Central Maryland Local Government Exchange
Presenter Bios

**Uri Avin, FAICP** is Research Professor at the National Center for Smart Growth where he also directs the Planning and Design Center serving jurisdictions across the Mid – Atlantic. He is a former planning director in Howard County and deputy director in both Harford and Baltimore Counties. Uri has built planning practices for several national consulting firms over several decades. During 42 years of practice, his plans have been recognized through 9 national and 21 state awards for excellence. His work spans local, regional and state scales and typically incorporates land use, transportation, and fiscal models. He has worked on plans and codes for 20 jurisdictions in Maryland and on regional and statewide projections and scenarios.

**Nat Bottigheimer** is a professional transportation planner and independent consultant with a background in public policy and real estate economics. Until 2012, he was an assistant general manager at WMATA, where he led initiatives in system and regional planning, bike and pedestrian access, sustainability, bus priority investment, TOD, and data and information sharing as assistant general manager in charge of planning, real estate, and parking. From 2000 to 2005, he worked at the Maryland Department of Transportation, where he focused on coordinated transportation-land use planning in diverse settings around the state.

**Tom Carbo**’s 27-year career has been spent entirely in public service with the State at the Department of Housing and Community Development, with Montgomery County and, most substantially, with Howard County where he heads their Housing Commission. An attorney by trade, Tom has served in a variety of governmental roles – agency counsel, hearing officer, labor negotiator, and program administrator – and in a variety of fields, including zoning, economic development, public administration, and human resources. The majority of his career, however, has been spent developing and implementing affordable housing programs.

**George Cardwell** has been the Planning Administrator for Transportation Programs in Anne Arundel County, Maryland since 2002. Previously he was an Associate Director for Planning and Project Development with WMATA and also worked in various capacities in Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties. As a consultant he managed transportation planning and design projects for State and Federal agencies including the US Department of State and the US Department of Defense. His varied experience over the past thirty four years spans land use, public facilities, emergency evacuation and transportation planning.

**Richard Clinch, Ph.D.** is Senior Program Manager for Battelle’s Technology Partnership Practice (TPP) where he conducts economic and fiscal impact analysis, technology-based economic development strategic planning, workforce development analysis and assessment, and research park development. He has worked for over twenty years on both traditional and technology-led economic development at the local, regional, state, and national level. After working on national science and technology issues at the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress he served as Director of Economic Research at the Jacob France Institute of the University of Baltimore’s Merrick School of Business. There he directed studies on state, regional and local economic development issues including business climate, manufacturing competitiveness, technology policy and development, and general economic performance.

**Paul Desjardin** is the Director of the Department of Community Planning and Services (DCPS) for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). Paul directs the Department’s technical and policy work in regional planning; land use/transportation and TOD-related studies; regional economic
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analysis and demographic forecasting; affordable housing; and foster care/child welfare. Paul and DCPS are lead policy and technical staff to several key COG regional committees including the Region Forward Coalition, Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee, Housing Directors Advisory Committee, and the Capital Area Foreclosure Network.

Pam Dunn has worked at the Montgomery County Planning Department since 2006. She initially worked extensively on the Transferable Development Rights and Building Lot Termination program and for the past 4 years has led the rewrite of Montgomery County’s zoning ordinance. Updating the 40+ year old code is a major accomplishment for the Planning Department. The County Council adopted the new code in March of this year and plans to adopt a new zoning map later this summer. Prior to joining the Planning Department, Pam worked on land use and agricultural policy for the Economic Research Service, the University of Maryland, and Mathematica Policy Research.

Don Elliott, FAICP is a planner, lawyer, and Director with Clarion Associates, a national land use consulting firm based in Denver, Colorado. Don has managed major zoning and development code revisions in Detroit, Philadelphia, Winnipeg, Duluth, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, Denver, Routt County, Colorado, and Pima County, Arizona and for numerous other jurisdictions throughout the country. He is currently leading Prince George’s County’s code update. He has written on a wide variety of land use and legal topics and is the author of A Better Way to Zone (Island Press 2008), co-author of The Rules that Shape Urban Form (APA 2012) and The Citizen’s Guide to Planning (APA 2009). He is past president of APA’s Colorado Chapter and a past national chairman of APA’s Planning and Law Division.

