

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

First & Last Mile Innovation in the Region

SPEAKER BIOS

***The Honorable Steve Geller, Chair, SFRPC
Broward County Commissioner, District 5, and Former State Senator***



Senator Steve Geller served as Broward County Mayor during FY 2021. Elected to District 5 in 2016, he currently represents all or part of Cooper City, Southwest Ranches, Davie, Plantation, Sunrise, and unincorporated areas including part of the Seminole Reservation and all of Broadview Park. Geller serves as Chairman of the Broward County Water Advisory Board, Chair of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and on the Broward County Cultural Council. Geller also serves as Chair of the South Florida CEDS Strategy Committee established pursuant to the SFRPC's responsibilities as U.S. EDA's Economic Development District for South Florida. He was recently re-elected Chair by his colleagues on the SFRPC.

Prior to his current service as a Broward County Commissioner, Geller was elected to the Florida Legislature in 1988 at the age of 29. He served in the Florida Legislature for 20 years; nine years in the House of Representatives followed by 11 years in the Florida Senate. Geller was respected by both Political Parties and chaired legislative committees under the leadership of both Democratic and Republican Presiding Officers. Geller chaired the Regulated Industries Committee in the House of Representatives, and the Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Community Affairs Committees in the Senate. Geller served two terms as Chair of the Broward County Legislative Delegation and two terms as Chair of the Hendry County Legislative Delegation. At the time of his retirement from the Florida Senate due to term limits, Senator Geller was the Minority (Democratic) Leader of the Florida Senate. Geller has also served as National President of two legislative organizations: the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) and the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS). Geller was born in the City of New York, New York in 1958. He has lived in South Florida since 1965. He attended Florida State University for college and law school, where he was a member of AEPi Fraternity. He has lived in South Broward since his graduation from Florida State University College of Law in 1982. He is married to Laurel Geller and they have two children Marc and Ben.

Serving Monroe, Broward, Miami-Dade / Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties

Greg Stuart



Gregory Stuart, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Broward MPO and is responsible for all the functions under the direction of the Board of Directors. Greg represents the MPO nationally, at the state level and within the region. He focuses on creating new partnerships while expanding funding opportunities. Greg currently serves on the Board of Directors, as treasurer, for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the National Association of Regional Councils Executive Directors Council, elected nationally. He is Chair Emiratis of the Florida MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) Staff Directors Advisory Committee and is the Chair MPOAC Freight and Passenger Rail Committee. Greg is member of Florida's Freight Advisory Committee, appointed by the Governor, working closely with the Florida Department of Transportation on statewide freight issues. He is the Chair of the City of Fort

Lauderdale's Transportation Management Agency, which is morphing into a commuter services arm and had previously operated a local circulator which had an annual ridership exceeding 650,000 passengers, operating seven routes and one water trolley route. Greg brings over 34 years of experience working in both the public and private sector. His public sector experience includes progressively responsible management at the municipal, county and state levels. Gregory has focused on land use, transportation and environmental planning. He has secured millions of dollars in Federal appropriations for major transportation projects, modified state rules to facilitate traffic mitigation, stimulated redevelopment efforts and helped implement a dynamic water reuse project in West Palm Beach. Greg's private sector experience includes component manufacturing, logistics, zoning and land use. He thanks University of Pittsburgh and Florida State University for his education that built his career.

Robert Hanifin



Robert Hanifin is a transportation planner focused on transit infrastructure, transit-oriented development, and smart growth. In his role at the U.S. Department of Transportation, he works with potential recipients of federal assistance to explore project financing and delivery options to encourage public and private investment in infrastructure and community development.

Jonathan Hopkins, Founder, Smart Mobility Associates



Jonathan founded Smart Mobility Associates to empower thriving communities to grow without degrading travel and quality of life. Jonathan's work has helped America's fastest growing places add jobs while simultaneously reducing traffic.

Jonathan previously served as the VP of Mobility at [Brightline](#) and the Executive Director of [Commute Seattle](#).

At Brightline, Jonathan implemented the \$20 million [Brightline+](#) first/last mile station connectivity program successfully implemented in 2021 to spur rail ridership growth through branded EVs, microtransit and bikeshare. In 2022, he spearheaded integration of

Uber to increase service reliability and cost effectiveness accruing millions in cost savings.

