

Biographies of Key Personnel

NOACA

Andrew Bean is the Government Affairs Liaison at NOACA, where he advocates for the advancement of regional transportation issues at the local, state, and Federal levels. Before that, he served in the City of Cleveland's Mayor's Office of Equal Opportunity. He is an alumnus of Wesleyan University and the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Design.

Bev Burtzlaff is the Associate Director for Government Affairs with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA). She previously served ten years as VP of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) and served in a leadership role at Cuyahoga County. Prior to that, she served as the Ohio Communications Director for a 1992 U.S. presidential ticket. Her ten years of Capitol Hill experience includes: Staff Director - U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Government Information and Regulation; Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Herb Kohl; Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Howard Metzenbaum, and Staff Assistant to U.S. Congressman John Seiberling. She holds a BA in Political Science and French from the University of Akron.

Grace Gallucci is Executive Director/CEO of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, the metropolitan planning organization for the five-county region of Greater Cleveland. She is responsible for transportation, environmental planning, and resource allocation. Grace has 30 years of finance and planning experience in transportation and has been an adjunct professor/lecturer at four universities. She holds an MS in Urban Studies from Cleveland State University and a Masters and BS from the University of Dayton.

Ed May is the Director of Programming at NOACA. As director of programming, he leads the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the program of transportation projects to be implemented over a four-year period with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding. The programming division focuses on selecting projects for funding directly allocated to NOACA, over which NOACA has sole discretion. Additionally, the NOACA Programming Division manages state and federal grants to support the region's transportation and environmental needs.

City of Cleveland

Tim Kovach is the Decarbonization Strategist in the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Climate Justice at the City of Cleveland. In this role, he is responsible for updating the City's Climate Action Plan and Municipal Action Plan and manages the regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. He also works to embed decarbonization into City operations. He previously served as an Air Quality Planner at NOACA, where he tracked regional air quality trends, ensured that transportation programs comply with federal air quality regulations, and managed the development of the region's first climate plan. He has an MA in Global Environmental Policy from the American University School of International Service and a BA in political science and history from Baldwin Wallace University. He is a co-founder of the Cleveland Refugee Bike Project.

Calley Mersmann is the Senior Strategist for Transit and Mobility for the City of Cleveland, where she guides mobility projects, initiatives, and policies for Mayor Justin Bibb. She previously served for four years as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator with the Cleveland City Planning Commission, where she coordinated transportation plans and initiatives, managed the creation and development of the city's shared mobility program, and led the Vision Zero Action Plan process to develop a strategy to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities from traffic crashes. Prior to joining the City of Cleveland, she was the Safe Routes to School Coordinator with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and managed the establishment of a district-wide travel plan for students walking and biking to approximately 70 K-8 schools across the city. She is an avid bike rider, walker, and transit rider. Calley attended the University of Georgia as a Foundation Fellow, earning a Bachelor of Science in Ecology, and received a Master of Public Affairs with concentrations in local government and sustainable development from Indiana University's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Sarah O'Keeffe is Director of Sustainability & Climate Justice at the City of Cleveland, leading sustainability and climate justice initiatives and a staff of passionate change makers. As a part of Mayor Bibb's cabinet, Sarah works with peers to pursue equitable solutions to climate change and other environmental issues facing the Greater Cleveland community, specifically in the areas of circular economy, energy, sustainable transportation, land use and the transformation of other resource-intensive systems at the local and regional levels. Director O'Keeffe and the Mayor's Office of Sustainability work collaboratively with a number of community-based groups, non-profit organizations, universities and governmental agencies on climate action and environmental sustainability initiatives. She formerly led sustainability programs at the MetroHealth System and University Hospitals, based in Cleveland, OH, earned an MBA focused in sustainability and non-profit management from Case Western Reserve University and holds bachelor degrees in English Literature and Aeronautical Studies from Kent State University.

Bike Cleveland

Jacob VanSickle is the Executive Director at Bike Cleveland and a League of American Bicyclists League Cycling Instructor. With a tenure at Bike Cleveland since April 2012, Jacob leads the organization, overseeing community engagement activities to expand the bike network and educating individuals of all ages and abilities on safe bicycling practices. As a resident of Cleveland, Jacob is deeply involved in civic initiatives, serving on the City of Cleveland Transportation Infrastructure Advisory Committee and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. His commitment to promoting sustainable transportation solutions and advocating for bicycle-pedestrian safety underscores his dedication to fostering a more bike-friendly and accessible community. Jacob graduated from Spring Arbor University with a degree in Sociology with a concentration in Community Development.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Rich Cochran is a nationally renowned land conservationist and serves as President and CEO of Western Reserve Land Conservancy, the largest land trust in Ohio and one of the five largest United States. Rich was the founding executive director of the organization and has led its growth through corporate mergers of 13 land conservancies. Today the Land Conservancy generates more than \$25 million in annual revenues, employs about 50 people, and has preserved 70,000 acres valued at more than \$700 million. Rich's primary roles at the Land Conservancy include leadership of senior staff, public speaking, strategic planning, negotiating complex real estate transactions, establishing and maintaining relationships with local, state and federal elected officials, and fundraising. Under his leadership, the Land Conservancy has grown net assets (exclusive of land) from \$50,000 in 1995 to more than \$25 million today and completed more than 800 real estate transactions since 1996. Rich holds a BA from Middlebury College, and he is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management Program.

Erica Henrichsen is an ISA Certified Arborist and the Land Conservancy's Community Forestry Coordinator. She has been with the Reforest Our City Program since October of 2021 after having interned with the program the summer prior. Erica's urban forestry and fieldwork experience include internships with Holden Forest and Gardens and a Research Fellowship at Cleveland State University where she graduated in 2020. Erica developed and implemented our Trees4CLE giveaway program, providing over 2000 trees to homeowners in underserved neighborhoods. Erica coordinates the Tree Steward program and advanced training for our Tree Stewards, recruiting their involvement in our plantings and tree maintenance.

Devon Range is an ISA Certified Arborist and the Tree Care Coordinator providing leadership to our seasonal staff and volunteers as they plant and maintain the trees in our program. Devon leverages four years of experience in the private sector as an Arborist in training at Ripley Enterprises and Tree Range, as well as his experience as volunteer at Holden Arboretum.

Tom Schreiber is the Manager of Community Forestry for Western Reserve Land Conservancy and an ISA Certified Arborist. At the Land Conservancy, he leads a team that is focused on growing Cleveland's tree canopy, specifically in the city's underserved neighborhoods. Tom has been with the Land Conservancy since October 2020 and developed maintenance SOPs and training materials for Tree Crew. Tom assists with Tree Steward program delivery, pruning workshops, and planting workshops. Tom is a resident of Cleveland and serves on its Urban Forestry Commission.

Matt Zone oversees Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities program, where he works with cities and community organizations throughout Ohio to transform vacant, unsafe, and unproductive properties into useful ones. In the process, communities are finding new opportunities to attract economic growth, add green space, and support safe, beautiful neighborhoods. Prior to joining the Land Conservancy, Matt served as a Cleveland City Councilman for two decades. He brings a wealth of experience in strategic planning, land use, public art, and environmental policy with the purpose of creating positive change for Northeast Ohio.