

Plenary speakers 2010 Ohio Conference on Freight

Jack Basso, Director of Program Finance and Management, AASHTO
Peter J. “Jack” Basso joined AASHTO as Chief Operating Officer and Business Development Director in March of 2001. In that capacity, he oversees the management of a \$60 million nonprofit organization representing the interests of state departments of transportation. He develops new member services, and more aggressively markets current technical services provided for AASHTO members. Mr. Basso works closely with Congressional staff and other associations who have mutual interests in transportation financing issues. He is a nationally recognized expert on transportation finance.

Prior to joining AASHTO, Mr. Basso served as Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs and as Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Department of Transportation. In that capacity, he oversaw the development of a \$60 billion budget and interacted with senior officials, members of Congress, their staff, and key industry officials on a wide variety of transportation matters. Prior to his appointment by President Clinton to this position, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs.

Mr. Basso’s 36 years of service as a career official included assignments as Assistant Director for General Management of the Office of Management and Budget, Deputy Chair for Management of the National Endowment for the Arts, and Director of Fiscal Services for the Federal Highway Administration. He has held numerous positions in administration and management with the Federal Highway Administration.

Orlando Gotay, Deputy Director, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

Orlando Gotay was sworn in as Deputy Maritime Administrator on June 28, 2010 and serves as the agency’s Chief Operating Officer. In that role, Mr. Gotay assists the Maritime Administrator by overseeing the activities of the Maritime Administration and also by spearheading various important initiatives. Mr. Gotay has been instrumental in the selection process for the Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. In March 2010, he served as head of a United States delegation to the United Nations-sponsored Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. Prior to service in the Obama Administration, Mr. Gotay was Counselor to the Mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was the first General Manager of the San Juan Port Commission, a municipal entity created in 2007. Mr. Gotay was an officer in the U.S. Navy. He is a 1987 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He is also a member of the California bar and is licensed to practice before the U.S. Tax Court, and federal courts in the districts of Northern California and Puerto Rico.

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Stuart Hoffman, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, PNC Financial Services Group

Stuart G. Hoffman is senior vice president and chief economist for The PNC Financial Services Group and serves as the principal spokesperson on all economic issues for PNC. Mr. Hoffman was recognized as the most accurate forecaster for 2004 by *BusinessWeek* and the second most accurate economic and interest rate forecaster for 2006 by *USA Today*. In addition, he was named one of the top forecasters in the *Wall Street Journal* economic survey covering the 1988 to 2009 period. Mr. Hoffman joined PNC in 1980 after a six-year tenure with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. He became vice president and senior economist for PNC in 1987 and was elected senior vice president and chief economist in 1991. He is frequently quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *Barron's*. He is a regular guest on *CNBC*, *Bloomberg TV* and *The Wall Street Journal Radio Report*.

Hoffman is currently serving as chairman of the American Bankers Economic Advisory Committee. He also serves on the board of directors of the Economic Club of Pittsburgh - the local chapter of National Association for Business Economics (NABE). He is a past president of the National Association for Business Economics.

Jolene Molitoris, Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation

Ms. Molitoris was appointed Director of ODOT in January 2009, giving her the distinction as the first woman director since the establishment of the Ohio Department of Highways in 1905. Ms. Molitoris began her transportation career at the Ohio Rail Transportation Authority (ORTA), achieving the position of Executive Director. She was then appointed Deputy Director for Rail at ODOT, where she worked with port authorities to create 13 new short line railroads – the most in any state following the deregulation of the railroad industry. Appointed by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate in 1993, Ms. Molitoris was the first woman to head the Federal Railroad Administration.

Under her leadership, ODOT is investing in a safer, more multi-modal, greener transportation system to create jobs and revitalize Ohio's cities and towns. During this biennium, ODOT will deliver on time, on budget, and at the highest level of quality, the largest construction program in Ohio history - 30 percent larger than at any other time in state history - with personnel levels at a 30-year low. Bolstered by federal stimulus funds, these investments are being made in every region of the state and in every mode of Ohio's multi-modal transportation system. Ms. Molitoris and the ODOT team have been nationally recognized for maximizing the flexibility of these federal transportation stimulus funds, with a diverse mix of state and locally-administered projects representing one of the most multi-modal investment portfolios in the nation.