

# Emerging Leaders in Transportation

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**C2SMART Center** is a USDOT Tier 1 University Transportation Center taking on some of today's most pressing urban mobility challenges. Using cities as living laboratories, the center examines transportation problems and field tests novel solutions that draw on unprecedented recent advances in communication and smart technologies. Its research activities are focused on three key areas: Urban Mobility and Connected Citizens; Urban Analytics for Smart Cities; and Resilient, Secure, and Smart Transportation Infrastructure.

Some of the key areas C2SMART is focusing on include:

#### **Disruptive Technologies**

We are developing innovative solutions that focus on emerging disruptive technologies and their impacts on transportation systems. Our aim is to accelerate technology transfer from the research phase to the real world.

#### **Unconventional Big Data Applications**

C2SMART is working to make it possible to safely share data from field tests and non-traditional sensing technologies so that decision-makers can address a wide range of urban mobility problems with the best information available to them.

#### **Impactful Engagement**

The center aims to overcome institutional barriers to innovation and hear and meet the needs of city and state stakeholders, including government agencies, policy makers, the private sector, non-profit organizations, and entrepreneurs.

#### **Forward-thinking Training and Development**

As an academic institution, we are dedicated to training the workforce of tomorrow to deal with new mobility problems in ways that are not covered in existing transportation curricula.

*Led by the New York University Tandon School of Engineering, C2SMART is a consortium of five leading research universities, including Rutgers University, University of Washington, University of Texas at El Paso, and The City College of New York.*

**[c2smart.engineering.nyu.edu](http://c2smart.engineering.nyu.edu)**

## **Emerging Leaders in Transportation**

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## Executive Summary

The NYU Rudin Center annually hosts the Emerging Leaders in Transportation program, which develops early-career transportation professionals to develop and promote innovations within their organization. Emerging Leaders in Transportation provides participants with a career development platform for networking, sharing ideas and gaining insight from industry leaders. The program aims to infuse the industry with new ideas surrounding operations, technology and management.

By teaching participants to incorporate innovation into their workplaces and build long-term technology plans, the program contributes directly to one of C2SMART's core goals: providing forward-thinking training and equipping the transportation workforce to deal with new mobility problems. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to network and develop communication skills, strengthening future leaders of transportation agencies and companies.

The NYU Rudin Center initiated the Emerging Leaders program in 2014 after recognizing a need for early-career professionals to have their ideas heard in the transportation industry. An absence of training programs for this career sector was noted. The Rudin Center saw an opportunity to equip early-career professionals with the communications skills and network to promote their ideas. In addition, the Rudin Center aims to diversify industry leadership, and works to include a set of Emerging Leaders that represent a mix of backgrounds and genders.

The Rudin Center held the fourth edition of the program on December 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This fourth class of Leaders was composed of a diverse set of professionals with planning, policy, budget and teaching roles at both local and far-flung transportation organizations. The 2017 program consisted of a four-part workshop series addressing policy issues, leadership skills and technical innovation. This report summarizes the participants, program and feedback on the Emerging Leaders program from 2017.



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## Participants

Participants in the 2017 class included 25 early-career professionals with less than 10 years of experience in the transportation industry. The participants were selected from a pool of 62 applicants. They were selected for their evident promise in the industry and, as a group, diversity of interest areas, workplaces and sectors, gender and ethnicity. All participants accepted through the application process participated fully in the program.

The list of participants is below; the flyer released to the public with participant profiles is found on the following page.

Meet the 2017 class:

- Alexandra Aiello, MTA Bridges and Tunnels
- Camilla Siggaard Andersen, Gehl
- Nicole Badstuber, University College London
- Sara Barz, San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Sasha Berger, NACTO
- Diego Correa-Barahona, C2SMART
- Cory Epstein, NYC Council Member Dan Garodnick
- Krzysztof (Chris) Haranczyk, NYC & Company
- Laura Jardieanu, MTA New York City Transit
- Khari Linton, NYC Office of Management and Budget
- Elad Mokady, Sam Schwartz
- Russell Murphy, Risa Heller Communications
- Neil Padukone, NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment
- Louis Pappas, Via Transportation
- Nicole Payne, NACTO
- David Perlmutter, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates
- Asheque Rahman, NYC Department of Transportation
- Lauren Rennée, BFJ Planning
- Azikiwe Rich, NYC Department of Transportation
- Hayley Richardson, Transit Center
- Sandy Johnston, Central Transportation Planning
- Boris Suchkov, MTA New York City Transit
- Matt Tinoco, Mother Jones/Curbed
- Alia Verloes, 6t-Bureau de recherche
- Christina Yoo, NYC Department of Transportation

## Emerging Leaders in Transportation 2017



**Alexandra Aiello** is a Strategic Analyst at MTA Bridges and Tunnels, specializing in GIS, and is an Emergency Department volunteer at NYU Langone.



