

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

European and Eurasian Studies Program

EU Jean Monnet Project

“The Future of Local Transportation”



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS: BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Panelists



Alice N. Bravo, P.E. – Director
Transportation and Public Works
Miami-Dade County

Alice Bravo was appointed Director of the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) in February 2016. The department includes all functions of the previous Miami-Dade Transit, along with the County Engineer, Traffic Operations, Construction and Maintenance and Highway Planning, as well as the Passenger Transportation Regulation function. DTPW is responsible for Miami-Dade County’s entire surface transportation system, the planning, maintenance and operation of our roadways, transit system and taxicab and limousine services.

Prior to the reorganization of Transportation and Public Works functions, Ms. Bravo held the position of Miami-Dade Transit Director. Transit is the 15th largest public transit system in the United States, and the largest in Florida. Ms. Bravo oversees the planning and provision of all public transportation services in the County. She leads the effort of improving and expanding transportation in the community by working closely with the federal government, Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization and Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, among others.

As Director, Ms. Bravo oversees accessible transportation services in Miami-Dade County. This includes the Metrobus fleet that runs approximately 28.9 million miles through most areas of Miami-Dade County; the electrically-powered, elevated, 25-mile rapid transit Metrorail system; the 4.4-mile elevated Metromover; and the paratransit service (Special Transportation Service) that meets the needs of the disabled.

Throughout her career, Ms. Bravo has been responsible for managing a number of diversified public-private partnership projects involving design, construction, finance, operation and maintenance, including the \$1 billion Port Miami tunnel; the innovative I-95 Express Project; and the \$550 million S.R. 826-S.R. 836 interchange reconstruction project. These projects have helped improve commuter mobility throughout Miami-Dade County.



Dr. Atorod Azizinamini, PhD, PG, CHg
Professor and Chair, Civil and Environment Engineering
Structural and Bridge Engineering
Florida International University

Dr. Atorod Azizinamini was appointed by the College of Engineering and Computing at Florida International University (FIU) as the Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at FIU in January of 2011.

Dr. Azizinamini came to FIU from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he was a Distinguished College of Engineering Professor and the Director of National Bridge Research Organization. A specialist in bridge engineering and expert in the field of accelerated bridge construction, he has been instrumental in facilitating the use of advanced materials and technologies in bridges by educating professional engineers and conducting major research studies. Dr. Azizinamini has also been an entrepreneur and a leader in developing innovative bridge systems and implementing novel concepts in practice. His patented “Folded Plate Girder” system provides a cost-effective solution for replacing deficient short span bridges, which account for the majority of the 650,000 bridges in the U.S. bridge inventory.

Dr. Azizinamini has received a number of awards, including the Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF) Charles Pankow Award for his innovative bridge system, the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) Special Achievement Award for his significant contributions to steel bridge engineering and its impact on the steel industry, the AISC’s 2005 Prize Bridge Competition Merit Award for his outstanding design in structural steel-Medium Span Bridge Category, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) Innovation in Steel Bridge Award for his valuable contributions to High Performance Steel, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) “Partnership in Excellence Award” for his contributions to the Accelerated Bridge Construction, and the FHWA’s “Major Achievement Award” for promoting the use of High Performance Steel in the U.S. Dr. Azizinamini has served as an advisor to projects in many countries, including the Republic of Korea, for incorporating advanced materials in bridges.

Dr. Azizinamini’s research activities have been diverse. In the early 1990s he conducted a number of projects funded by the National Science Foundation to develop technologies for utilizing High Performance Concrete in buildings and bridges, with an emphasis on highly seismic areas. In 1995, he was selected through NSF to be a member of the U.S. delegation to work cooperatively with Japanese researchers to develop technologies for the next generation of high-rise buildings in seismic regions.

Additionally, when Congress established the second strategic highway research program (SHRP 2) in 2006 with \$232M funding to advance the nation’s transportation infrastructure, the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences identified three topics in the bridge engineering area. Dr. Azizinamini is the principal investigator leading one of the three initiatives (SHRP2 R19A), with an objective of developing technologies for bridges with 100+ years of service life. As part of his multi-million dollar project, Dr. Azizinamini is developing the most comprehensive guide worldwide entitled “Guide for Bridges for Life,” for enhancing the service life of bridges. This guide is expected to have long lasting effect on how bridges are designed, constructed and maintained.

