# April 8th, 2026 NMVB Industry Roundtable

**Keynote Speaker**
**Toks Omishakin, Secretary**
California State Transportation Agency

Toks Omishakin was appointed the 4th Secretary of Transportation for the state of California by Governor Gavin Newsom in February of 2022. As Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency (CALSTA), he has oversight of 8 State Departments, Boards and Commissions that, combined, have more than 42,000 people and a budget that exceeds $30 billion annually. Safety, Equity, Climate Action, and Economic Prosperity—the Core Four—are the top transportation priorities established for the state. Prior to his appointment as Secretary, he was Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) where, as the chief executive of the department, he managed a $17.5 billion budget and more than 22,000 employees that oversee 50,000 lane miles of highways, maintain more than 20,000 bridges, provide permitting of more than 250 public-use airports, fund 3 of Amtrak's busiest intercity rail services and provide transit support to more than 400 local and regional transit agencies. In 2020, he and the Caltrans executive team established a new strategic direction for the department prioritizing partnerships and community engagement to accomplish its goals to create a cleaner, safer, more equitable and connected transportation system for California.

Omishakin came to Caltrans following eight years as Deputy Commissioner with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). There, he successfully established environmental and multimodal local and national groundbreaking planning policies and programs, including a new Multimodal Access Grant program and new Office of Community Transportation. Prior to that, he served as Director of Healthy Living Initiatives in the Nashville Mayor's Office. In that capacity, he led development of Metro Nashville's Complete Streets Policy and helped establish a more balanced approach to transportation planning and design for the city. This included spearheading the creation of two bicycle sharing programs.

In 2019, Omishakin became Chair of the Council on Active Transportation for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). This came after two years serving as Vice Chair as well as serving as Inaugural Chair of AASHTO's Multimodal Task Force. He served for 10 years on the board of America Walks and is now an emeritus advisor to the national organization. He also serves on boards at the Mineta Transportation Institute, Veloz and has advised the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis through its Transportation Council Board. In work with institutions, he serves on the advisory board at Tennessee Tech University for Civil and Environmental Engineering and at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Institute for Transportation studies.

In October of 2020, Omishakin was appointed to then-President-elect Biden-Harris Transportation Transition Team. In December of 2020 he was recognized with the Excellence in Leadership award by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) NorCal and named Person of the Year by the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) in May of 2021.

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, Secretary Omishakin and his wife have two children. He has a Ph.D. in Engineering Management from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Jackson State University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering Technology from Mississippi Valley State University.

## Moderators

**Lewis Keys, Program Manager**
**California New Car Dealers Association (CNCDA) Foundation**

Lewis J. Keys is a seasoned program and workforce development leader with extensive experience designing, managing, and scaling statewide and community-based initiatives that create equitable pathways for people of all ages. Currently serving as Program Manager for Automotive Educational Programs with the CNCDA Foundation, Lewis leads innovative workforce programs that blend STEM learning, hands-on experiences, and strong industry partnerships. He brings deep expertise in strategic planning, grant and budget management, regulatory compliance, data-driven evaluation, and staff development, with a proven ability to build collaborative relationships across schools, nonprofits, industry, and community stakeholders.

Throughout his career, Lewis has held senior leadership, training, and community engagement roles with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Community Matters, the American Red Cross, the California Army National Guard Child & Youth Services Program, and the Boys & Girls Clubs. His background also includes pastoral leadership, reflecting a strong foundation in mentorship, restorative practices, and holistic development. Known as an action-oriented and mission-driven leader, Lewis is committed to empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and translating vision into sustainable, high-impact programs that support lifelong learning and career success.

**Cortney Copeland, Program Manager, ZEV Market Development**
**Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)**

Cortney Copeland is a Program Manager in the Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Market Development Office in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (or GO-Biz). GO-Biz works closely with other state agencies, industry, and community stakeholders across California to shepherd the state's ZEV Market Development Strategy with the goal to accelerate a large scale, affordable, and equitable market for zero-emission vehicles. Since joining GO-Biz in 2021, Cortney has focused on efforts in ZEV consumer awareness, workforce development, and public transit.

Prior to joining GO-Biz, Cortney worked in the nonprofit sector on youth STEM career pathways and rural and tribal economic development. She served abroad as a Community Economic Development Volunteer in Peace Corps Ukraine and holds a BA in Communications from California State University, Sacramento and Master of Public Administration from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey.

Panelists

**Felix Lugo, Executive Director**
**High School Inc. Academies Foundation**

A visionary leader, Felix Lugo has a sterling track record of more than 18 years in both public and private middle and high school education. With a dynamic background encompassing such diverse domains as student life, community service, internships, enrollment, marketing, fundraising, and residential programs.

Throughout his career, Felix has not only led various administrative departments but has also been a driving force in establishing entire educational institutions from the ground up. His innovative contributions have extended far beyond individual schools, as he has played a crucial role in enhancing staff development and significantly boosting student enrollment in high schools across the United States.

Certified Nonprofit Professional by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. He holds a Master's degree in Management from Warner University and a Bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration from Monroe College. Eager to stay at the forefront of educational innovation, Felix has pursued additional training at esteemed institutions including Rockhurst University, Love & Logic Institute, The Association of Boarding Schools and Cross-Country Education.

**Anne Smith Boland, Vice President**
**Bob Smith BMW-MINI**

Anne Smith Boland, Dealer Member, was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in February 2020, and reappointed in August 2023. Smith Boland is Vice-President of the Board, and Member of the Committee on Equity, Justice and Inclusion, the Executive Committee, the Legislative Committee, and the Fiscal Committee.

