

ThriveTogether: Cincinnati OH-KY-IN MSA

CPRG Project Team Biography Sketches



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Travis Miller	Project Manager	All
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Elizabeth Niese	Project Assistant	All



Travis Miller, ASLA

Project Manager

Skills: Project Management, Scheduling and Budgeting, Policy Development, Public Involvement, Communications, Training

Experience:

- Since 2010, leads OKI department responsible for all council of government programs serving local jurisdictions across an eight-county tri-state region.
- Maintain aspects of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan including comprehensive land use, environmental review, and resiliency plan components.
- Lead agency efforts to maintain and implement the OKI Strategic Regional Policy Plan, [*How Do We Grow from Here*](#) a comprehensive regional land use planning accompaniment to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- Lead staff responsible for managing the US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Program Phase I for the Cincinnati OH-KY-IN MSA, a 16-county tri-state planning effort to align implementation priorities for greenhouse gas reductions.
- Lead staff responsible for the OKI Water Quality Management Program including all designated Areawide Agency responsibilities of the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 208.
- Lead the OKI Enhanced Mobility for Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities – Section 5310 Funding Program and associated Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan.
- Worked with other regional organizations to launch the [*Taking Root*](#) non-profit organization with a mission to inspire conservation and improve stewardship of the OKI region's tree canopy and have continued to serve on the organization's Board of Directors since its 2013 launch.
- Adjunct Instructor, University of Cincinnati College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning (DAAP), School of Planning, January 2013 – Present
 - Developed curriculum and instruct *Organizational Behavior and Theory* – 2020-current
 - Developed curriculum and instructed *Emerging Planning Issues* course – 2019
 - Developed curriculum and instructed *Energy Planning and the Built Environment* course 2017-2018
 - Instructed a graduate level *Transportation Planning* course 2013-2016

Education:

- Master's degree in Community Planning from the University of Cincinnati
- Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the Ohio State University



Andrew Meyer, AICP

OKI Project Coordinator

Skills: Project design and management, collaboration and public engagement, communication, technical analysis, modelling.

Experience:

- Since 2015, served as OKI's Senior Planner for Land Use.
- Project manager for the OKI Energy Planning Project (2017-2020) which produced Energy Efficiency Plans (Climate Action Plans) for eight local governments in southwest Ohio. The program also provided \$130,000 in funding to the participating governments to begin implementation of their plans. The project received \$500,000 in total grant funding. OKI partnered with the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance to perform technical analysis and to produce energy audits of local government facilities. As project manager, Andy designed the overall program structure, applied for, and secured grant funding; managed the planning process for each community including running steering committee meetings, executing public engagement, assembling and drafting the plan document; administered the implementation funds for each community and produced reports on the use of these funds and resulting benefits; and produced quarterly and final grant reports for the project grantor. More information and the plans can be viewed at energy.oki.org.
- Oversaw the application process for the greater Cincinnati region becoming the second to receive a regional SolSmart designation (Silver) in December 2020.
- Participates in the annual scoring of regional projects for FHWA discretionary funding in the region's Surface Transportation Improvement Program – responsible for the existing employment, investment bonus, and local planning scoring, while collaborating on the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) scoring.
- Manages the OKI Fiscal Impact Analysis Model (FIAM). This program provides detailed estimates to local governments on the anticipated fiscal effects of future land use change. This information provides an added dimension to local decision-makers as they plan for future land use change.
- Maintains and implements the OKI Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP).
- Current Director of the Cincinnati Section of the American Planning Association.
- Ten years' prior experience in county and local government planning.

Education: Master's degree in Community Planning from the University of Cincinnati.



Robyn Bancroft, AICP

OKI Strategic Initiatives Manager

Skills: Project Management, Contracts and Procurement, Scheduling and Budgeting, Multimodal Transportation Planning, Public Involvement, Communications

Experience:

