

Karina Ricks



Karina Ricks is a Partner at Cityfi where she brings together companies, agencies, and community in collaborations that advance core values of equity, safety, climate preservation and economic growth. Karina has broad experience across the public and private sectors, both in the U.S. and abroad. Her expertise spans and integrates transportation and mobility, physical and digital infrastructure, systems and data, land use planning and urban design, and community and economic development.

Previous to joining Cityfi, Karina served as Associate Administrator for Innovation, Research and Demonstration at the Federal Transit Administration of USDOT. There, Karina crafted new initiatives to pilot universal basic mobility, develop open interoperability specifications for transit data systems, and holistically plan and improve transit, pedestrian and bicycle intermodality. While with the City of Pittsburgh, Karina established and led the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure launching the nation's first Mobility as a Service system (MovePGH) and associated Guaranteed Basic Mobility program. As a leader in Washington, DC's District Department of Transportation she modernized systems to manage the public rights of way, conduct transportation planning, ensure broad-based public engagement, and incorporate new mobility services. Karina's private sector experience includes telecommunications, transportation electrification, intelligent transportation systems, and strategic planning for organizations and networks. Karina is a strong proponent of authentic collaboration, human centered design, entrepreneurial thinking, and embracing pilots and testbeds as critical accelerators to advance innovation that serves community needs and values.

EDUCATION

Fulbright Scholar - Riga, Latvia
Master of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University
Bachelor of Arts - Justice, Morality and Constitutional Democracy, Michigan State University

Select Experience

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, US DOT

Karina served as Associate Administrator for Innovation, Research and Demonstration. She led the agency in pursuing an audacious reimagining that extended far beyond traditional transit to embrace public transportation and mobility in all its forms; advancing emerging shared mobility, transit automation, transit electrification (decarbonization), integrated data and mobility systems, and advanced research and development.

DEPARTMENT OF MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE, PITTSBURGH, PA

As founding Director of Mobility and Infrastructure, Karina was responsible for negotiating the development of the new department. Karina established Pittsburgh as a premier testbed for mobility innovations of national significance. Karina was the ideator behind MovePGH - widely considered the first Mobility as a Service (MaaS) initiative to launch in the U.S. - combining transit, carshare, rideshare, micromobility, trip planning and real time travel information in one platform and program. Novel to MovePGH was the public-private partnership that established a low-risk proving ground for iteration of micromobility form factors and service models to better meet city objectives and mobility gaps in the city. MovePGH provided the essential scaffolding to concurrently launch a unique Guaranteed Basic Mobility demonstration program and associated rigorous research and documentation.

NELSON\NYGAARD CONSULTING ASSOCIATES, WASHINGTON, DC

As Principal and Multimodal Sector Lead, Karina worked with communities across the country and internationally to develop and implement sustainable transportation plans, policies and services. Projects included nationally recognized street design manuals, innovative funding strategies to implement emerging mobility pilots, strategic action agendas and vision plans, and stakeholder convenings.