 1995 and has two grown children and one Granddaughter. She earned a Bachelor of Political Science and Master of Public Administration degree from Texas A&M University in College Station. Hillery believes in government transparency and accountability. She would like to continue to facilitate communication with the citizens and encourage citizen participation in the City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings.



**Eric L. Gleason** formerly served as director of service development for the King County Department of Transportation, Metro Transit, in Washington State, one of the largest and most populous counties in the country. His office was responsible for the planning and implementing of public transportation services, facilities, and market development for more than 200 routes carrying almost 100 million riders per year. Prior to joining King County Metro in 1985, Gleason was a transit planner for the Tri-County Metropolitan Transit District of Oregon. He also served two years in the Peace Corps in the Solomon Islands.



**Thomas Jasien** has been METRO's Deputy CEO since 2014. He joined the Authority in 2000 as Senior Director of Government Affairs and Community Outreach. As Deputy CEO, Jasien oversees the departments of Operations and Human Resources. Tom is spearheading the authorities' efforts to hire and retain the workforce necessary to rebuild METRO's full-service levels. Prior to joining METRO, Jasien had an extensive career in Washington, D.C. Jasien also held key staff positions with the United States Senate, a government relations consulting firm and a major trade association.



**Jon Gary Herrera** is responsible for VIA's Public Engagement Group, including Marketing & Communications, Government & Community Relations, and Customer Relations & Sales. Herrera previously served as Regional Vice President of Communications for Spectrum, where he led award-winning strategic communications, public relations, and government affairs programs for 2 million customers throughout the Texas region. Herrera is a San Antonio native and UTSA graduate with deep ties to the community and extensive experience in public and private sector initiatives.



**Christopher Boedeker** serves as the budget officer and chief executive officer for the county, overseeing many of the day-to-day operations. His role also includes other responsibilities such as emergency management, public policy, and the Elections Commission. Judge Boedeker and his wife, Andrea, are life-long residents of Johnson County. They live in Cleburne, a municipality located in Johnson County, where they are raising their children. Judge Boedeker previously served as a prosecutor in Johnson County and served on the Cleburne City Council. He is a graduate of Cleburne Highschool, Baylor University, and Baylor Law School.



**Travis Ransom** has served as Cass County Judge since May of 2022. He previously served as Mayor of the City of Atlanta for four years. Travis is a fifth generation Cass County native and in private business as a commercial insurance agent for Offenhauser Insurance. Prior to joining Offenhauser, he served as a legislative aide in the Texas State Senate for eleven years. Travis is also a 26-year veteran of the Army Reserve and currently serves as a Brigade Command Sergeant Major for the Army Reserve Operations Group (AROG). He has been mobilized and deployed multiple times in support of peacekeeping and contingency operations around the world. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service following his most recent deployment

where his unit was among the last to depart Afghanistan in the summer of 2021. He is a 1996 graduate of Atlanta High School, attended Texarkana College and went on to earn a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science from Texas A&M University-Texarkana.