



**RTD Citizens Advisory Committee  
Member Bios**

(Updated May 16, 2016)

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**Gabriella Arismendi** is a Transportation Planner for Stolfus and Associates in the Denver Tech Center. She leads statewide efforts pertaining to multi-modal transportation planning and transportation systems management and operations. Prior to Stolfus, she worked for over seven years in the public sector for a municipality and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Orlando, FL. She coordinated efforts between the state DOT, the transit authority, and the MPO on sustainable transit planning practices and addressed last-mile connectivity throughout the Central Florida region. She commutes to work via light rail and rides the bus to run errands on the weekends. Ms. Arismendi holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University and a Graduate Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Central Florida. She resides with her husband in Littleton, RTD District H. *(Term expires 5/2019)*

**Ken Claussen** works for the University of Colorado Cancer Center in the IT department. He is the current vice chair of the City and County of Broomfield's Local Licensing Authority, which is primarily responsible for issuing liquor licenses and enforcing of liquor license code. He is a former vice chair of the City of Westminster Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, serving 4 years on that board. He volunteers his time at a number of organizations in the north metro area. Mr. Claussen holds a Bachelors of Science degree from Western Illinois University, a Bachelors of Computer Science degree from Metropolitan State College of Denver and an MBA from Oklahoma City University. He uses the RTD system daily to commute to the University of Colorado at Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, and is a resident of Broomfield, District I. *(Term expires 5/2019)*

**Heather Cronenberg** is currently employed as the Open Space Coordinator for the City of Westminster. In this position, she focuses on real estate transactions for the City, primarily related to open space acquisitions, master planning, development review, and open space/park amenities. In addition to large complex acquisitions, Mrs. Cronenberg is actively involved in park visioning, economic development, and planning that correspond to transportation projects such as the South Westminster rail station. She is a recent graduate of the Transit Alliance's Citizen Academy and sits on the Steering Committee for the Colorado Open Space Alliance. Mrs. Cronenberg graduated from The University of Georgia with a degree in Political Science and a focus on non-profit management. She resides with her husband and two children in the Park Hill neighborhood of Denver, District B. *(Term expires 5/2018)*

**Sandra Dowling** is President/Owner of Sandra Dowling, a small business in Denver providing communication and transportation planning services to private and public sector clients. Before opening her firm in 2011, she worked at URS Corporation as a senior transportation planner engaged in several RTD FasTracks projects. She has experience with a variety of public projects requiring NEPA compliance for clients such as CDOT, RTD and City of Colorado Springs. Ms. Dowling has served for eight years on the Lafayette Historic Preservation Board, three years on the Boulder County Historic Preservation Advisory Board, and three years as director-at-large for WTS International, the Colorado chapter for women in transportation. She is a graduate of the Denver Transit Alliance Citizen's

Academy and has ridden the RTD system many years. Ms. Dowling has a BA in Journalism from the University of Northern Colorado and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado, Denver. She lives in District B. *(Term expires 5/2017)*

**Rodger A. Hara** is owner and Principal of Community Builders Realty Services, a firm that helps government agencies and for-profit and non-profit developers find their way through the affordable housing finance and development maze. He has worked in affordable housing finance and development for 40 years at HUD, the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, the Denver Housing Authority and various mortgage companies. He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mercy Loan Fund for 2 years and is currently on the Boards of the Arapahoe House and Sam S. Bloom Foundations, the Colorado Housing Assistance Corporation and Theatre Esprit Asia. He is a Denver native, life-long user of public transit and a graduate of the Transit Alliance Citizens Academy. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Denver and is a resident of Denver District E. *(Term expires 5/2018)*

**Jeff Kraft** is Director of Business Funding and Incentives for the State of Colorado Office of Economic Development and International trade. He has done extensive volunteer work for child abuse prevention and elder service agencies. He graduated from the Denver Transit Alliance Citizen's Academy in the Spring of 2012. He worked for AT&T and other wireless carriers and did economic and public policy consulting at LECG. Mr. Kraft holds a BA in Economics and Political Science from Tufts University, a Master of Public Policy Degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master of Science in Real Estate from New York University and is a resident of Boulder, RTD District O. *(Term expires 5/2018)*

**Joseph Lamers** is retired from the Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSUD), where he worked in a variety of Information Technology positions. Since retiring he has made transportation, particularly for special populations, his focus. Joe is an active member of the Jefferson County LCC and the RTD Accessibility Design Panel. He uses the RTD system on a daily basis including fixed bus and rail routes and Access-A-Ride. Joe has a Bachelor of Arts in Management from the University of Denver, a Certificate in Non-Profit Administration and a BS in Computer Management Systems from MSUD. He served on the Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee, charged with writing the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, for the City of Lakewood and graduated from the Transit Alliance Citizens Academy in 2015. Joe and his wife live in Lakewood, RTD District M. *(Term expires 5/2019)*

**Bill Maestas** is President/Owner of Maestas, Inc., a small business consulting. As an active member of the Denver banking community for over 35 years, he has been involved with and responsible for marketing, public relations and community involvement. He has worked with small business loan customers, low-to-moderate-income individuals in distressed areas, non-profits, and minority- and women-owned small businesses. Mr. Maestas has been involved with many non-profit organizations and was a former board member for Mercy Housing Colorado, RMMSDC and the Women's Bean Project. He currently serves on the Hyland Foundation Board, Smart Commute Metro North and is a Westminster Rotarian. He is a recent graduate of the Denver Transit Alliance Citizen's Academy. He is also an Alumnae of the University of Colorado's Graduate School of Banking and the 2004 Leadership Denver class. Conversant in Spanish, Mr. Maestas is a Denver native and resident of District J. *(Term expires 5/2018)*

