

ELIZABETH L. PRESUTTI, AICP

A public transit executive with proven success in both the private consulting and public leadership side of transportation. Twenty years of experience spanning operations, planning and capital projects throughout the country, as well as a recognized industry leader and community leader receiving a 2018 Community Vision Award from the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. Passionate about connecting communities and people through public transportation to leverage the economic and quality of life opportunities that access to mobility provides.

Experience:

Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART)

Des Moines, Iowa

Chief Executive Officer

July 2011 to Present

Accountable for the overall leadership and management of a 150 bus transit system and 90 van RideShare vanpool program with 300 employees. DART provides 4.7 million rides per annually with an operating budget of \$33 million. Currently, reports directly to a fourteen member Board of Commissioners that represent DART's member governments. The DART service area is 569 square miles with a population of over 500,000.

- Expanded DART's mutually beneficial partnerships with businesses, local governments and community organizations. Successfully secured a private business commitment of over \$800,000 for DART's electric bus pilot project.
- Restructured the bus system network that included the elimination of unproductive route segments and an increase in corridor bus service as part of the implementation of the DART Forward 2035 plan. As a result, DART experienced nearly a 9 percent increase in ridership as a result.
- Opened the new \$21 million DART Central Station transfer center that is certified LEED Platinum in November 2012.
- Secured numerous discretionary grants from multiple opportunities for a new transit center, a new fare collection and mobile ticketing system, replacement buses and an electric bus pilot.
- Responsible for regular communications and relationships with Federal, State and DART member community elected officials as well as staff members.
- Advanced DART's technology program for customers through the implementation of trip planning and real-time technology tools, mobile payment application and new farebox system, and bus wi-fi program.
- Implemented a data management system to facilitate the reporting of data across the various software systems used by DART for improved performance management and reporting to the DART Commission.
- Led a transition in governance of the DART Commission from a nine-member board to nineteen members based on the recommendations of an established Governance Task Force.
- Completed a 20-year financial model to facilitate the discussion about local funding options for public transit and ensure financial sustainability into the future. Partnered with the Greater Des Moines Partnership on a funding study for DART to create stakeholder buy-in on determining the best long-term funding approach to sustain and grow transit services in the region.
- Negotiated several bargaining unit contracts which minimized increases in operating expenses.

Chief Development Officer

June 2008 to June 2011

- Managed DART's Planning, Advertising and Marketing, Customer Service, Public Relations, RideShare and Capital Project activities with five direct-managerial reports.

- Project manager for all of DART's significant expansion projects including: DART Central Station, Automatic Vehicle Locations System and DART Forward 2035 Regional Transit Planning Study & Alternatives Analysis.
- Managed DART's Federal and State compliance programs including leading DART's Triennial Review process; and writing DART's Title VI and Limited English Proficiency Plans.
- Initiated the formation of DART's first transit riders group, the Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC).
- Coordinates DART's service partnerships as well as DART's Unlimited Access Program for employers.

Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), City of Charlotte

Charlotte, North Carolina

May 2003 to June 2008

Manager of Service Planning

- Responsible for the implementation of CATS' annual service change process, encompassing substantial adjustments to CATS 330-bus fixed route bus and light rail services. Oversaw significant intradepartmental coordination of service change implementation activities with CATS Facilities, Marketing and Bus Operations Division.
- Facilitated public meetings related to new service plans and service related issues.
- Updated Service Policies and Guidelines for CATS.
- Responsible for managing the route performance monitoring system and preparing the semi-annual and annual reports and presentations for CATS governing and citizen boards.
- Responsible for the administration and coordination of the Regional Express Service contracts with regional partners. Developed annual service costs based on ridership and projected service hours.

Bus Operations Special Projects Manager

- Served as Project Manager for the CATS Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) and Automatic Passenger Counter (APC) technology project implementation. Directed the work performed by the contractor, keeping data in the system current for service changes, ensured that the vehicles were in proper working order and coordinated intradepartmental activities between CATS Technology and Bus Operations Division staff.
- Managed the design and construction for a renovation of the Charlotte Transportation Center as well as the design for the Davidson Street Garage.
- Administered and negotiated leases for CATS' park-and-ride program.
- Managed CATS comprehensive 450-bus Fleet replacement and expansion plans including developing FTA-required plan updates and leading the interdisciplinary procurement process for a multi-year bus order.

Transportation Management & Design, Inc.

Carlsbad, California

July 1999 to May 2003

Senior Associate

- Served as Project Manager or Deputy Project Manager on several transit restructuring projects and BRT feasibility studies, including the South Bay Near-Term Transit Study (Chula Vista, CA), Minneapolis Sector 5 Restructuring Study, Charlotte Area Transit System Countywide Transit Study, Detroit SpeedLink BRT Feasibility Study, and the Reno Virginia Street BRT Feasibility Study. Responsible for the preparation and analysis for the transit needs assessment, the development of recommendations and operating and implementation plans.
- Supervised several transit data collection efforts and validated the data, including ridechecks for the Greensboro Transit Authority and the Los Angeles DOT, as well as running time data for the Chicago Transit Authority. Several of these checks utilized hand-held technology.
- Developed several GIS outputs for use in determining transit propensity and levels of service.

Education:

University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Masters of Arts in Geography Charlotte, North Carolina May 2004
State University of New York at Cortland Cortland, New York	Bachelor of Arts in Geography, Minors Biology & Spanish May 1997

Certifications, Accreditations and Awards:

- Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, Community Vision Award - Connecting (2018)
- Drake University Executive Education Leading Others Program (Class of 2018)
- Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute Community Leadership Program (Class of 2014)
- Leadership APTA (Class of 2011)
- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
- City of Charlotte Insights Leadership Excellence for Women Development Program
- QUEST (Quality and Excellence in Supervision Training) Program

Professional and Community Service:

- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Board of Directors (2014 – 2018)
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Early Career Mentor (2013 – 2016)
- American Bus Benchmarking Group (2015 - President)
- City of Des Moines Neighborhood Revitalization Board (2013 - 2014)
- Greater Des Moines Committee (2018 – present)
- Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute Community Connect Program Mentor (2016 - present)
- Iowa Public Transit Association Board of Directors (2012 - 2016)
- Polk County Housing Trust Fund Board of Directors (2013 – 2019)
- Transit Cooperative Research Program, Synthesis Projects (J-07) Selection Panel (2013 – present)
- Transportation Research Board Task Force on Transit Safety & Security (2015 – 2017)
- United Way Book Buddy (2014 – 2016)
- United Way Campaign Committee (2014 – 2017)