- Since 2004, serves as OKI's Strategic Initiatives Manager identifying, securing and managing cutting-edge transportation planning projects related to freight, economic development, transit, and advanced technologies.
- Works to find and coordinate the public/private partnerships and funding to achieve projects and programs that improve the safety, efficiency, environmental sustainability and economic competitiveness of freight transportation across the OKI region including, but not limited to:
 - Two FRA Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program grant awards leveraging over \$2.2 million in private investments.
 - Two 2020 MARAD American Marine Highway grant awards with Nucor Steel Plant in Brandenburg, Kentucky and the Port of Jeffersonville, Indiana totaling over \$2.9 million to expand short-haul barge service and reduce highway truck traffic.
 - A 2021 MARAD American Marine Highway grant award to Nucor Steel Plant in Gallatin, Kentucky totaling \$1,760,000 for purchase and installation a new gantry crane to service their Gallatin, Kentucky Plant on the Ohio River.
 - A 2024 MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program application with Consolidated Grain and Barge Company for \$5 million.
- Manages contracting, public bid processes, and ongoing reporting of federal grant awards.
- Inspires other regions with OKI's funding success to compete for freight funding (e.g.: Brook, Hancock, Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission was awarded 2021 FRA CRISI funds and received a new U.S. Marine Highway Project Designation for the Upper Ohio River.
- Led OKI staff and managed consultant team for completion of the new [OKI Freight Plan](#).
- Led the entire planning, implementation, and management of staff project teams for the following OKI projects: Boone County Transportation Plan (2018), Kentucky 536 Scoping Study (2017), Bright 74 Study (2016), Kenton County Transportation Plan (2014, 2019), OKI Metropolitan Transportation Plans (2008, 2012, 2016), Western Hamilton County Transportation Plan (2005), and The Dixie Fix: Dixie Highway Corridor Access Management Redevelopment Plan (2005).
- Serves as the Vice Chair of the Ohio Freight Advisory Committee, the MPO representative for the Kentucky Freight Advisory Committee for Transportation, Communication Coordinator for the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Urban Freight Transportation Committee (AT025) and Member of the TRB Truck Industry Research Committee (AT060).

Education:

- Master's degree in Urban & Regional Planning from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.
- Bachelor's degree in the History and Criticism of Art from Florida State University.



Michael Outrich, AICP
Project Assistant

Skills: Data Analysis, Statistics, Research, Presentations, Training

Experience:

- Since 2022, serves as OKI's Senior Planner & Demographer.
- Assists with population and employment projections and the Decennial Census
- Has fulfilled over 80 demographic data requests from the public and local governments.
- Conducted five Census data trainings with county and local governments.
- Enhanced the technical methodology to better forecast population and employment projections that inform OKI's Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Travel Demand Model.
- Serves as a Zoning Commission Member for Union Township's Zoning Commission

Education:

- Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University
- Bachelor's degree in Geographic Information Sciences from Ohio University



Jake Hesseling

Project Communications

Skills: Community Engagement, Public Speaking, Social Media, Website

Experience:

- Since 2021, as served as OKI's Manager of Communications and Legislative Affairs.
- Responsible for the public face of OKI, including public input, community engagement, and digital media.
- Led successful engagement for OKI's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP), and 2023 OKI Freight Conference.
- Works closely with OKI staff, partners, and stakeholders, to communicate ongoing OKI programs and oversees OKI's Title VI, Title II, and Public Involvement Plan.
- Sits on the Ohio Association of Regional Council's (OARC) communications and policy committees and Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project Diversity & Inclusion Outreach Committee.

Education: Bachelor's degree in International Relations and National Security Studies from The Ohio State University.



Katie Hannum

Finance Director

Skills: Finance, Contracts, Payroll and Accounting

Experience:

- Since 2004, held two previous OKI positions (Accountant: July 2004-April 2006 and Sr. Accountant: May 2006 – June 2022. Her excellence in these earlier positions have led to her current role as OKI's chief financial officers.
- Plans, oversees, and coordinates the financial and accounting operations of OKI demonstrating a high degree of accuracy, diplomacy, and confidentiality.
- Manages all facets of OKI's multi-state finances including budgeting, monthly, annual, and quarterly reporting, financial compliance, forecasting, and contracting.
- Oversees funds for two OKI-awarded Federal Rail Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program projects. Managing funds for the CRISI Grant programs includes oversight of \$2.2M in funds, reporting using the SF-270 reimbursement requests and submission of SF-425 quarterly reports. Katie has managed the execution of both Federal Rail Administration CRISI Grants, two subgrantee agreements and provides leadership during the public bidding process.

Education: Bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Cincinnati.



