

# Karina E. Ricks, AICP

Principal



Karina Ricks is a creative and candid planner and policy leader with 20 years experience in the public and non-profit sectors at the city, state, and national levels as well as internationally. Karina has led multiple plans that have built or revived dynamic, diverse, walkable, and prosperous neighborhoods and communities. Her career has encompassed and united multiple disciplines including transportation, public finance, land use planning, economic revitalization, community development and environmental excellence. She prides herself in creating holistic policies and balanced, implementable, realistic, and affordable solutions for cities and communities.

## EDUCATION

Master's of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University (1996-1998); Bachelor of Arts—Justice, Morality, and Constitutional Democracy, Michigan State University—James Madison College (1988-1992)

## EXPERIENCE

### **District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Washington, DC.**

Associate Director, 2007–2011

#### **Transportation Policy**

- Update of Design and Engineering Manual to reflect complete street and context sensitive design policies supportive of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit mobility in an urban context
- Update of Zoning Code to remove parking minimums and introduce parking maximums in transit-rich areas, reform bicycle parking provisions, and right-size/redesign truck loading
- Complete Streets Policy, Access Management policy, Curbside and other public space policies, and Transportation Demand Management guidelines and associated implementing guidance
- Underground utility management and coordination
- Establishment of a Public Inconvenience Fee to minimize excessive obstructions of public rights of way
- Establishment of performance parking districts, associated policies and performance measurement

#### **Transportation Planning**

- System and TDM plan for St Elizabeths campus/Department of Homeland Security Headquarters
- Master Plan for Walter Reed Army Medical Center redevelopment (BRAC)
- Master Plan for Soldiers and Airmen's home proposed disposition and reuse
- State Transportation Vision Plan, Comprehensive Plan update and 2-year Action Agenda
- Multiple corridor plans including H Street NE, Minnesota Avenue NE, Pennsylvania Avenue NE, and Georgia Avenue NW
- Area plans including establishment of DC Livability Program (traffic calming, local mobility and green streets)
- Traffic Impact Assessment for hundreds of private development projects of varying scales

#### **Transportation Programs**

- Establishing Capital Bikeshare program
- Piloting DC Electric Vehicle electrification program
- Curbside car sharing program

**Environmental, Historic, and Right of Way Clearance**

- Environmental Assessment for K Street Transitway gaining FONSI in just 4 months
- Highly contentious Environmental Impact Statement for Klinge Valley trail
- I-395/Return to L'Enfant air space surplus and disposition process
- Multiple contracts and agreements negotiating rights of way dedication, disposition, maintenance agreements, construction agreements and other protective documents

**Mega-Projects (planning, programming and regulatory clearance components)**

- DC Greet Street program
- 11<sup>th</sup> Street bridge project
- South Capitol Street bridge project
- DC Streetcar program

**Programming and Financing**

- State Transportation Improvement Program and regional Transportation Improvement Plan
- Transportation Enhancement program, CMAQ program, National Recreational Trails program, and State Transportation Planning program
- Multiple revenue initiatives including rights of way management and rentals
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**District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Washington, DC**

Senior Supervisory Transportation Manager, 2005–2007

- Managed multi-disciplinary and multi-agency teams of land use, transportation, infrastructure, traffic, urban design and community development specialists to plan and implement transportation improvements that strengthen the District's economic vitality and livability
- Directed \$200 million Great Streets infrastructure improvement program to attract private sector investment in under-invested communities
- Developed design guidelines and policies for road and infrastructure projects including green infrastructure, complete streets, and context sensitive solutions
- Negotiated private sector development projects site design, streetscape and mitigations

**DC Office of Planning, Washington, DC**

Transit-Oriented Development Coordinator and Senior Community Planner, 2000–2005

- Managed revitalization plan for major urban retail corridor to develop transit- and pedestrian-oriented mixed-income housing, entertainment, and retail districts
- Managed Mayor's Transit-Oriented Development Task Force to develop policy guidance for MetroRail and MetroBus transit areas, live-near-work and TOD design guidelines
- Developed TOD development guidelines and community education and outreach tools
- Agency liaison on transit priority corridor master plan and alternatives analysis
- Developed comprehensive multi-neighborhood plans identifying, assessing and addressing neighborhood priorities; coordinated multiple agency implementation
- Represented land use planning interests on: regional Transportation Planning Board, Metropolitan Policy Development Committee, Brownfields Inter-Agency Task Force, Soil and Water Conservation Board, and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee

- Instructed, advised and empowered local citizens and leaders in planning, land use, development, and transportation planning

**US EPA—Community, Economics and Innovation Division, Washington, DC**

Policy Analyst, 1998–2000

- Led research on smart growth policy impacts on low-income, minority, or disenfranchised communities and provided technical assistance and outreach in equality and smart growth
- Represented EPA on the Ford Foundation National Roundtable on Smart Growth and Equity
- Managed Smart Growth Community University Consortium coordination
- Managed and implemented contracts and technical assistance to local partners
- Administered project development and implementation, contract and grant management
- Designed media campaigns, public speeches, workshops and presentations

**Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Tuzla, BiH**

International Voter Registration and Election Supervisor, 1997

- Managed twelve-member multi-ethnic voter registration team to register over 10,000 internally displaced peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Responsible for certification and oversight, dispute resolution, and staff management.

