



PB Washington Update

PREPARED BY CATHY CONNOR
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This is a special Washington Update focused solely on Obama Administration political appointee nominations at US DOT and certain other federal agencies.

Recent Nominations:

In recent days the White House has made a number of announcements regarding nominations for key positions at US DOT and other federal agencies which fund or oversee infrastructure projects. See bios below. All these positions are subject to US Senate confirmation.

US DOT Deputy Secretary (the number 2 position) – John Pocari
Federal Transit (FTA) Administrator – Peter Rogoff
National Highway Traffic Safety (NHSTA) Administrator – Chuck Hurley
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Public Works (oversees the Corps of Engineers) – Jo-Ellen Darcy
Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Occupational Health and Safety Administration and acting head of OSHA – Jordan Barab
EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Programs – Peter Silva
Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation (BurRec) – Michael Connor
General Services (GSA) Administrator – Martha Johnson

US DOT Nominations:

A number of other US DOT nominations were previously reported in the PB Washington Update and they and the new nominations are summarized below with their most recent former position noted. The White House has made significant progress in naming people for key DOT posts ahead of most other federal agencies and ahead of most previous administrations; however, other than Ray LaHood, none have been confirmed yet by the Senate. At this time, none of these nominations are expected to be controversial. Senate confirmation is not required for the Deputy spots. The bulk of the nominees are State DOT executives, union leaders, senior congressional staff and/or those with Chicago/Illinois ties.

Office of the Secretary:

US DOT Secretary – Ray LaHood (US House Representative R-IL)
Deputy Secretary – John Pocari (Secretary Maryland DOT)
Under Secretary for Transportation Policy – Roy Kienitz (Deputy Chief of Staff Pennsylvania DOT)
Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs and CFO – not nominated
Assistant Secretary for Policy – not nominated
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy – David Matsuda (Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ) staffer)
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy – Beth Osborne (Senator Carper (D-DE) staffer)
Assistant Secretary for Aviation & International Affairs – not nominated
Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs – (Mr.) Dana Gresham (Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL) staffer)
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs – Joanna Turner (National Governors Association)
General Counsel – Robert Rivkin (Counsel, Aon Inc and General Counsel Chicago CTA)



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Modal Administrations:

Federal Aviation Administrator (five-year fixed term) – Randy Babbitt (President of Airline Pilots Association ALPA)
Federal Highway Administrator – Victor Mendez (Director Arizona DOT)
Federal Transit Administrator – Peter Rogoff (Senate DOT Appropriations Subcommittee staffer)
Federal Railroad Administrator – Joe Szabo (Illinois Legislative Board of the United Transportation Union UTU)
Deputy Federal Railroad Administrator – Karen Rae (Deputy Commissioner for Policy New York State DOT)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator – Chuck Hurley (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers MADD)
Research and Innovative Technology (RITA) Administrator – Peter Appel (A.T. Kearney consulting firm)
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator – not nominated
Maritime Administrator – not nominated
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration – not nominated

Bios of New Nominees:

John Pocari, nominee for Deputy Secretary, US Department of Transportation

John D. Porcari currently serves as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, a position in which he is responsible for the highway, transit, aviation, maritime and motor vehicle registration modes of the state's transportation system. Mr. Porcari also serves as chairman of the entity responsible for operating the state's bridge and tunnel facilities. He is in his second tour as Secretary, having previously served in this capacity from 1999 to 2002. At the Maryland Department of Transportation Mr. Porcari implemented a record highway program for the state, including construction of the 2.4 billion InterCounty Connector that includes an environmental program unprecedented in state history. He also was directly involved in the development and funding of the \$2.4 billion Woodrow Wilson Bridge. In between his service as Maryland's Transportation Secretary, Mr. Porcari served as Vice President for Administrative Affairs at the University of Maryland, where he served as the chief administrative and financial officer. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Dayton and his Masters of Public Administration from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, State University of New York at Albany.