Laurie Feinberg has over 25 years of experience in Urban Planning with the City of Baltimore, including Urban Design, Land Use and Community Planning. She is currently serving as Assistant Director, Baltimore City Department of Planning and Project Manager for TransForm Baltimore – Zoning Code Rewrite. Laurie has taught classes at Johns Hopkins University, Maryland Institute College of Art, Cornell University and The University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Scott Fosler is Senior Lecturer at the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy. He was formerly president of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), chairman of the National Civic League, vice president of the Committee for Economic Development (CED), president of the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, and president of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments. He directed CED’s project on Public-Private Partnership: An Opportunity for Urban Communities, and is co-editor of Public-Private Partnership in American Cities: Seven Case Studies.

Pete Gutwald, AICP has been the Director of Planning and Zoning for Harford County since 2006. He has worked for Harford County Government for the past 23 years and has presided over a new comprehensive plan, comprehensive rezoning and a major overhaul of the 1982 zoning code. Pete currently serves on the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays.

Seema Iyer, Ph.D. is associate director and research assistant professor for the Jacob France Institute in the University of Baltimore’s Merrick School of Business. She has overseen the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance since 2011 and serves on several community-oriented boards including Baltimore City Head Start and the Baltimore Community Foundation Neighborhoods. She co-chairs and teaches in the University of Baltimore’s Real Estate & Economic Development program. Prior to joining UB, Iyer served as Chief of Research & Strategic Planning for Baltimore City’s Planning Department and was responsible for data and policy analysis, geographic information systems services
and population forecasting. She spearheaded the 2009 Food Policy Task Force and the 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

**Shyam Kannan** directs WMATA’s (Metro) strategic planning efforts, called Momentum, as well as supervises long-range planning, sustainability, and regional coordination. He has a particular interest in the economic benefits of transit, as well as coordinating closely with the business community in the region. He was most recently with RCLCO (Robert Charles Lesser and Co. LLC), a Washington-area based real estate strategy firm. At RCLCO, he founded the firm’s Public Strategies Practice Group, where he oversaw planning, development, and transit system finance for public sector clients across the country. Shyam is a committee member of the Urban Land Institute’s Transit-Oriented Development Council, the Region Forward Coalition of WashCOG, and the Housing and Retail Development Committee of the District of Columbia Building Industry Association.

**Mary Kendall** is currently a Project Manager in the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization with the State of Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. She manages the Department’s Sustainable Communities program and supports various smart growth and economic and community development efforts throughout the State. In the past, she has worked for non-profit organizations and local governments in the areas of crime prevention, community organizing and public art. Mary is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer from Panama.

**Eli Knaap** is a Ph.D. student at the University of Maryland and coordinator of the spatial research lab at the NCSG. His doctoral research focuses on the application of spatial analysis and visualization to study Neighborhood Effects, urban inequality and housing/transportation policy. Eli built the NSGG’s first interactive opportunity mapping application using CommunityViz and continues to lead its web-based OppMapp tool. Other projects include the use of CommunityViz for corridor planning and published research on regional urban form, scenario sketch planning tools and equity issues in scenario planning.

**Gerrit Knaap** is Professor of Urban Studies and Planning and Executive Director of the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education at the University of Maryland. Knaap’s research interests include the housing markets and policy, economics and politics of land use planning, the efficacy of economic development instruments, and the impacts of environmental policy. He currently serves on the State of Maryland’s Smart Growth Subcabinet, the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission, and the Science and Technical Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Commission. He previously served on the Development Capacity Task Force appointed by former Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich and on the Task Force on the Future of Growth and Development in Maryland appointed by Governor Martin O’Malley.

**Milena Kornyl** has been working as a labor market economist for eight years, providing information that enables Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Employment Development to make policy and operational decisions. She co-authored the original Talent Development Pipeline Study conducted by the Baltimore Workforce Investment Board in 2012 that looked at the skills gaps in six targeted industries. She serves as the labor market and economics expert on a number of initiatives including the Opportunity Collaborative, Baltimore City Outcome Budgeting Growing Economy Team and Career Pathways. In addition to her role as a labor market economist, Milena is now managing the implementation of the Local Hiring Law in Baltimore City.
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**Troy Leftwich** is the Commercial Revitalization Specialist at the Baltimore County Department of Planning as a Planning Zoning where he assists with efforts to provide incentives to the County’s Commercial Revitalization Districts. Leftwich is also the Community Planner for Pikesville and Owings Mills, Maryland. He has completed his Bachelor’s in Architecture and Masters in City & Regional Planning from the Morgan State University.

**Erkin Ozbek** has been a Planner with the City of Takoma Park since 2011. He works on a variety of transportation, land use planning, and economic development projects, with a focus on the City's New Hampshire Avenue Initiative (www.theNewAve.com). The City envisions New Hampshire Avenue as a multi-way boulevard, and is working with County and State planners to maintain this vision in tandem with ongoing and future transit investment on the corridor. The City's goal is to convert a two-mile segment of arterial state highway into a multi-modal thoroughfare and community asset that supports mixed-use redevelopment.