At Commute Seattle, he led a 14-person team to partner with businesses and public agencies to promote smart mobility choices and reduce drive-alone rates. During his tenure, Commute Seattle [reported](#) that only 25% of Downtown Seattle workers drove alone to work, indicating Seattle [added](#) 60,000 jobs yet [reduced](#) SOV use by 4,500 in just seven years.

Jonathan's career has also included work at Lime as a policy director for Canada and the Mountain West and at Uber covering policy and operations in the Pacific Northwest. In a volunteer capacity, Jonathan spent the last 8 years as an executive director and political director with [Seattle Subway](#), leading a successful effort to [double](#) the size of Sound Transit's 2016 \$54 billion 116-mile light rail [ST3 expansion package](#). He was also founder of [Cascadia Rail](#), a high speed rail advocacy group in the Pacific Northwest. Jonathan has degrees from Georgetown and the US Military Academy at West Point and served in the US Army in both Iraq and Afghanistan, where he was awarded a Bronze Star with V device for Valor. A Washington State native, Jonathan is based in Miami.

Cary Goldberg



As President of Diversified Companies, Cary provides executive leadership and sets overall strategy for Diversified's development efforts across its platform. He has nearly 20 years of real estate experience, covering retail, aviation, and office sectors.

Prior to joining his father, Cary was with the Stiles Corporation and Kenco Communities.

Cary holds a degree from the University of Florida and is an advisory board member for the MSRE program at UF. He is a Governor Appointee to the South Florida Regional Planning Council, and the Mayor's Appointee to the Economic Development Advisory Board for the City of Fort Lauderdale. Cary also serves as the President of

Envision Uptown, Inc, a public/private partnership created to support and grow Uptown Fort Lauderdale. Cary is a native to South Florida and believes very strongly in his community. He has been an active Executive Board member for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County and successfully created two major fund raising events. Today, he is the Chairman of the Channing Crowder Bass Fishing Tournament.

Jessica Josselyn



Jessica's passion is creating positive change in the community—an endeavor she has been fulfilling serving the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) since 2008. Jessica has been SEFTC's only consultant project manager through all three adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and is currently managing the 2050 Plan. By developing the RTPs, Jessica has directly worked with the Miami-Dade TPO, the Broward MPO, and the Palm Beach TPA and supporting partner agencies serving on the Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC) to identify regional needs and projects. She has presented at over 300 SEFTC-related meetings throughout her career and strives to help create balance and harmony when forging together the three local Long Range Transportation Plans to advance Southeast Florida's transportation system at the regional-scale.

Andrew Velo-Arias



Andrew Velo-Arias is Director of Acquisitions and Development for Related Urban Development Group where he oversees the acquisition, financing, development, construction and lease-up of mixed-income, mixed-use projects across the State of Florida. Since joining Related in 2017, Andrew has led the development of 1,700 affordable and workforce housing units totaling \$450 million in development costs with an additional 1,500 units in the pipeline.

Andrew is a member of the Miami-Dade Citizens' Transportation Advisory Committee, past member of the West Palm Beach Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and past participant in the University of Miami Community Scholars in Affordable Housing program.

Andrew was born and raised in Hialeah, Florida and has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Harvard College, a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a Master in Business Administration from Harvard Business School. He currently resides in South Miami with his wife and yorkie.

Aileen Bouclé, AICP



Ms. Bouclé is the Executive Director for the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). Since joining the agency in 2016, she has been leading the charge, along with the Miami-Dade TPO Governing Board, to provide mobility choices for the residents of Miami-Dade County through the local transportation planning process, and more specifically the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit “SMART” Plan. The SMART Plan is a bold infrastructure program of projects that aims to significantly improve transportation mobility in Miami-Dade County and the Southeast Florida region.

