

Speaker Biographies – Ensuring Equitable Access to Broadband During Challenging Times



Moderator: Maci Morin

Program Coordinator

National Association of Regional Councils

Maci Morin is responsible for NARC’s economic and community development portfolio. She represents regional councils on Capitol Hill while keeping members up to date on the latest news from Washington. She works through conferences, webinars, newsletters, and more to connect members to one another and share regional best practices. Her latest federal projects include the GCTC Smart Regions Collaborative and the USDA Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant program. Previously, she carried out policy and communications work for the City of San Antonio City Council and researched governmental use of data, social media, and innovative online tools at the University of Texas at San Antonio.



Jon Walton

Chief Information Officer

County of San Mateo, CA

Jon Walton’s passion is to look beyond the basics of traditional government approaches to using technology. His vision is to leverage County technology solutions into regional platforms that serve not only County employees, but also residents, businesses, and other agencies regionally. He rejects the idea of government as a technology dinosaur and strives to utilize the newest technology to solve problems. Aside from tech, Jon is passionate about ocean time with his sons and racing cars.



Skip Newberry

President

Technology Association of Oregon

Skip is a frequent speaker on technology trends and topics, economic development, public-private partnerships and civic innovation. Before joining the TAO, Skip served as an economic development policy advisor to Portland Mayor Sam Adams, where he helped create Portland’s first comprehensive economic development strategy in 16 years, recognizing software as a key industry cluster. While at the City of Portland, Skip’s projects included the adoption of the nation’s first open-source software procurement policy at the municipal level, an award-winning regional open data initiative and the development of resources to support entrepreneurship, like the Portland Seed Fund. Previously, Skip was a corporate and IP attorney and entrepreneur. Skip is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors of TECNA, Technology Councils of North America, which is a global network of technology and entrepreneurship associations, and he serves on the community advisory board for Wells Fargo and several community-based organizations in the Portland area. Skip is also a 2012 recipient of the Portland Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 award. When he’s not working on behalf of the region’s tech industry, Skip enjoys exploring the Pacific Northwest with his family.



Aaron Deacon
Managing Director
KC Digital Drive

Aaron Deacon is the founder and managing director of KC Digital Drive, a nonprofit civic organization with a mission to make Kansas City a digital leader and help cities adapt to disruptive technology change. He works with mayors, entrepreneurs and civic leaders in Kansas City and around the world to help build ecosystems that connect infrastructure, emerging technology and social impact. He combines a high-level strategic approach with boots-on-the-ground project implementation and management in smart cities, civic tech, digital inclusion, digital health, and education. Through KC Digital Drive, Aaron helps to lead the Code for KC Brigade, the Health Innovation Team, and the KC Coalition for Digital Inclusion. Aaron is a founder and producer of the Gigabit City Summit, an annual conference on how cities build value on technology infrastructure. He also leads Kansas City's participation in a number of global initiatives including US Ignite, NIST's Global City Teams Challenge, the IEEE Smart City Initiative and the MetroLab Network. Aaron's work in cities and technology began as an instrumental leader in helping Kansas City prepare to be the first market for Google Fiber. He created and led a variety of community engagement initiatives around broadband deployment, including Building the Gigabit City and Give Us a Gig. He continues to help cities develop community playbooks to take advantage of ultra high-speed broadband. Prior to working in the civic sphere, Aaron honed his skills in innovation management, design thinking product development, strategic planning and qualitative and quantitative research as a consultant and project director for a variety of Fortune 500 clients. He is the founder and principal of the research and strategic planning firm Curiolab. He earned a master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Dallas, and taught high school Latin for two years in between.



Mimi Yeh
Vice President of Human Capital
Connected DMV

Mimi Yeh is the Vice President of Human Capital for Connected DMV. Connected DMV is an initiatives-based, charitable 501(c)(3) organization that works with regional organizations across Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia – the DMV – to help drive ongoing improvements to social, digital, and physical infrastructure. Connected DMV focuses on initiatives that span local jurisdictions and require public-private-academia-community collaboration to best achieve the dual objectives of enduring economic health and social equity. Mimi focuses on stakeholder and community engagement, including architecting the Connected DMV Solution Groups. 18 Solution Groups comprising leaders from public sector, private companies, non-profits and academic institutions convene and discuss critical design inputs and proposed smart projects for our region. Currently Mimi leads the efforts of 350 participants across 180 organizations. She also leads several strategic initiatives that will advance solutions for the region's long-term future and promote economic renewal and social equity. Mimi helps organizations achieve lasting success when they introduce new business solutions

or transformations, enabling them to realize the greatest long-term value from their business improvement efforts. Since 1995 Mimi has led complex programs to deliver innovative Human Capital solutions to organizations. Mimi was a Managing Director in Talent & Organization for Accenture, a global management consulting firm. She worked with government organizations including the Defense Health Agency, US Department of Army, US Department of Navy, US Customs & Border Protection, the Transportation Security Administration, and the US Department of Education. Mimi is a graduate of Tufts University with Bachelor of Arts degrees in International Relations and Asian Studies. She received a Master of Business Administration degree from Georgetown University McDonough School of Business. She is a member of the Junior League of Washington (JLW) and Leadership Greater Washington (LGW). Mimi serves on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of Greater Washington. In 2014, she received the Technology Heroine Award for the March of Dimes Heroines of Washington.