Anne is Vice President of Bob Smith BMW-MINI and is a fourth-generation partner in her family's automobile businesses dating back to 1917. Throughout high school and college, Smith Boland worked summers in various departments in the dealership. She earned her Bachelor in Business Administration in Accountancy from the University of Notre Dame. Following graduation, she worked for Deloitte & Touche in public accounting and obtained her CPA license in the state of New York in 2000. In 2002, she returned to California and her family business as General Manager of Bob Smith BMW-MINI.

Smith Boland serves as a Director on the California New Car Dealers Association (CNCDA) Board and a Director on the CNCDA Foundation Board. She also supports several social justice and educational charities in her community and throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

**Kim McPhaul, President**
**California New Car Dealers Association (CNCDA) Foundation**

For over 20 years Kim has worked with California's franchised dealers and for nine years in developing, implementing and growing workforce development programs that connect youth into automotive careers across California. She collaborates with California dealers, automotive manufacturers, educators, and youth organizations to build automotive service professionals career pathways.

Prior to this role, Kim served as Deputy Executive Director of the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association, where she managed their workforce development programs and charitable foundation.

**Chad Orcutt, Founder**
**Community Shop Class**

Chad Orcutt is the founder of Shop Class Learning Centers, a space he created out of a deep belief that every kid deserves to hear that they are good - especially those who don't always fit the traditional learning. As a neurodivergent educator with ADHD, Chad understands firsthand what it means to learn and think differently. Rather than viewing that as a limitation, he has built Shop Class as a "theatre of education," where curiosity, creativity, hands-on learning and storytelling take center stage.

For Chad, Shop Class isn't just about teaching trades like woodworking, laser cutting, or 3D printing - it's about creating a stage where kids and adults alike can discover confidence in themselves and their abilities. His mission is to make education less about conformity and more about expression, exploration, and the belief that everyone has something valuable to offer.

**Larry Rillera, Staff Air Pollution Specialist**
**California Air Resources Board (CARB)**

Larry Rillera is a Staff Air Pollution Specialist with the California Air Resources Board. Larry leads diverse teams for community equity, outreach and engagement, heavy-duty zero-emission transportation initiatives, and partnerships. Larry serves on interagency teams, public-private-partnership ventures, and engages with communities, California Tribes, and businesses in decarbonizing the energy/transportation sector while ensuring communities accrue direct benefits of investments.

Larry was the architect of several innovative state financing solutions for solar manufacturers, electric vehicle charging stations, and ZEV manufacturing. He has many solicitation and funding initiatives for ZEV infrastructure, EV infrastructure planning, and other transportation electrification initiatives. He has established high voltage electrification training programs, skills and curriculum development, and career pathway initiatives at California automotive programs for high schools, community colleges, universities, and with community-based organizations. Larry also brings knowledge and experience working with labor in myriad clean energy and transportation industries.

Larry received a Bachelor of Science in Plant Science at the University of California at Davis and holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Southern California.

Larry Rillera | LinkedIn

**Amar Azucena Cid, Deputy Director, Community Investments and Planning**
**California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)**

Amar values and utilizes her lived and learned experiences, rooted in racial justice, the environment, and the community's ability to thrive, to inform her professional work. She has over 20 years of experience in transportation and community planning and policy across the public and nonprofit sectors, including positions in affordable housing, federal surveying, youth and health advocacy, legislative analysis, and transportation planning. Amar is the Strategic Growth Council's Deputy Director of Community Investments and Planning with an average portfolio budget of $1B in community and climate-centered funding.

Prior to SGC, Amar led the country's first State DOT office on Race and Equity at Caltrans. Under her leadership and collaboration, she advanced people-centered mobility options, both internal and external. The Caltrans Office on Race and Equity (CORE) launched the Equity Index, the Interagency Transportation Equity Listening Sessions, and the inaugural Transportation Equity Advisory Committee. Prior to leading CORE, she was an integral statewide strategist in public transportation, including implementing and cultivating the $100M+ annual CA Climate Investment Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, successfully advancing local transit entities in their transition to Zero Emission service.

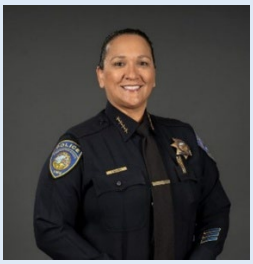
Amar is also a local artist who uses art as a tool for social/environmental movements within Chicano/Indigenous communities. She holds a BS and an MA in Community Development and Planning.

**Kay Williams, Energy Commission Specialist II**
**Fuels and Transportation Division, California Energy Commission**

Kay Williams has worked at the California Energy Commission since 2006. They started focusing on fuels and transportation in 2016, and have worked with many alternative fuels including biofuels, hydrogen, and electricity for light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles. Most recently their work has focused on charging infrastructure for school buses, vehicle to grid integration, and public sector processes for encouraging zero emissions equipment for construction.

Afternoon Session

## Department of Motor Vehicles



**Christina Michel, Chief**
Investigations Division

**Tom Edwards, Deputy Chief**
Investigations and Enforcement

**Miguel Acosta, Chief**
Autonomous Vehicles Branch, Policy Division

**Virginia Vu, Assistant Division Chief**
Industry Administration Branch, Policy Division

**Chelsea Kuo, Manager IV**
Commercial Licensing Team

**Nathan Gargiulo, Staff Services Manager**
Autonomous Vehicles Branch, Policy Division

**Joy Cunanan, Manager IV**
Industry Administration Branch, Policy Division

## California Air Resources Board

**Larry Rillera, Staff Air Pollution Specialist**

**Adil Mahmood, Staff Air Pollution Specialist**

## Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR)

**Clay Leek, Deputy Chief**
Smog Check Engineering and Information Services Division