Dr. Azizinamini holds a B.S degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and a Ph.D. degree from the University of South Carolina in 1985. He is a registered professional engineer in several states. He has carried out numerous research studies in Structural Engineering field and has published more than 200 journal papers, books, and technical articles. He routinely gives keynote talks at major national and international conferences and has co-chaired a number of important national and international bridge engineering conferences, including almost all FHWA Bridge Engineering Conferences devoted to accelerated bridge construction and the use of advanced materials.



Danye Aboki

Counselor, Transport and Sustainability Cities
Embassy of France in Washington DC

Danye Aboki currently occupies the post of counselor in charge of transport and sustainable cities at the Embassy of France in Washington, DC.

Her areas of responsibility include all transport modes (aviation, maritime, rail, road and mass transit) with regard to legislative initiatives, and particularly relating to safety, security, energy and environment. Secondly, an increasing activity is to promote the models of sustainable cities embracing the urban issues related to transportation, mobility, housing, land use, energy, climate etc.

She joined the French Embassy in October 2014, thereby pursuing a career as a transportation and energy expert in public service for the government or for local authorities in France.

From 2010 to 2014 as a project manager in the regional directorate of the Minister for Ecology, she has been responsible for enhancing the public policy to support the development of renewable energy (biomass, solar wind.) and the reduction energy consumption, achieving France and European's climate goals by 2020. She was empowered the regulatory authority for the development of electricity and gas grids, assessing the environmental, economic and social impacts.

Previously as mobility manager for the 8th city in France (Montpellier) she had be responsible for drawing up a new multimodal traffic scheme, coordinating the different transit authorities. Her first experience (2002-2006) was as a traffic planner for highways and rail tracks.

She graduated as a civil engineer from the National School for Civil Engineering in Lyon and also held an Economics of Transportation Degree from the University Lyon 2.



Dominique Bertrand

Senior Advisor, CEREMA - Center for Studies depending on the French Department for Transport, Environment and Energy

Born in 1957, Dominique is a French civil engineer, graduate of the National School of State Public Works (1980). As a civil servant of French administration, he has been making a career both in technical offices of the French ministry of public works and as technical assistant in Burkina Faso's transportation administration, focusing on road safety, urban public transport and traffic management. He has been dealing with tramways safety issues and public transport layouts from about 15 years. In 2008, he joined Certu (now integrated in Cerema) as a senior advisor in charge of the thematic of urban insertion of at-grade public transport. Dominique is member of the TRB (Transportation Research Board) Light Rail Transit committee since beginning of 2014.

Dr. Meryem Simsek

Researcher, Chair of IEEE Tactile Internet Sub-Committee, Vodafone Chair Mobile Communications Systems
- Technische Universität Dresden, Germany

Dr. Meryem Simsek received her Dipl.-Ing. degree in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology from University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany in 2008, holding a scholarship from the German National Academic Foundation which is granted to the outstanding 0.5% of all students in Germany. She obtained her Ph.D. degree on “Reinforcement learning based inter-cell interference coordination in LTE-advanced heterogeneous networks” from the same university in 2013. In 2013, she was a post-doctoral visiting scientist at Florida International University. Her main research focus was on mobility management in heterogeneous networks and device-to-device communication. Since 2014, she is a group leader at the Vodafone Chair Mobile Communication Systems at the Technical University Dresden, Germany. Her main research interests include resource management in heterogeneous wireless networks, 5G wireless systems and use cases, e.g. autonomous and/or network-assisted driving, wireless network design and optimization, self-organizing networks, and the tactile internet. Dr. Simsek won the IEEE Communications Society Fred W. Ellersick Prize 2015. Since June 2015, she is chairing the IEEE ComSoc Tactile Internet technical sub-committee and has initiated the IEEE P1918.1 Tactile Internet working group and is serving as the secretary of this working group. In addition, she is leading the ETSI IP6 work item on IPv6 based Tactile Internet. In October 2016, she is going to start a new wireless research group at International Computer Science Institute (ICSI) Berkeley.