

# YPT Newsletter

YPT Austin Chapter

August 2016

## Chair's Message

*By Nick Wood*

Hello Members and Friends:  
What an exciting time to be in transportation! Try to imagine asking yourself, ten years ago; if you believed that self-driving cars would be on the horizon? Would you know about carsharing and bikesharing? New and emerging services and technologies are changing the way people and goods move.

YPT-Austin provides a great opportunity for those who are in the field of transportation to network and discuss transportation issues in Austin, Texas and around the country. Back in February, we hosted a roundtable with Ashby Johnson, the Executive Director for the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, who talked about transportation finance and how regional projects are implemented and funded. In May, YPT-Austin heard from Laura Dierenfield, from the City of Austin, and Todd Hemingson, from Capital Metro, on mobility alternatives beyond driving a

car. During June, we hosted a tour of Capital Metro's Red Line with Sam Sargent.

Joining and becoming active in YPT-Austin is relatively easy. Members pay \$20 per year and are given free lunches at our roundtable events. Our e-mail list regularly receives announcements about upcoming events. This fall, YPT-Austin will be holding elections for a new slate of officers, who get the chance to plan events and guide the vision of the Chapter. Members are encouraged to reach out to the current officers if they are interested in running for a position.

Thanks to all of you who have come and supported YPT-Austin. We started almost six years ago as a chapter and have grown to over 40 paid members. We are constantly striving to plan informative and engaging events. We look forward to seeing you at one of our future events!

Sponsor Corner

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SEE YOUR  
COMPANY  
LOGO HERE!

YPT Austin has revamped its sponsorship opportunities. We are in the search for great companies that would like to help us continue creating a medium for young (and young at heart) people in the industry to network and engage in transportation issues and discussion. For more information about all the great rewards of being a YPT Austin sponsor, please see attached flyer and contact our treasurer Ryan Lohmann at [ryan.lohmann@kimley-horn.com](mailto:ryan.lohmann@kimley-horn.com).

## February Round Table with Ashby Johnson (CAMPO)

*By: Mubassira Kahn*

YPT kicked-off the year with a Section Meeting on February 6th, 2016. The meeting was held at the Center for Transportation Research (CTR) at UT-Austin and was attended by more than 40 people! YPT also provided lunch (Torchy's Tacos) for all members. 2016 YPT Chair Nick Wood, TTI, started the meeting and thanked everyone in the Section for the huge turnout.

The guest speaker for the roundtable was Ashby Johnson, Executive Director of Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). Mr. Johnson discussed transportation project funding and the state of it for both Texas and Austin. The funding discussed by Mr. Johnson included: traditional funding sources generated from gas tax and allocated to Surface Transportation Program (STP MM); Flex 5307 accounts; toll development credits; and the additional funding sources being available due to the passing of 2016 Texas Propositions 1 and 2.

Mr. Johnson also spoke about the allocation of the available funds into different sectors and different constraints associated with the funding sources. It was a riveting discussion and a great way for YPT to kick off the 2016 year.



**Ashby Johnson discussing transportation financing at our February Round Table event.**



**Packed room at CTR with over 40 attendees.**

## May Round Table with Todd Hemingson (Cap Metro) Laura Dierenfield (City of Austin)

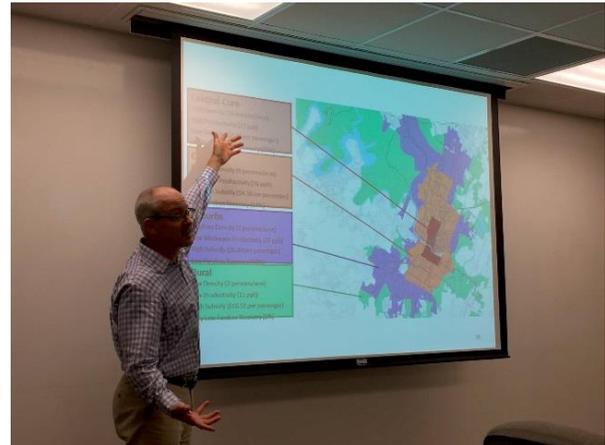
*By: Santiago Araque*

YPT hosted our second roundtable of the year on May 24th, 2016. The meeting was held at the Center for Transportation Research at UT-Austin and was attended by more than 25 people. YPT also provided lunch (Pot Belly Sandwiches) for all members.

