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Amy Adams
Executive Director
Nexus234

Amy Adams is the Executive Director of Nexus234, Northern Virginia's first innovation district. She co-led the district from ideation through implementation, working closely with local government, higher education, and the regional business community to drive economic growth and job creation. Spanning nearly 6,000 acres, the Nexus234 Innovation District focuses on strategic growth sectors including life sciences, aerospace, defense, semiconductors, and data centers powering AI.

Amy also serves as Executive Director of George Mason University's Institute for Biohealth Innovation and brings 24 years of experience in higher education, including 19 years developing and leading research, innovation, and workforce development programs. Her leadership centers on building cross sector partnerships that connect startups and established companies to talent, facilities, and commercialization resources; align education and workforce training with employer demand; and accelerate research translation.

She has partnered extensively with leaders across the Commonwealth and region to build connected innovation networks and launch initiatives that advance biohealth innovation. Amy holds a Master of Science in Chemistry and a Bachelor of Science in Biology, is an author on one patent and 15 peer reviewed publications and serves on the boards of BioHealth Innovation, Inc. and the Association of University Research Parks.



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Amanda Mays

Director of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Supply Chain Policy

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Amanda Mays is the Director of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Supply Chain Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Prior to joining the Chamber last year, she served as a Senior Advisor for Policy in the CHIPS Program Office at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where she focused on fostering place-based regional economic development through the growth of semiconductor industry ecosystems around the country. Before her time at Commerce, Amanda worked in the Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains at the U.S. Department of Energy where she led the implementation of IIJA provisions focused on increasing capacity of small- and medium-sized manufacturers and revitalizing former coal communities through new manufacturing investments, and expanding access to smart manufacturing technologies across states.

Prior to joining the U.S. Government, Amanda served in New York State government at Empire State Development, New York's economic development agency. There she supported the Deputy Commissioner on leading various interdepartmental and intergovernmental initiatives. She also served as the Western New York Regional Director managing the regional team in Buffalo, NY working to promote economic development practices that both retain and attract businesses and create jobs in the five-county region.

Amanda was previously Deputy Director of the Executive Office & Assistant Secretary of the Board at The Brookings Institution and served in various roles there. She is a graduate of William Smith College and has a Master of Urban Planning from the State University of New York at Buffalo.



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Leif Dormsjo

Executive VP, Mid-Atlantic Market Director

Redgate

Leif is responsible for the leadership and growth of Redgate's Mid-Atlantic market. He has over 20 years of senior management experience in social and transportation infrastructure with emphasis on large-scale project delivery, public-private partnerships (P3) and transit-oriented

development.

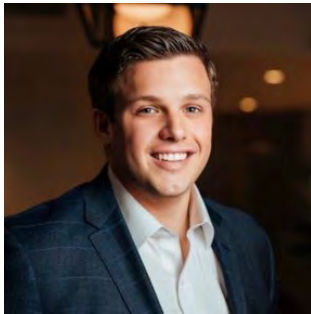
Prior to joining Redgate, Leif ran the infrastructure asset management division of a major engineering firm and served as Director of the District Department of Transportation. In 2017, he was given the Public Sector award from the District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA) for his leadership on urban infrastructure and development.

In 2013, as the Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, he led the enactment of Maryland HB 560 (Public-Private Partnerships).



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Pete Gould
Senior Vice President
Boundary Stone Partners

Pete has over 15 years of experience in transportation and mobility technology policy from Capitol Hill, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Uber, and running a successful transportation lobbying and consulting firm, Catapult Policy Strategies.

Pete leverages his “dual-citizenship” in the public and private sectors to guide startups across sectors in developing and executing policy and lobbying operations at local, state, and national levels. He has worked extensively with clients in the autonomous vehicle, micromobility, autonomous delivery devices, electric transit buses, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Prior to founding Catapult Policy Strategies, Pete was Uber’s Senior Transportation Policy Development Associate, where he tackled issues including autonomous vehicle policy, accessibility, and background checks. Pete led efforts to integrate Uber with transit agencies and build partnerships with the transportation and urban planning communities.

