

Ron Thaniel, MPA

(b)(6)

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Interdisciplinary government relations and public affairs strategist with over 20 years of experience representing and advising public, private, and third sector on transportation and technology mobility solutions both inside the beltway and outside of Washington, D.C.

High-achieving transportation policy expert skilled at translating complex policy and legislation succinctly and persuasively to innovate transportation, infrastructure, and new modes of urban mobility and emerging transportation technologies.

Driven and resourceful advocate who possess extensive experience with federal government relations and policy and legislative processes in cities and state capitals across the country. Open to travel as needed to support government relations and public affairs.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vice President of Public Policy and Legislative Affairs

October 2020 – Present

Advise and represent cities, states, transit, automotive, technology, infrastructure, and research universities before the United States Congress on intelligent mobility and infrastructure policy, including automated, connected, on-demand, and electrified transportation.

Automated and Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Legislation

- Led 35 member AV policy committee of automakers, developers, and safety professionals; city, state, and transit officials; metropolitan planning, research organizations, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Headed policy development on integrating AVs into the transportation system and providing expert leadership on topics including appropriate government roles, traffic laws, safety, AV deployment models, such as societal and environmental considerations and impact on urban transit
- Advised on legislative and advocacy strategies, such as bill analysis and comments on proposed legislation, such as for House Committee on Energy and Commerce AV discussion draft bill, AV amendment to the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, and engagement with Congress and stakeholders

Mobility and Smart Infrastructure

- Spearheaded intelligent mobility and smart infrastructure policy committee of national experts from traditional and technology infrastructure, mobility technology, freight technology, and government
- Directed policy development on intelligent transportation technologies, such as vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technology, Mobility on Demand, congestion pricing, electric vehicle charging systems, smart cities, cybersecurity, and intelligent transportation technology-focused equity, Vision Zero, and broadband policies

Legislative Victories

- Secured first-time funding eligibility for Mobility on Demand, vehicle-to-pedestrian technology, and transit cybersecurity in the House-passed INVEST in America Act
- Obtained first-time funding eligibility for infrastructure cybersecurity under programs in Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act in the Senate-passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Vice President of Legislative Affairs

November 2016 – September 2020

Strategic Policy Negotiations

- Represented organization members among Congress on AV legislation and DOT on a federal regulatory framework for AVs
- Oversaw complex negotiations on the operation of AVs on public roads and Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards exemptions in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's AV START Act between General Motors and multiple transportation agencies

Policy Development

- Conceptualized the association's current policy committee structure by liaising between the public, private, third sector transportation technology experts to engineer ITS America's federal surface transportation reauthorization platform focusing on connected vehicle technologies that operate in the 5.9 GHz spectrum band
- Championed federal funding for connected and automated vehicle research, preserving the 5.9 GHz spectrum for V2X technologies, deploying smart transit technologies, and increasing technology eligibility under DOT discretionary grant programs

Organizational Branding

- Reestablished the business as transportation technology policy experts among Congress
- Positioned organization to testify before Congress, including House and Senate transportation and technology committees, the Senate Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, and the House New Democrat Coalition

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER OF NEW YORK GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

NEW YORK, NY & ALBANY, NY

Deputy Secretary for Transportation

January 2015 – August 2016

Appointed by Governor to lead Executive Chamber operations for Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, DOT, New York State Thruway Authority, and Bridge Authority.

- Advised Governor Cuomo on one of the most extensive subway, bus, and commuter rail capital plans for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in New York's history; analyzed the plan for alignment with the Governor's transportation infrastructure and development priorities for the New York City metropolitan area, and ensured key constituencies and interest groups, including labor, business, local government officials, and straphangers supported the plan
- Informed Governor on New York City proposal to cap the number of ride-sharing vehicles, provided research; developed policy arguments, identified stakeholders, and ensured continued support for the Governor's plan to bring ride-hailing services to Upstate New York communities
- Represented Governor on the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge Mass Transit Task Force formed to consider transit options for the new bridge, worked with consultants to inform residents living in the bridge's footprint, and collaborated with the project team

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CITY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

NEW YORK, NY

Executive Director

July 2011 – April 2013

Selected by the NACTO Board of Directors composed of transportation commissioners from the largest cities in the United States.

- Represented cities from 14 states before Congress and the DOT on urban mobility policies, urging the federal government to adopt roadway guidelines that protected cyclists and pedestrians and establishing federal direct transportation aid for cities
- Launched NACTO's "Designing Cities: Leading the Way to World-Class Streets," an initiative sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Surdna Foundation to reimagine cities and urban mobility through the lens of shared streets

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Assistant Executive Director

September 2008 – July 2011

Managed transportation and broadband policy and represented mayors before Congress and federal agencies.

- Advocated for higher federal share on public transit and broadband in economically disadvantaged urban areas in The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, surface transportation legislation, and energy and climate bills
- Headed "Economic Impacts of High-Speed Rail on US Cities and Metropolitan Areas," a report that showed the economic impact on high-speed rail in four cities and underlined the importance of funding for high-speed rail

Assistant Executive Director

January 2002 – April 2007

Led transportation policy and represented mayors before Congress, federal agencies, international organizations, and governments.

- Counseled U.S. mayors, including building comprehensive presentations, on transportation policy, such as urban innovation, sustainability, terrorism, and HIV/AIDS at UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum, World Association of Major Metropolises, Alliance of Mayors/Municipal Leaders in Africa, the Korean National Association of Mayors, and China Association of Mayors
- Represented U.S. mayors before the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs on strategies to protect transportation from terrorism

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founding Principal | Thaniel Consulting: Urban Transport Consulting | New York, NY May 2013 – November 2016

Director of Government Affairs | National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) | New York, NY April 2007 – August 2008

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Co-author of "[Addressing Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities Facing Our Nation's Physical Infrastructure](#)" testimony prepared for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works hearing, July 2021.

Co-author with San Francisco County Transportation Authority "[Pricing and Technology Strategies to Address Congestion and Financing of America's Roads](#)" testimony prepared for the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Highways and Transit hearing, September 2019.

Co-author of "[Examining Technological Innovations in Transportation](#)" testimony prepared for the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety hearing, June 2019.

Co-author of "[Innovation and America's Infrastructure: Examining the Effects of Emerging Autonomous Technologies on America's Roads and Bridges](#)" testimony prepared for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works hearing, June 2018.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Coalition for Future Mobility (Washington, D.C.) | Member September 2017 – Present

Vice President Biden's Infrastructure Policy Committee | High-Tech Subcommittee Member July 2020 – November 2020

Transportation for America (Washington, D.C.) | Executive Committee Member July 2011 – May 2013

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration | Hamline University | Saint Paul, MN

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science | Morgan State University | Baltimore, MD