Peter Rogoff, Nominee for Federal Transit Administrator, US Department of Transportation

Peter M. Rogoff has served for 22 years on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, including 14 years as the Democratic Staff Director of its Transportation Subcommittee. He is an acknowledged expert in the area of federal infrastructure budgeting and finance, having had an active role in the financing of each of the last three comprehensive surface transportation reauthorization bills dating back to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. Mr. Rogoff has had an instrumental role in advising policy makers on the operating and capital needs of Amtrak, including the initiation and financing of high speed Acela service, as well as the financing of dozens of new light rail and bus rapid transit systems across the United States. Mr. Rogoff has been active in overseeing and reforming troubled procurements in the FAA, Coast Guard, FTA, and FHWA. Mr. Rogoff has also been centrally involved in efforts to strengthen safety inspections of substandard trucks, cargo vessels, and pipelines. He earned his MBA degree, with honors, at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University and his B.A. degree in American Studies at Amherst College.



Chuck Hurley, Nominee for National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator, US Department of Transportation

Chuck Hurley, a longtime safety advocate, has served as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD's) chief executive officer since 2005 and worked for the National Safety Council and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. At MADD, Hurley urged states to adopt tougher drunken driving laws and require first-time offenders to use ignition interlock devices on their cars. The devices require drivers to blow into an instrument that measures alcohol and prevent a vehicle from starting if the driver's blood alcohol concentration exceeds a certain level. MADD, a nonprofit organization based in Irving, Texas, was founded in 1980 and was instrumental in pushing Congress to set aside federal highway funds for anti-drunken driving efforts and to pass legislation to raise the federal minimum drinking age to 21. President Obama worked with Hurley as a state senator in Illinois to strengthen the state's auto safety laws.

Jo-Ellen Darcy, Nominee for Assistant Secretary of the Army for Public Works, US Department of Defense

Jo-Ellen Darcy is currently the senior environmental policy advisor to the US Senate Finance Committee, where she worked on energy, environmental, and conservation initiatives. Ms. Darcy has also served as senior policy advisor and deputy staff director with the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. While in those positions she oversaw the drafting of the \$23 billion Water Resources Development Act in 2007.

Jordan Barab, Nominee for Deputy Assistant Secretary/Acting Head, OSHA, US Department of Labor

Jordan Barab is a senior policy advisor to the House Education and Labor Committee where he has worked for two years on health and safety matters. He came to the House committee after working for the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for four years. From 1998 to 2001, Barab was special assistant to the federal OSHA chief and before that, he was director of safety and health for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for 16 years.

Peter S. Silva, Nominee for Assistant Administrator for Water Programs, Environmental Protection Agency

Peter S. Silva is a Civil Engineer with nearly 32 years of experience in the water and wastewater fields. He has served in varying capacities in the public sector specializing in water resources policy with extensive experience in U.S.-Mexico border issues. Mr. Silva currently is a Senior Policy Advisor for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Prior to this he was the Vice-Chair of the California Water Resources Control Board for six years, having been appointed by both Governors Davis and Schwarzenegger. Mr. Silva was appointed by President Clinton to serve for three years on the Board of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC). His other experience includes ten years at the City of San Diego, four years in charge of the IBWC San Diego office and five years with the California RWQB in San Diego. Mr. Silva lives in the community of Jamul, California with his wife, Ana and son, Diego. He is a registered Civil Engineer in the state of California



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Michael Connor, Nominee for Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, US Department of Interior

Michael L. Connor has served as counsel to the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee since 2001 and directs the Committee's Water and Power Subcommittee. As counsel, he has negotiated and managed legislation related to water reclamation, Indian lands, and energy issues.

Martha Johnson, Nominee for Administrator General Services Administration

Martha Johnson served as co-lead for the Obama Presidential Transition Agency Review Team for GSA and is the Vice President of Culture at Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), a role she has held since 2007. As vice president, Johnson is helping direct the change in culture within the 90,000 person corporation. From 2002 to 2007, Johnson was a vice president at SRA International where she managed a strategic consulting group that served federal clients including the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor. From 1996 – 2001, Johnson was Chief of Staff at the GSA, coordinating and supporting the strategic reinvention of a 20,000 person agency from a mandatory supplier of goods and services to a competitive, supplier-of-choice. From 1993 to 1996, Johnson served as the Assistant Deputy Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Office of the Deputy Secretary. Before joining the Clinton Administration, she worked in a series of jobs that rounded out her business credentials in finance, marketing and diversity consulting in Human Relations management. Martha Johnson received her B.A. from Oberlin College in 1974 and her M.B.A. from Yale University in 1979.