

Panelists:



Chris Walsh, the representative for the 6th Middlesex House District is in his third term in the State Legislature. Currently he is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and Transportation Committee among other committees. As the only registered Architect serving in the legislature since the late 1800's he has been a practicing architect in Framingham for more than 25 years. A graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, with degrees in Fine Arts and Architecture, he also attended the Boston Architectural College.

In his first two terms Chris filed successful legislation designed to open public lands for walking trails, supported building and zoning code reform, and filed a bill to create a Palliative Care Commission. He has been honored by the American Cancer Association, the Metrowest Regional Collaborative and named 2015 Legislator of the year by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission. All in all he finds the State House the most invigorating and interesting work he has ever undertaken.



Wm. Smitty Pignatelli, is the representative for the 4th Berkshire House District and is currently serving his seventh term in the House of Representatives. He is currently on the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Committee of Ways and Means among other committees. Prior to being a state representative, Smitty was the Business Development Manager for Lee Bank, and attended the Babson College School for Financial Studies graduating in 2001. Smitty was first elected to the Lenox Planning Board in 1987 and served on that board for five years. In 1992, he was elected to the Board of Selectmen, and was elected Chairman on four different occasions, serving until May of 2003. Smitty also served from 1995-1999 as a Berkshire County Commissioner including two years as Chairman of the board.



Joseph C. Sullivan was elected as Mayor of Braintree in 2007 and reelected in 2011. From 1993 to 2003, he served as a State Representative and was Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation for six years. Sullivan served as a member of the Blue Ribbon Transportation Finance Commission (2006) which identified the important needs of transportation throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He is a Past President of the Massachusetts Municipal Association and is a member of the Metropolitan Boston Mayors' Association. In 2015, Mayor Sullivan was appointed to serve on Governor Baker's MBTA Special Panel which was established to offer recommendations on needed improvements for the MBTA and the Commuter Rail operations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He is currently on the MassDOT Board of Directors.



Stephen M. Woelfel is the Director of Strategic Planning for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Office of Transportation Planning. In this role, Steve oversees the Long Range Planning Group. Steve also directs the work of the MPO Activities Group which works with the Commonwealth's MPOs on the programming of federal highway and transit funding. He also spearheaded the completion of "we Move Massachusetts", which introduced scenario-based capital planning at MassDOT. Steve is

continuing to work on capital planning initiatives by currently leading the development of MassDOT's upcoming five year Capital Investment Plan.

Prior to MassDOT, Steve served in various roles at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) including Deputy Director of Planning and Manager of Long Range Planning. Steve received a B.S. in Business Management and Marketing from Cornell University and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Moderator:



William Lyons, President and Founder of Fort Hill Companies, is a trusted advisor on land use, urban design, site development, transportation, and real estate matters. Bill has provided professional engineering and planning services to a wide array of public and private sector clients. He has served in a professional capacity with the Massachusetts Highway Department (now MassDOT) and as a municipal department head for the City of Somerville, Massachusetts. He has more than fifteen years of experience as a consulting planner and engineer, where he has helped build entrepreneurial firms from the ground up. He is known for his ability to build bridges between owners and stakeholders.

Bill holds a Juris Doctor (JD) from Suffolk University Law School, a Master of Strategic Studies (MSS) from the US Army War College, a Master of Transportation and Urban Systems (MTUS) from North Dakota State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) from Norwich University – The Military College of Vermont. He is licensed as a Professional Engineer (in ten states) and a Professional Planner in New Jersey. He is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts and is also a licensed Real Estate Broker.