



## FasTracks Citizens Advisory Committee

### Member Bios

(Revised January 19, 2011)

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**Tom Ashburn**, retired from Xcel Energy after 41 years, where he served as the Area Manager, Community and Local Government Affairs, responsible for maintaining effective working relationships with municipalities, counties and community organizations in Arapahoe, Douglas, Morgan and Logan Counties. He is past chairman of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce; a past member of the Aurora Economic Development Council; the Southeast Business Partnership and South Metro Chamber of Commerce; a founding member of the Eastern Metro Transportation Coalition; and served on the Community College of Aurora Foundation Board of Directors. Currently, Chair Aurora Housing Corp. Mr. Ashburn holds a BSBA and MBA from Regis University and is a resident of Aurora, RTD District F. *(Term expires 12/2013).*

**Kenneth Burns**, co-chair, is a business strategy, marketing and personal finance consultant. Mr. Burns recently organized a coalition of communities within Thornton to work with RTD regarding the planning and environmental studies for the North Metro Corridor. He serves on the Denver Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, providing a regional perspective to the group. Mr. Burns holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology, and Master of Management from Northwestern University and is a resident of Thornton, RTD District K. *(Term expires 12/2011).*

**Thomas J. Burns** is the former mayor of Englewood, 1994-2001, during which time he was a vocal champion for the Southwest Corridor light rail line, appearing before numerous meeting, testifying before Congressional Committees and lobbying members of Congress for support and funding. He later served as a member of the FasTracks Yes speaker's bureau. He is past chairman of the Metro Mayors Caucus; former member of the Denver Regional Council of Governments board of directors; and current member of the Englewood Water and Sewer Board and Urban Renewal Authority. Mr. Burns holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Iowa, a Juris Doctor from the University of Denver College of Law and is a resident of Englewood, RTD District H. *(Term expires 12/2013).*

**Melvin Bush** is president of Insurance Design and Placement. He is active on numerous boards of directors, including Ronald McDonald House Charities, Denver/Better Business Bureau, Colorado Foundation for Public Health and the Environment, and Colorado Board of Accountancy. He was the past chairman of The Colorado Action for Healthy People's and the Ronald McDonald House Charities' board of directors and past president of the LoDo Rotary Club. He attended St. Louis University for Undergraduate, Graduate (MBA), and Law School. He holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration (Finance) and is a resident of Adams County, RTD District B. *(Term expires 12/2012).*

**Ken Claussen** works with 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 the issuing of 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 12/2012).*

**David Erb** is president of David J. Erb & Company, a real estate development and brokerage company specializing in transit-oriented development. He has served as president of numerous metropolitan districts and homeowners associations. He represents the CAC on RTD's Fiscal Sustainability Task Force, studying alternative funding options for the agency. He serves on the Urban Land Institute's Colorado Chapter Transit-oriented Development Best Practices committee. Mr. Erb holds a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University and is a resident of unincorporated Arapahoe County, RTD District E. *(Term expires 12/2011).*

**Christine Garcia** is an enrollment specialist with Denver Health, providing assistance to the uninsured and underinsured in accessing state and federal benefits. Previously, Ms. Garcia served as a case manager for Servicios de la Raza and as a tobacco cessation specialist with National Jewish Medical Research Center. She is a recent graduate of the Transit Alliance Citizens Academy. Ms. Garcia holds a Bachelors degree in Spanish from the University of Northern Colorado and is a resident of Denver, RTD District C. *(Term expires 12/2011).*

**James Hall** is president of FirstBank - Boulder, and has extensive experience in lending and land use/development issues. He has been actively involved in numerous non-profit, public entity and community boards including the Downtown Denver Partnership, Denver and Adams County Workforce Investment Boards, Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hall holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration and Finance from Truman State University as well as a graduate degree in Banking from the Pacific Coast Banking School. Mr. Hall is a resident of Broomfield, RTD District I. *(Term Expires 12/2011).*