**Cory Epstein** is an optimistic, progressive communicator and strategist working to improve the lives of New Yorkers through smart public policy.



**Neil Padukone** Director of New Initiatives at the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, and a US DOT University Transportation Center scholar.



**Azikiwe Rich** Director of Performance Analysis and Reporting at NYC DOT, is a born analyst and Seinfeld fan who does whatever needs to be done, in all facets of his life.



**Camilla Siggaard Andersen (Gehl)** is an urban planner with a focus on creating technology-enhanced cities.



**Krzysztof (Chris) Haraczzyk** is a research analyst at NYC & Company exploring visitation metrics and transportation infrastructure.



**Louis Pappas** works with cities and transit agencies to create dynamic microtransit ecosystems for Via Transportation.



**Hayley Richardson (Transit Center)** is a designer and strategic communicator who works to make cities more delightful, equitable and mobile.



**Nicole Badstuber** is a transport policy researcher, writer & podcast editor with a background in government policy advice and academic research.



**Laura Jardieanu** is an Environmental Analyst for MTA's Department of Capital Program Management, handling Hurricane Sandy projects.



**Nicole Payne (NACTO)** is a Maryland transplant dedicated to improving mobility in underserved communities.



**Sandy Johnston (Central Transportation Planning)** is a professional transportation planner, talented writer, and advocate for transit and sustainable transportation and urbanism.



**Sara Barz (SF MTC)** is a Fulbright fellow and UC Berkeley alumna. Her interests include transit, transportation demand management, and technology.



**Khari Linton (NYC OMB)** is a transportation professional in city government, interested in modernizing transportation networks to become more sustainable.



**David Perlmutter (Nelson/Nygaard)** is a transportation planner and analyst, working to improve and expand access to equitable, sustainable mobility options.



**Boris Suchkov (MTA NYCT)** is a transportation planning professional with experience in project management, big data analytics and public transit planning.



**Sasha Berger** is the Program Coordinator at NACTO and works within the intersections of sustainability, equity, and transportation choice.



**Elad Mokady (Sam Schwartz)** is a geographer by nature and urban planner by training. Wants to increasing balance and sustainability in urban transportation.



**Asheque Rahman** Program Manager at the NYC Department of Transportation, is a very thankful person who thrives to make this world a better place



**Matt Tinoco** is a Californian journalist who regularly writes about political equity in transportation and other areas for outlets like Curbed and Mother Jones.



**Diego Correa-Barahona (C2SMART)** is a lover of transport and city life and all ways to get around, a cyclist for short trips, family man, loves the unexpected.



**Russell Murphy** recently started working at Risa Heller Communications in the Land Use and Real Estate practice.



**Lauren Rennée** is a Senior Transportation Planner at BfJ Planning and a lead organizer of BetaNYC.



**Alia Verloes (6t)** is a bike enthusiast convinced that the future of urban transport will be led by shared mobility and inclusive transport modes.



**Sarah Kaufman**, Assistant Director of the NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, is the program director of Emerging Leaders in Transportation.



**Christina Yoo** is an Analyst at the New York City Department of Transportation's Sidewalk Program, with a background in Architecture and Urban Design.

Figure 1: Class of 2017 Emerging Leaders

## Program

The NYU Rudin Center hosted the Emerging Leaders in Transportation program on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at our offices in SoHo, New York City. The 2017 class of Leaders was composed of a diverse set of professionals with planning, policy, budget and teaching roles at both local and far-flung transportation organizations.

### Day 1

The program's first day began with group introductions and a discussion about professional goals.



**Figure 2: Introduction on Day 1 by Sarah Kaufman, who directed the program**

Jessica Robinson, Director of City Solutions at Ford Smart Mobility, kickstarted the conference with a Q&A session with Sarah Kaufman, NYU Rudin Center Assistant Director. Jessica shared her thoughts on the direction of future mobility, Ford's role in taking the industry into its next phase and staying



informed about transportation trends during her travels. She pinpointed the importance of diversifying the transportation industry, especially in encouraging fellow female colleagues to ask questions even in larger group settings.



**Figure 3: Jessica Robinson (center) and Matthew Raifman (left), Ford Smart Mobility**

The following session, titled “Building Your Influence Within Your Organization,” was led by New York City Department of Transportation Chief of Staff Emily Gallo. She offered valuable advice about growing one’s areas of responsibility with an eye to the organization’s larger goals, tips for interviewing, and moving beyond stalled projects.