Ms. Bouclé has worked in the transportation field for almost 30 years in both the private and public sectors, including with the Florida Department of Transportation District Six. She serves on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board, The Underline Board of Directors, and also serves as an Executive Officer on the National Association of Regional Councils’ (NARC) Executive Committee. She holds a Master of Science in Environmental and Urban Systems, with a specialty in transportation planning, as well as a Bachelor of Business Administration from Florida International University. Ms. Bouclé is also a Certified Professional Planner with the American Planning Association Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Juan Mullerat



Juan Mullerat (Assoc. AIA, APA, NCI, CNU) is the Founding Principal of Plusurbia Design – a Miami-based urban design and planning firm specializing in city planning and urban design. Mullerat serves on several International Boards and Committees that deal with livability and the built environment, including as former Chair of the American Planning Association’s Florida Gold Coast Section.

Trained as an Architect with over 25 years of experience, Mullerat has authored projects on five continents ranging from neighborhood parks to citywide master plans. Among them, the 2019 International Livable Cities Award and the Little Havana Revitalization Plan, the Wynwood Master Plan, and recipient of the APA’s 2017 National Economic Planning Award, among others. Mullerat has been honored with the AIA Miami Urban Designer of the Year Award and lectures at

several universities on urban revitalization, placemaking, transportation planning, and safe streets.

His work strives to create and capture the essence of places that transcend trends and value culture. Mullerat believes that society can be understood and thrive by the nature of its public spaces and their democratic planning.

Richard Clark



Richard is known as a catalyst for integral change and organizational-growth with a record of spearheading industry-leading initiatives, building top-performing teams, and driving continual economic growth. He has a proven record of excellence in the creation of funding models across all sectors of government and the private sector.

Richard continues to demonstrate leadership in sustainable transit initiatives, modernization that drives ridership satisfaction, route optimization, and operational efficiencies through mobility as a service transformation. He is a thought leader with passion to stay at the forefront of multi-model transportation trends in order to meet changing ridership needs and preferences. He is recognized as a strong leader in cultivating public and private collaboration, building high performing teams, and modeling a community first service-excellence culture.

Richard served as Vice Chair of the National Multimodal Transportation Steering Committee and the Chairman of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (Florida). He was also the Board President of the International Facility Management Association, as well as a board member of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, the River Garden Hebrew Home, Pine Castle, and the Players Championship.

Richard was raised in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He and his wife De'Atra have been married for 27 years and have two children. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Florida.

Christina Miskis, MURP



Christina Miskis, Principal Planner, leads regional mobility and resilience initiatives for the South Florida Regional Planning Council and is a team leader for planning and policy programs. She is experienced in leading collaborative planning efforts that improve regional sustainability for a variety of organizations, including governmental, university, and non-profit organizations.

At the Council, she has led initiatives that improve collaboration among local, regional, state, and federal partners to mitigate and adapt to the emerging hazards of a changing climate and further regional mobility goals by improving the integration of land use and transportation planning. Ms. Miskis is also an Adjunct Lecturer with Florida Atlantic University on climate change policy in the Department of Geosciences. Ms. Miskis holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics.

Loraine Cargill, AICP



Ms. Loraine Cargill serves as Director of Strategic Planning for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), operator of the Tri-Rail commuter rail system that connects Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. She has served with SFRTA for over 25 years in various capacities and currently oversees the Planning and Engineering Departments.

Loraine is an active member of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), an organization focused on advancing minorities in the transportation industry. For over 15 years, she has been a member of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter where she served two terms (2014 - 2018) as President; and was named COMTO

National President of the Year in 2017. She's a longstanding member of WTS International, an organization focused on promoting the advancement of women in the transportation industry; and has also served over 15 years on the Rail~Volution National Steering Committee, the nation's premier organization dedicated to building livable communities with transit.

Loraine holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Florida Atlantic University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, and is a certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners.

James Cromar



James Cromar, Deputy Executive Director of Mobility Initiatives for the Broward MPO, has 30 years of professional experience, combining private and public sector experience with a focus on the integration of transportation and land use planning. After spending twelve years as a Denver-based consultant, James has been in South Florida since 2002, working as a planner at the municipal, County and MPO level. James directs the implementation and execution of the MPO's core products to deliver projects in coordination with various municipalities and community stakeholders.