**Anne Hayes**, co-chair, is a vice president of Westfield Development Company, a locally owned commercial real estate developer. She is a past member and chair of the US36TMO Steering Committee, as well as a past member of the Transit Alliance Action Fund Committee and JEC Transportation Committee. She currently serves on the Board of Union Station Advocates and is co-chair of the Sustainability Committee of the Colorado Energy Coalition through the Metro Denver EDC. For many years, she volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and served as a member of their site selection committee. Ms. Hayes holds Masters degrees in Urban Design and Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado College of Architecture and Planning and is a resident of Denver, RTD District A. *(Term expires 12/2012).*

**David Lewis** is president of S.A. Miro, Inc., a Denver-based engineering company. Mr. Lewis is past-chair of the DIA Partnership. In addition to the CAC, his volunteer interests include Engineering Ministries, Inc., Metro Denver Habitat for Humanity, and Whiz Kids tutoring. Mr. Lewis holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Colorado and a Master of Business Administration from Colorado State University. He and his wife Mary, a board member of Aurora Public Schools, live in Aurora, RTD District F. *(Term expires 12/2012).*

**Don Moore** is consultant in land use, community development and natural resource planning. He is active in the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority, and the Transit Alliance. Mr. Moore holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado

State University and a Master of Environmental Policy and Management degree from the University of Denver and is a resident of Conifer, RTD District N. (*Term expires 12/2013*).

**Bob Rizzuto** is currently a 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, 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 12/2013*).

**Karen Stuart** is the former Mayor of Broomfield, 2001-2007, 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, and served on the Northwest Parkway and DRCOG board of directors. Stuart is currently a self-employed consultant specializing in business development, public outreach, policy analysis and grant funding for municipal and county service projects. She is a volunteer for Move Colorado, a non-profit transportation funding advocacy group, serving as co-chair of the Public Education Program. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Marymount College, and completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Ms. Stuart is a resident of RTD District B. (*Term expires 12/2014*).

**Niloufar Vakil** is a project architect and urban designer for Tryba Architects in Denver with extensive experience in the planning and execution of transit-oriented development projects. She is active in the American Institute of Architects having served on the board of directors and numerous committees. She is a frequent guest critic at the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado. Ms. Vakil holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of the Arts in Tehran, Iran and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Colorado at Denver. She is also a licensed architect in the state of Colorado and a USGBC LEED Accredited Professional. She resides in Denver, RTD District B. (*Term expires 12/2011*).

**Beth Wicht** is an Engineering Project Manager for Adperio, an online advertising company in Denver. As an active resident along the West Corridor, Ms. Wicht leads the Eiber Neighborhood Organization in their coordinated efforts with RTD and its contractors, the City of Lakewood and developers throughout the area. Ms. Wicht is currently finalizing a *Light Rail Planning Guide for Neighborhoods* to provide assistance to areas targeted for FasTracks station placement and has helped train City of Lakewood citizens in Grass Roots/Neighborhood Activism via the City's Planning Academy. Ms. Wicht is a recent graduate of the Transit Alliance Citizens Academy and holds an MBA from Regis University. Ms. Wicht lives in Lakewood, RTD District M. (*Term expires 12/2011*).

**Debra Wilcox**, co-chair, is a member of the management team of Bye Energy Inc., a start-up company developing bio fuel and electric propulsion systems for general aviation and is currently a member of the Colorado Aeronautical Board. She previously worked for the Colorado Legislative Council researching and drafting legislation, preparing ballot analyses and translated publications into Spanish. Ms. Wilcox holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in English Education from the University of

Northern Colorado, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Denver College of Law, and is a resident of Centennial, District G. *(Term expires 12/2012)*.

**Hugh Wilson** is the Director of Administration of the Department of Law for the State of Colorado (Attorney General's Office). He has worked for the State for nearly 15 years in budgeting and administration. He is currently the Department's representative for the design and layout of the new Ralph Carr Judicial Building to be built 2010-2013. For his Master's Practicum he authored a comprehensive study evaluating the feasibility of a dedicated bus connection between Denver and Amtrak's Southwest Chief at Raton, NM. He is a daily commuter on RTD and is eagerly looking forward to the opening of the West Corridor light rail line. He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Denver, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Transportation Management from the University of Colorado, Boulder and currently lives in Lakewood, RTD District M. *(Term expires 12/2012)*.

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

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