**Ryan McCaw** works for local non-profit affordable housing and human services provider Metro West Housing Solutions, owner of more than 1,200 apartments and 100,000+ square feet of commercial space in Lakewood and Denver. He has a diverse background in real estate development, sustainable

design, real estate finance, and urban planning and has worked in the private, non-profit, and public sectors. His roles include new real estate development planning and financing, funding acquisition and grant writing, and integrating sustainability into new and existing real estate investments and agency operations. He is a LEED AP O+M and received a Bachelor of Environmental Design from the University of Colorado and a Master of City of Planning and real estate certificate from the University of Pennsylvania. Ryan serves on multiple community-oriented boards and committees and actively volunteers with his graduate school alumni club. Ryan is a Denver native and lives in RTD District D. *(Term expires 5/2019)*

**Joanna Morsicato** is currently a manager for Environment and Planning at Michael Baker International with a focus on transportation. She has many years of transportation planning and public involvement experience for roadway and transit projects, working with diverse audiences and community interests. Recent projects have included the Honolulu Rail Transit Project and the RTD SE and SW Corridor Light Rail Extensions. She is a life-long transit user and supporter of multi-modal transportation opportunities. Ms. Morsicato has a BA in Anthropology from the University of Chicago and an MA in Geography with an Urban Planning emphasis from the University of Colorado, Denver. She has been a Colorado resident for over 40 years and is a long time resident of unincorporated Jefferson County within RTD District N. *(Term expires 5/2019)*

**Del Phillips** currently serves as president of the Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance and founder and convener of the Colorado Black Leadership Caucus, a collaboration of key community leaders within the African American Community. He has served as senior Pastor of The House Worship Center for more than twenty years and as a clergyman for more than 35 years. Pastor Phillips attended Howard University in Washington D.C. and has honorary degrees in the field of Theology. He was recently appointed by Mayor Hancock to the Colorado Crime Commission, serves on the boards of Urban League Denver, One Chance Colorado, and a host of advisory positions for civic and community organizations. Pastor Phillips is a lifelong Denver resident and resides in RTD District A. *(Term expires 5/2019)*

**Bob Rizzuto** is currently a Co-Owner and Broker Associate with KW Commercial Real Estate. Prior to real estate, he spent over 30 years in senior management positions in both the private and public sectors. He has served on many civic and professional organizations, including the Colorado Springs Economic Development, Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation, Meeker Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Lamar City Council, Applewood Business Association, Rotary International, Boy Scouts of America (Assistant Scout Master), Junior Achievement, National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) and Western Association of College and University Business Officers (WACUBO). He has a Masters of Business Administration from the Colorado division of the University of Phoenix. He obtained his associate of arts degree at Otero Junior College in La Junta and his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado. He lives in Golden, RTD District M. *(Term expires 5/2017)*

**Cynthia Stovall** is an attorney with Sherman & Howard, L.L.C., representing developers of mixed-use, transit-oriented developments and infill projects. Ms. Stovall volunteers for Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver and Historic Denver, Inc. Ms. Stovall holds a Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Southern California and a Juris Doctor degree for the University of Colorado, School of Law. She owns a historic home in Olde Town Arvada and is a resident of RTD District L. *(Term expires 5/2018)*

**Vivian Stovall** is a retired Operation Support Coordinator at Denver General Hospital where she was responsible for providing communications and vehicle maintenance support for the hospital. She travelled the state of Colorado as a member of Governor Bill Ritter's Transportation Finance and Implementation Blue Ribbon Panel, outlining recommendations about how to address Colorado's transportation needs. Stovall is a member of the Denver Election Division Advisory Committee, the Denver Regional Council of Government (DRCOG) Aging Advisory Committee, the Denver Commission on Aging, and the Colorado Alliance for Retired Americans and other civic- and community-based organizations. A recent graduate of the Transit Alliance Academy, she is a resident of RTD District C. *(Term expires 5/2017)*

**Karen Stuart** is the former Mayor of the City and County of Broomfield, serving three terms, during which time she was known for her regional collaboration and strong support of FasTracks. She was active with US 36 Commuting Solutions and the US 36 Mayors and Commissioners Coalition, served as Vice-Chair of the Metro Mayors Caucus, served as Chair of the Northwest Parkway and DRCOG boards of directors. Stuart is the Executive Director of Smart Commute Metro North Transportation Management Organization, a non-profit, public-private partnership formed to promote transportation options and improvements, foster economic vitality and enhance mobility in the Metro North region. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Marymount College, and a certificate from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Ms. Stuart is a resident of RTD District J. *(Term expires 5/2017)*

**Richard Valenty** is the legislative aide for State Senator Rollie Heath. Previously, Mr. Valenty was a staff writer for the Colorado Daily Newspaper, where he specialized in covering local governments in and around Boulder, with focus on the Boulder City Council and Boulder County, as well as RTD, DRCOG, Rocky Flats Council of Local Governments, CU-Boulder and the CU System and local members of the Colorado General Assembly. Mr. Valenty holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Bemidji State University (MN) and is a resident of Boulder, RTD District O. *(Term expires 5/2018)*

**Darcy Wilson** is president of Stan-Mar, Incorporated, a multi-disciplined construction company, which has helped build numerous national and international airports; hospitals, sports arenas, transit projects; and real estate development infrastructure projects. Wilson has worked tirelessly for years serving community non-profit organizations such as the Committee for City and Airport Fairness, Denver Scholarship Foundation, Epworth Foundation and Stapleton Redevelopment workforce development committee. She holds a Master's in Computer Information Science emphasizing GIS from the University of Denver but her true passion throughout the years has been to ensure all segments of our community are allowed economic empowerment. She is a resident of RTD District B. *(Term expires 5/2017)*

***Please send correspondence and notices to:***

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