**Key Speakers**

**Peter H. Appel**  
Administrator, U.S. DOT RITA  
Appel was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Administrator of the U.S. DOT’s Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) in April 2009. Since joining RITA, Appel has worked with Secretary Ray LaHood to advance several key initiatives, including bolstering the U.S. DOT’s Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), enhancing the Bureau of Transportation Statistics’ data collection and analysis capabilities, and establishing the department’s Safety Council. He has over 20 years of experience in Transportation, including positions as Special Assistant to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and as Assistant Director for Pricing and Yield Management at Amtrak. Appel earned his bachelor’s degree from Brandeis University in Economics and Computer Science and received his master of science in Transportation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**John Horsley**  
Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
From 1993 to 1999, Horsley served as Associate Deputy Secretary at the U.S. DOT, where he advocated for intermodal policies and quality of life initiatives and served as liaison to state and local governments, U.S. Congress, and transportation constituencies. He is a graduate of Harvard, an Army veteran, a former Peace Corps volunteer, and a congressional aide, and he did graduate study at Georgetown. He is Past President of the National Association of Counties and was founding Chairman of the Rebuild America Coalition. A native of the Northwest, Horsley was elected to five terms as County Commissioner in Kitsap County just west of Seattle.

**Sharron Quisenberry**  
Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Iowa State University  
Before joining ISU in April 2009, Quisenberry had been agriculture dean at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech); dean of agriculture and professor of entomology at Montana State University, Bozeman; and head of the Department of Entomology at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She was also an assistant professor of entomology at Iowa State from 1980 to 1982. In 2002, Quisenberry was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development, a position she held through 2007. Quisenberry received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Truman State University, a master of arts in environmental biology from Hood College, and a doctorate in entomology from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Paul Trombino III, P.E.**  
Director, Iowa Department of Transportation  
Trombino was appointed director of the Iowa Department of Transportation in May 2011. He had previously served at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) for 17 years in many roles, including regional operations director of the Division of Transportation System Development, director of the statewide Bureau of Structures, and most recently as director of the Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Rails and Harbors. Trombino holds a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a bachelor of science degree in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Jonathan Wickert**  
Dean, College of Engineering, Iowa State University  
Wickert joined ISU in 2007 as chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Larry and Pam Pithan Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He holds two U.S. patents, is author of the widely-used textbook *An Introduction to Mechanical Engineering*, has authored more than 125 papers that have been referenced over one thousand times, and is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Prior to his appointments at ISU, Wickert served on the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University and was an NSF/NATO postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK. Wickert received bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

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