**Figure 4: Emily Gallo, Chief of Staff of NYC Department of Transportation (center), leads “Building Your Influence Within Your Organization”**

Following lunch, the Emerging Leaders toured the NYC Department of Transportation's Traffic Management Facility. The group learned about coordinating traffic data with video observations, rerouting around disruptions, and coordination with other city and regional agencies.



**Figure 5: Emerging Leaders touring the NYC DOT Traffic Management Facility**

Returning to Manhattan, the group took a brief tour of Grand Central, enjoying its lesser-known locations, like the whispering gallery. The day came to a close with a networking reception with program alumni at Eamonn's Bar and Grill. They discussed the major topics of the day, including congestion pricing, subway revitalization and workplace culture.





**Figure 6: Experiencing the Whispering Wall at Grand Central Terminal**



**Figure 7: Networking reception with program alumni**



## Day 2

Day two began with a panel discussion on innovation in mobility, featuring:

- Chris Whong, Director, NYC Planning Labs
- Manasvi Menon, Senior Strategic Consultant, Intersection
- Sami Naim, Public Policy Manager, Lyft
- John Raskin, Executive Director, Riders Alliance

The group discussed the role of the private sector, equity in public services, improving public communications, and extending hobbies into the workplace.



**Figure 8: Innovation in Mobility panel**

Later that morning, a keynote speech was delivered by Meera Joshi, NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission Commissioner. She spoke about her career and timely issues at the TLC, including access for riders with disabilities, competition from private ride-hailing providers, and leadership at city agencies. Commissioner Joshi relayed sound advice as she encouraged Emerging Leaders to surround themselves with smart people and stick to their moral code as they continue to progress in their careers.



**Figure 9: Commissioner Meera Joshi, NYC Taxi and Limousine Commissioner**

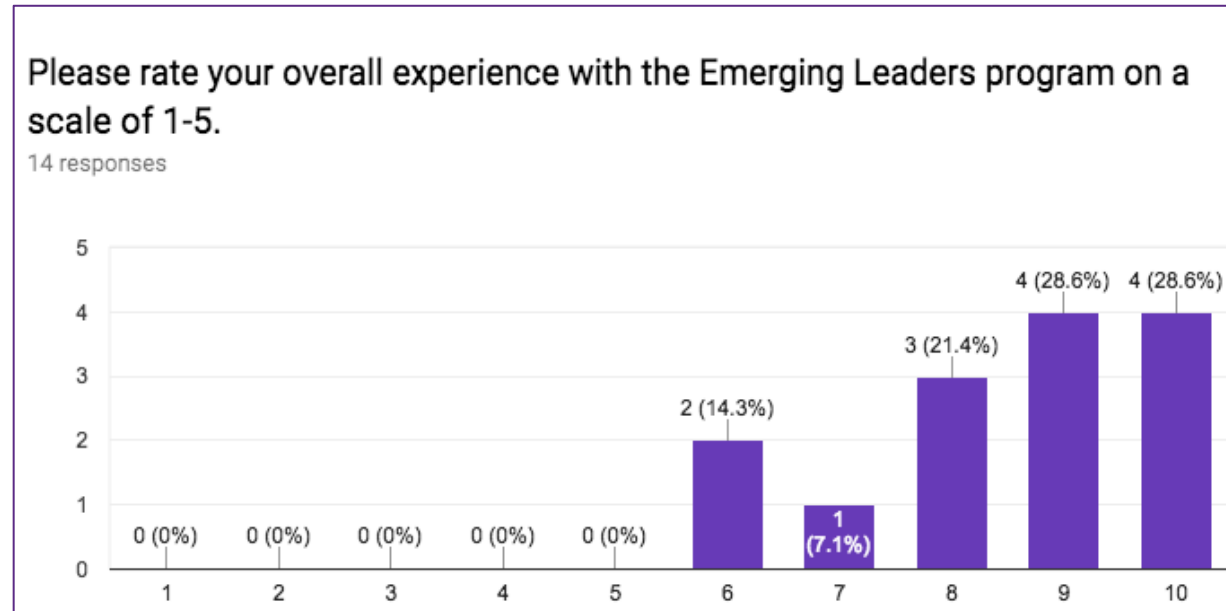
It was a pleasure hosting all of the participants and special guest speakers here at the NYU Rudin Center. We hope that the program helped to inspire great ideas for the future of transit and build a stronger network of leaders in transportation.



## Program Feedback

Following the Emerging Leaders in Transportation Program, the NYU Rudin Center for Transportation requested feedback from participants. Feedback was received through an anonymous online survey. Fourteen participants (56%) responded.

### Overall Satisfaction



### Recommending the Program