Pete has an extensive track record of public sector work in federal transportation policy experience, most recently in the Office of the Secretary at USDOT. He first joined the DOT in 2011 under the Obama-Biden Administration in the Secretary's Policy and Government Affairs offices. Pete began his career working on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee under Highways & Transit Subcommittee Chair Rep. Peter DeFazio.

Pete is a recognized policy expert on all things, tech and transportation, and the co-host of the Mobility Podcast, which has thousands of influential listeners at the highest levels of government and across the mobility industry. Pete is based in Washington DC, where he lives in Hill East with his wife, two daughters, and a beagle.



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Marc Molinaro
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Administrator Marcus J. Molinaro brings a lifetime of public service and a results-driven record to the U.S. Department of Transportation. A lifelong New Yorker, Marc most recently served as the U.S. Representative for New York's 19th Congressional District. In Congress, he was a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure and the House Committee on Small Business—advocating for rural economies, infrastructure modernization and small business growth across Upstate New York.

Marc's career in public service began in 1994 at just 18 years old, when he was elected to the Village Board of Trustees in Tivoli, New York. One year later, he was elected Mayor of Tivoli, becoming the youngest mayor in America at the time. He was re-elected five times, earning a reputation for revitalizing the village and strengthening local government. Simultaneously, he served four terms in the Dutchess County Legislature, where he led bipartisan efforts to improve the county's response to child abuse and domestic violence, along with Chairing the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee.

From 2006 to 2011, Marc represented the 103rd District in the New York State Assembly where he served as Assistant Minority Leader Pro Tempore. In 2011, he was elected Dutchess County Executive, a position he held for three terms. He served in leadership roles with the New York State Association of Counties and as President of the New York State County Executives Association. In 2023, he stepped down as County Executive following his election to Congress.

In 2025, President Donald J. Trump appointed Marc to serve as Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration. Earlier this year Marc announced his election for the New York's General Assembly.



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Connor Torossian

Associate Administrator for Communications and Congressional Affairs
Federal Transit Administration

Connor is from Long Island, NY, and attended Elon University for his Undergraduate in Policy Studies and Political Science and George Washington University for his Masters in Legislative Affairs.

Before serving at Federal Transit Administration (FTA), he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs in the office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), where he traveled the country speaking to state and local government stakeholders about Secretary Duffy's priorities and funding opportunities.

Before DOT, he spent his career in the U.S. House of Representatives in several capacities including as a Professional Staff Member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Legislative Director to former Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19), the current FTA Administrator.



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Rick A. Dearborn

Partner

Mindset DC

Rick is a senior policy professional with three decades of experience ranging from service under two US Presidents and six US senators to postings at a premier think tank and a major DC trade association.

A former longtime chief of staff in the Senate, Rick is beloved by senators and senior staff on both sides of the aisle. Rick's carefully honed ability to bring people together from any political stripe, and his unmatched knowledge of the Senate and inner workings of the executive branch are critical to delivering wins for Mindset clients.

Prior to joining Mindset, Rick served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the President of the United States. In that role, he was responsible for the day-to-day operations of approximately 100 staff in five separate Executive Offices of the President (EOP) departments. Rick also served as the Executive Director of the 2016 Presidential Transition Team and was responsible for the direction and management of the Transition Team's 600-plus members.

Prior to leading the President's Transition Team, Rick served as Chief of Staff to then-US Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) for over a decade, and over the course of his career, served Sen. Sessions for nearly two decades, including a prior stint as his Legislative Director. Rick was also appointed by President George W. Bush as the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Congressional Affairs, where he worked with the Senate, House, and Tribal Governments on the president's energy agenda. Rick has also served on the National Republican Senatorial Committee, the Senate Republican Conference, and the Senate Steering Committee.

Rick graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BA in Public Administration with a minor in Economics.

Rick's hidden talent: He is a model train collector and operator with over 100 engines and 300 rolling stock.



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Langston Emerson

Partner

Mindset DC

Langston is a dedicated policy strategist and advocate with a long track record of success in advancing business goals for clients and particular experience in private equity, venture capital, real estate, and insurance.

Langston is widely known as a fierce advocate who doesn't back down from tough challenges, and his approach is informed by his wide-ranging background in government, trade associations, corporate, and entrepreneurial settings. Langston's deep substantive expertise across clients' issues is matched only by his political acumen, honed over two decades in and around government. Among his other roles at Mindset, Langston also leads the firm's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, both internally and externally.