Tiffany Gehrke



Tiffany Gehrke is the State Complete Streets Coordinator at the Florida Department of Transportation and has been in the role since April of 2022. Prior to this position, Tiffany was the District Six Complete Streets Coordinator, ADA Coordinator, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, and SUN Trail Coordinator in Miami-Dade County for three years. Prior to joining the FDOT, Tiffany worked for CTS Engineering, Inc. and acted as the First and Last Mile Planner for an FDOT program called South Florida Commuter Services. Tiffany has a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Ball State University and bachelor's degrees in Economics and Mathematics from Indiana University.

Jason Spiegel



Jason Spiegel, Co-Founder and CEO for Freebee. He is in charge of identifying, directing and developing the implementation of the firm's business strategy, leading the management team, and growing the company's national footprint. Jason graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in Business Management and has been recognized as one of the emerging leading in transportation throughout South Florida. Jason was a nominee for the 2019 Complete Streets 'Champion Award', and also was named to Miami Today's "Best Of" in Transportation Leadership.

David Dech



David Dech is the executive director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, effective August 15, 2022. An executive with 27 years of experience in the rail industry in both freight and commuter rail service, Dech has been chosen to oversee the SFRTA at a pivotal time, as it prepares to expand Tri-Rail service into Downtown Miami. He brings experience in designing, constructing and opening rail yards.

Dech began his railroad career as a switchman for CSX, and is a fourth-generation railroader. His career progressed through the ranks of Conductor and Engineer, to several senior management positions, ultimately landing him at Vice President of Rail Operations for Capital Metro in March 2018.

As Vice President of Rail Operations, Dech helped open a new downtown station and complete the construction of five passing rail sidings. When he took on this role, Capital Metro's PTC system was still in the design phase, and his team successfully completed the installation of the EATC/PTC system four months ahead of the federal deadline, all the while maintaining over 96% on-time performance for the commuter service.

Accomplishments in his career include receiving the CSX Service Pinnacle Award for two consecutive years at his division and achieving the Gold Status for CSX Terminal Certification. Dech brings management experience in commuter rail operations, field operations, system and division level leadership, negotiating and managing contracts with host and tenant railroads, and leading public-private partnerships.

Dech discovered throughout his railroading tenure that he is a self-motivated, self-starter with a willingness to listen to the people who perform the work as the key to the success of any project. He operates with the guiding principle that all people in an organization are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect, which has allowed him to enjoy great success in his leadership experience.

David Dech has been married for 26 years to his high school sweetheart. They have four boys, Dana 24, David 22, Rogan 19 and Colin 17.

The Honorable Beam Furr
Broward County Commissioner, District 6



My name is Beam Furr. I am very proud to serve as your elected Broward County Commissioner, representing District 6, which includes parts of Hollywood, Hallandale Beach, and Pembroke Pines. I grew up in and worked much of my adult life in the areas I represent. I am honored to have the chance to work within my community to make our homes and all of Broward County a better place to live, work and play. In 2018, I served as Mayor of Broward County. Prior to my service on the Broward County Commission, I was elected and served as a Hollywood City Commissioner for 12 consecutive years representing Hollywood's District 2. I was a teacher at Flanagan High School in Pembroke Pines for many years.

I am dedicated to serving you and finding innovative methods and solutions that are rooted in the needs of our community. We have many challenges in Broward County – from implementing our transportation mobility plan, to building resiliency in the fight against climate change, to improving our early childhood education, and much more. These challenges will only be solved by working together and sharing ideas. Broward County is better when folks like you participate. My office publishes a free monthly online Newsletter to keep its readers “In The Loop” for happenings in District 6 and around the County. If you would like to receive our newsletter in your email inbox, please subscribe now.

The Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 1



Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III is a progressive and visionary leader who believes there is no singular path to success. Born and raised in the City of Miami Gardens, he remains committed to pouring into the community that helped groom him into the public figure he is today. Chairman Gilbert is a proud graduate of Florida A&M University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. Upon graduating, he enrolled in law school at St. Thomas University School of Law. He later transferred to the University of Miami School of Law where he held a senate position with the Student Bar Association and was a National Board Member of the Black Law Student Association among other accolades. Upon successfully earning his Juris Doctorate with honors, Chairman Gilbert knew his calling was public service.