**Corporation for National Service, Washington, DC**

Grants and Contracts Associate, 1996

- Grant and contract tracking, monitoring and management; technical support to grantees; database management; communication, outreach and promotion

**U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Vava'u, Tonga**

Volunteer—Youth and Community Development and Environmental Education, 1993–1995

- Technical Assistance: Cottage industry/sustainable local income generation projects and micro enterprises targeted at youth and women
- Environmental education and national park design, designation and programming

**Parliament of the Republic of Latvia/Ministry of Environment, Riga, Latvia**

Environmental Policy Consultant, 1992

- Technical Assistance: Impact of private property reacquisition on preservation of national parks and protection of vital habitats
- English Language and technical communication instruction for environmental professionals

**ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTING**

- Michigan Department of Transportation—Complete Streets implementation (2011)
- Chicago Department of Transportation—Fast Forward Chicago (2011)
- Apple Valley, MN—Bus Rapid Transit (2011)
- New Orleans, LA—Claiborne Avenue post-Katrina regeneration (2007)
- Lawrence, KS—walkable community network planning (2007)
- Cache Valley, UT—commuter rail transit-oriented development (2005)
- Federal Highway Administration—smart growth, green streets and transportation (2004 and 2010)

## **PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ADVISORY TEAMS**

- Presentation: *FHWA Criteria & Tools for Sustainable Highways*, Alexandria, VA (October 2010)
- Publication: *Claiborne Avenue (New Orleans, LA) SDAT: A Report by the Sustainable Design Assessment Team*—American Institute of Architects (November 2007)
- Publication: *Community Retail Streets: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Neighborhood Centers*—American Planning Association Professional Advisory Services (PAS) Memo, Chicago, IL (July/August 2007)
- Publication: *Great Streets: Avenues For Investment*—Transportation Research Board, Institute of Traffic Engineers, US Access Board; Urban Streets Symposium; July 2007
- Publication: *Lawrence, KS SDAT: A Report by the Sustainable Design Assessment Team*—American Institute of Architects (January 2007)
- Panelist, Urban Land Institute Advisory Services Team, City of Littleton, CO (July 2006)
- Publication: *Great Streets DC: Framework for Transportation Investments and Revitalization*—District Department of Transportation, Washington, DC (February 2006)
- Publication: *Cache Valley SDAT: A Report by the Sustainable Design Assessment Team*—American Institute of Architects, Washington, DC (June 2005)
- Publication: *Trans~Forming Anacostia: Transit-Oriented Strategic Investment Plan for Historic Anacostia*—DC Office of Planning, Washington, DC (2005)
- Publication: *Transportation Infrastructure and Sprawl: ULI Panel Report to Federal Highways Administration*—ULI: The Urban Land Institute, Washington, DC (2004)
- Panelist, Urban Land Institute Advisory Services Team, Federal Highway Administration, Washington DC (December 2004)
- Presentation: “Linking Livable Corridors” —American Planning Association National Conference, Washington, DC (April 2004)
- Presentation: “Recentering: TOD Case Study: Columbia Heights” —National Building Museum DC Builds Lecture Series, Washington, DC (January 2003)
- Presentation: “New Arguments for TOD,” 2002 National Rail~volution Conference, Washington, DC (October 2002)
- Presentation: “Trans~Formation – TOD in Washington, DC” —National Building Museum *DC Builds* Lecture Series, Washington, DC (July 2002)
- Publication: *Trans~Formation: Recreating Transit-Oriented Neighborhood Centers*—DC Office of Planning, Washington, DC (2002)
- Publication: *Final Report: Mayor’s Task Force on Transit-Oriented Development*—DC Office of Planning, Washington, DC (2002)
- Presentation: “Youth as Community Planners,” American Planners Association National Conference, New Orleans, LA (April 2000)
- Publication: *Local Tools for Smart Growth* (co-author/contributor)—National Association of Counties (2000)

## **HONORS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND ASSOCIATIONS**

- Fulbright Scholar, Latvia
- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)/American Planning Association (APA)



**Karina E. Ricks, AICP**  
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- Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS)
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Board Member (alternate)
- AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning (SCOP), member
- AASHTO Standing Committee on Performance Measures (SCOPM), member