In his previous role at Signal Group, Langston led the financial services practice and represented clients on a wide variety of complex legislative and regulatory matters. Prior to joining Signal Group, Langston was a lead advocate for the private equity industry at the American Investment Council (formerly, Private Equity Growth Capital Council). Prior to that, at TIAA, Langston led company efforts around the Dodd-Frank Act, and was instrumental in safeguarding the company's interests. Langston also advocated before Congress on behalf of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT) as an in-house strategist for the REIT and commercial real estate industry.

Langston began his career in policy work on Capitol Hill, and has held senior positions in the House and the Senate, including for Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) and Representative Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI). Additionally, he served as a senior aide to Representative Mike Capuano (D-MA), and led the Congressman's work on the financial services committee. Before his time as a senior congressional aide, Langston worked in the banking practice of a law firm and at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Langston graduated magna cum laude from Howard University and earned his law degree from the George Washington University Law School.



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Makinzi Hoover
Housing Policy Expert
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Makinzi Hoover serves as Housing Policy Lead at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where she directs the Chamber's housing policy portfolio focused on addressing the nation's housing shortage. In this role, she works with Congress, the administration, regulatory agencies, and state and local leaders to advance supply-side reforms that improve housing affordability and availability.

Her work focuses on modernizing land-use and permitting policies, expanding access to capital, and strengthening the construction workforce through data-driven policy strategies, actionable resources, and coalition building.

Prior to joining the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Makinzi worked in the U.S. House of Representatives and held roles at the University of Georgia and in the nonprofit sector, working in strategic development, planning, and communications. She holds a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Georgia.



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Bryan Greene

Vice President of Policy Advocacy
National Realtors Association

Bryan Greene is Vice President of Policy Advocacy at the National Association of REALTORS® where he oversees all legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of the association's 1.4 million members. Bryan joined NAR in November 2019, and spent his first year at NAR raising the association's profile in Washington and nationwide on all fair-housing-related policy matters as NAR's first Director of Fair Housing Policy.

Before joining NAR, Bryan served for 10 years as the highest-ranking career official in HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO), where he oversaw the policy direction and operational management of the 600-person office enforcing the nation's housing anti-discrimination laws. Under Bryan's leadership as FHEO General Deputy Assistant Secretary, HUD pursued large-scale, high-profile cases that addressed systemic discrimination and provided widespread relief. Bryan also managed HUD's Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) and HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), which together provide over \$70 million to state and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations fighting discrimination in local communities.

Bryan has held other senior positions at HUD during his three decades at the agency, including a stint as the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs in HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), where he worked to reduce regulatory barriers to affordable housing.

Bryan was the 2007 recipient of the Presidential Rank Award, the highest federal honor bestowed upon federal senior executives for outstanding service.

Bryan earned his degree in Government from Harvard University.



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Kevin Keane
President and CEO
American Beverage Association

As president and chief executive officer, Kevin Keane provides day-to-day leadership and management of the non-alcoholic beverage industry's trade association to advance its strategic priorities, working in close partnership with the American Beverage team and Board leadership.

During his tenure at AB, Kevin has played an integral role in the development and implementation of several ambitious and voluntary industry initiatives, including current public commitments to reduce the industry's plastic footprint as well as the calories consumed from beverages by offering more choices with less sugar.

Recognized twice by CEO Update as Association Lobbyist of the Year, Kevin joined AB in 2005 and has served on its leadership team since that time. He most recently served as interim president and CEO, and his prior positions within the association include executive vice president of government and public affairs, and senior vice president of policy and public affairs.

Before joining AB, Kevin was appointed by President George W. Bush and proudly served as the assistant secretary for public affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Secretary Tommy G. Thompson. Prior positions include deputy chief of staff and communications director to then-Wisconsin Governor Thompson, Washington Bureau correspondent for Thomson Newspapers and reporter for two Wisconsin newspapers.

Keane is a proud Midwesterner, born in Chicago, graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and spending much of his life growing up and working in Wisconsin. He and his wife Christine live in Virginia and have three adult children.