The guest speakers for the roundtable were Todd Hemingson, Vice President of Strategic Planning & Development at Capital Metro, and Laura Dierenfield, Active Transportation Program Manager at the City of Austin. Both speakers focus on alternative modes of transportation in Austin.

Mr. Hemingson presented the CapMetro Connections 2025 project. The project has consisted of market analysis and service evaluation, creating a five-year long range service plan, and rolling out a final transit plan. Mr. Hemingson also shared future plans of BRT in Austin.

Ms. Dierenfield presented the City of Austin Bicycle Planning Strategy. Her main emphasis was to bring forth Imagine Austin and a new focus when it comes to biking in Austin: "To maximize the contribution of bicycling to Austin's quality of life." Ms. Dierenfield was able to share some enlightening data that the City is using to improve bicycle trips in Austin for both bikers and drivers.



**Todd Hemingson presenting the CapMetro Connections 2025 project.**



**Laura Dierenfield presenting the City of Austin Bicycle Planning Strategy.**



**Members enjoying YPT provided lunch before the presentations.**

## Happy Hours and Networking *YPT Social Events*



December Happy Hour with WTS-HOT and WTS UT.



MetroRail Tour and June Happy Hour at Circle Brewery.



Membership raffle and April happy hour at Haymaker.



August Happy Hour at Punch Bowl Social.

## Member Highlight – Robin Osborne (Kimley-Horn)



### **Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in transportation?**

A: Getting a degree in Physics was too hard... No seriously though, I originally picked traffic because of the math/engineering aspect, and also I wanted to do something that could have a positive impact on a lot of people. But the longer I work in this industry, the more I think I am drawn to transportation because it's multi-faceted. It's not simple just design, it also involves creative problem solving, a big picture approach, and has a social aspect to it as well. Driver behavior, travel patterns, mode choice, all of these play a factor in how we design and plan our transportation network. People also love talking about traffic, and it's fun to hear everyone's ideas on how to fix the issues!

### **Q: Can you describe your career path and future aspirations in the transportation industry?**

A: I was born and raised in Austin, graduated from UT with a BS in Civil Engineering, and then went to the University of Florida to get a MS in Traffic Engineering. I spent more than 3 years working for Kimley-Horn in Dallas, then transferred to the Austin office shortly before earning my PE license late last year. Over that 4 years, I was lucky to have

my hand in projects that touched many different types of traffic engineering. For the last 4 months, I have worked as a contracted employee at the City of Austin Traffic Management Center doing signal timing, traffic monitoring, and signal infrastructure maintenance. My career aspiration is to continue working toward a better transportation networks, making it easier, safer, and less stressful to get from A to B. If we as an industry somehow solve this traffic problem and put ourselves out of a job, I'm perfectly fine with that and I'll go find something else to do!

### **Q: How has YPT helped you in your career?**

A: Having moved back to Austin less than a year ago, I didn't know very many people locally in our industry. YPT has made it easy (and affordable!) for me to make new connections, relationships, and friendships with people I'll be working with for many years to come.

### **Q: What is your favorite memory at YPT? (or: What was your favorite YPT event?)**

A: Earlier this year, I won a \$50 gift card just for showing up to one of the social events at Haymaker. That was pretty awesome!

### **Q: What are your hobbies outside of work?**

A: Outside of work I like to keep busy with volleyball, ultimate frisbee, basketball, golf, swimming, wakeboarding, snowboarding, and making new friends. Anything active and social is probably right up my alley.

*Thank you Robin for being a valuable member of YPT-Austin!*