Timothy Stautberg

Finance Assistant I

Skills: Accounting, Contracting, Invoicing, Expense Reporting, and Budgeting

Experience:

- Since 2002, serves as OKI Accountant.
- Performs a variety of expense, budget, and accounting responsibilities
- Works with the upmost confidentiality and analytical abilities to complete his daily tasks.
- Helps track, verify, and monitor contracts for Federal Rail Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program projects.
- Ensures that there is established internal control procedures for individual transactions and contracts.
- Reviews consultant and sub-recipient invoices for accuracy and adherence to contracts and invoices.

Education: Bachelor's and master's degree in accounting from the University of Cincinnati.



Toni Gleason

Finance Assistant II

Skills: General Ledger, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Payroll, Procurement & Contracting, Budgeting

Experience:

- Since 2005, held two previous OKI positions (Finance Assistant: Oct 2005 - Feb 2008 and Accountant: Mar 2008 – Mar 2022). Her excellence in these previous OKI positions have led to her current role as OKI's Senior Accountant.
- Exhibits a high degree of accuracy and confidentiality.
- Prepares invoices to funding agencies, enters transactions into the software system, and verifies A/R to G/L for Accounts Receivable.
- Draws down federal funds for FTA and FRA projects. FRA funds for the Federal Rail Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program are drawn down using the Delphi eInvoicing System.
- Ensures G/L entry agrees with the payroll services reports, records payroll code-ins, reviews merit pay calculations, and processes year-end adjustments to fringe & indirect costs for OKI Payroll.
- Prepares source documents, reconciles A/P to G/L, and reviews A/P input for Accounts Payable responsibilities.
- Assists with development of OKI's Fringe and Indirect Cost Allocation Plan.
- Supports the agency's budgeting process.
- Serves as OKI's secondary for the administration of the flextime program and labor distribution.
- Analyzes a variety of monthly, semi-annual, and annual reports and statements.
- Manages bank reconciliation.
- Supervises Employer Tax 941 reconciliation.
- Oversees OKI's RFQ/PFP procurement process.
- Assists with the annual audit.

Education: Bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Cincinnati.



Robert Koehler, P.E.

Executive Advisor

Skills: Project Management, Scheduling and Budgeting, Transportation Planning, Staff Oversight

Experience:

- Since 1986, as served in many positions at OKI. For over a decade, held the position as OKI's Deputy Executive Director
- Leads the Annual Project Prioritization Process. OKI conducts an annual call for projects. The agency awards, on average, \$58 million of suballocated federal capital transportation funds to communities through a robust competitive process. The process, recognized as a national "Best Practice" by the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administration was developed in-house and is revised each year to reflect USDOT and OKI goals.
- Manages OKI's work with our respective state DOTs to oversee the implementation of OKI funded projects.
- Serves as principal staff responsible for the agency's oversight of all federal transportation funds in the region through the OKI Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The current OKI TIP contains 832 projects valued at more than \$6.5 billion.
- Leads OKI Transportation Planning which includes the development of policies and plans to advance improvements to the transportation infrastructure and operation of the system. OKI develops a forward-looking Metropolitan Transportation Plan every four years as well as many smaller county-wide and corridor plans.
- Supervises Regional Travel Demand Forecasting. OKI is the sole entity that houses a regional travel demand forecasting model. The state of the practice activity model is used for forecasting future travel and is used to assess system performance and needs.
- Oversees OKI's Environmental Justice Considerations. For many years OKI has considered the entire community's needs for access, mobility and safety. All projects considered for inclusion in OKI's program of projects are evaluated with respect to impacts on Environmental Justice (EJ). OKI has broadened the federal definition of EJ (minority and low income) for greater inclusion to also consider elderly, disabled and zero-car households.

Education: Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Kentucky.



Elizabeth Niese, PhD

Project Assistant

2022-present

Skills: Data Analysis, Statistics, Technical Writing, Research

Experience:

- Since 2022, has served as OKI's Data Analyst.
- Carbon Reduction Plan Committee – Revise and implement project prioritization for OKI Carbon Reduction Plan funds for EV charging station projects.
- Update OKI transportation project prioritization metrics for transportation safety, bicycle/pedestrian safety, and freight.
- Create data sets for use in regional bicycle stress map, Transit Analyst webapp, and EV charging station demand estimates.
- PI for NSA REU Site Grant (2016) at Marshall University, Huntington, WV.
- Author of 15 academic mathematics papers.

Education:

- PhD in Mathematics, 2010, Virginia Tech
- MS in Mathematical Sciences, 2003, University of Central Florida
- BS in Mathematics, 2001, Virginia Tech