**James Palma, AICP** is a Senior Manager in the Research and Information Unit at the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development. He has been active in the areas of demographic and economic policy research for over 15 years. Prior to joining DBED, Jim was a planner for the Maryland Department of Planning, where he worked to support Census 2010 and PlanMaryland. Prior to this, Jim worked for a private planning and engineering firm in Florida and was a researcher for a public policy institute at the University of Massachusetts. Jim has presented at National and local APA conferences on topics such as the use of Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics data in Smart Growth measurement and predicting future land use needs for industrial development, as well as researching and authoring numerous articles and studies.

**Lily Qi**, an appointee of the Montgomery County Executive, is Director of Special Projects to oversee new initiatives on economic competitiveness and global partnerships. Prior to this appointment, Qi was Vice President of Business Development for Washington, D.C. Economic Partnership and spokesperson for the D.C. Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking. Qi also chairs the Governor's Commission on Asian American Affairs and serves as trustee of Suburban Hospital of Johns Hopkins Medicine.

**Keenan Rice**, the President of MuniCap Inc. in Annapolis, has worked almost exclusively in the area of public/private partnerships and tax increment financing for the last twenty-five years. He is recognized as one of the most experienced and knowledgeable professionals in the country in the field of tax increment financing and has provided assistance on over 200 tax increment financing projects nationwide (including similar financings using PILOTs, special taxes, and other forms of project tax revenues). Prior to beginning his career in public finance, Mr. Rice was a vice president at a major real estate development firm and before that he was a real estate loan officer for a major financial institution.

**Joe Rutter** has served as planning director in both Howard County and Anne Arundel County. Over three decades in Howard, he initiated and enhanced comprehensive databases and analytical capabilities and adding engineering review capacity; in Anne Arundel he managed a complete overhaul of their codes and maps in 18 months. As a consultant at Land Design and Development, he is involved in a wide range of project types from concept through implementation.

**Elisabeth Sachs** is Senior Advisor in the Office of the Secretary at Maryland’s Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) and Program Director of EARN Maryland. She was formerly Interim
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Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), Director of Policy and Planning at the Office of the Secretary at DLLR, and an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maryland.

Jason Sartori is the Managing Principal of Integrated Planning Consultants, LLC and also serves as the Associate Director at the NCSG. Over the last 17 years, Jason has managed a variety of stakeholder participation, strategic planning and research initiatives for corporations in the private sector, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. At the NCSG, he leads research efforts and manages various projects, most recently on growth indicator analysis, economic development and affordable housing. He served as the opportunity mapping project manager for the Baltimore Sustainable Communities Initiative and project manager for the NCSG’s OppMapp tool development effort.

Lee Sobel is a principal at RCLCO, and the Director of the firm’s Public Strategies Group. He previously served as Senior Specialist for real estate development and finance at the US EPA’s Office of Sustainable Communities (the Smart Growth Program) for ten years. In his current position, Lee provides development, finance and economic services to public sector clients throughout the country. Lee provides expertise in design economics, corridor planning, transit-oriented development, downtown revitalization, suburban retrofitting, neighborhood planning, and more. Lee has been a board member of the D.C. Chapter of the Congress for the New Urbanism for over seven years, and he serves as a ULI Young Leadership Mentor. Lee bikes to work and has logged over 4,000 commute miles over the past three years.

Susan Swift has been Rockville’s Director of Community Planning and Development Services since 2008 where she is responsible for planning, zoning, housing, historic preservation as well as the building permit and inspections divisions. Previously she the Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of Leesburg, Virginia, where she developed the city’s first redevelopment plan and form-based zoning code, as well as a new affordable dwelling unit ordinance. Susan also worked as a consultant in Florida focusing on redevelopment plans, zoning regulations and eminent domain and for the Cities of Tampa, Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg.

Michael Walk is the Director of Service Development for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). He leads the development and calibration of transit lines, schedules, stops, and operator assignments for MTA’s fixed-route core transit system, (62 bus lines, 1 light rail and 1 heavy rail line). He is also project manager for the MTA’s Bus Network Improvement Project, a comprehensive review and re-design of MTA’s local bus network. Michael joined MTA 6 years ago as an analyst working to develop a data- and performance-oriented culture in transit operations and then became MTA’s first Chief Performance Officer, implementing an enterprise approach to performance management, process improvement, and data analysis.