



Danny Plaugher

Executive Director

Virginians for High Speed Rail (VHSR) & Virginia Transit Association (VTA)

Danny Plaugher serves as the executive director of both Virginians for High Speed Rail (VHSR) and the Virginia Transit Association (VTA). He joined VHSR in 2007 where he helped to create the Virginia Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital Fund (IPROC) and make Virginia one of the first states with a dedicated funding source for passenger rail. He joined the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) in 2019 to help lead their policy and outreach efforts.

In 2002, he was appointed by Governor Mark R. Warner to serve on the Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and was reappointed in 2003, becoming one of the youngest appointees of Governor Warner's administration. Danny serves on numerous community and regional boards including the Megaregion Institutional Council for RVA757 Connects; the Virginia Conservation Network's Legislative and Land Use & Transportation committees; the Capital Region Rail Vision Advisory Committee for the Greater Washington Partnership; fellow and treasurer of the Virginia Rail Policy Institute; and is a proud member of the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Alumni Association.

He has previously served on the Planning Committee for Senator Mark R. Warner's 2013 Virginia Young Professional's Summit, Governor Terry McAuliffe's 2014 Transition Transportation Council, as well as Commonwealth's Smart Scale Workgroup (2023), Transportation Sustainability Workgroup (2019), and Rail Enhancement Task Force (2015). He is also a former member and past President of the Rotary Club of Richmond, one of Virginia's oldest service organizations, and past board member and co-founder of RVA Rapid Transit.

Danny is also a 2014 graduate of Leadership Metro Richmond, a 2014 graduate of the Henrico Citizens Academy, and a 2016 graduate of Henrico's Citizens Fire Academy. In 2011, Danny was honored to be named one of Richmond's Top 40 under 40 by Style Weekly magazine and one of VCU's Top 10 Graduates of the Last Decade in 2016. In 2018, he was made the first honorary member of VCU's Pi Sigma Alpha honor society in the society's 30-year history.

He is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University; and he lives in the West End of Henrico with his wife Jan, son Benjamin, and dogs Lily and Oscar.



Bob McKenna

Chamber President/CEO

Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Bob McKenna currently serves as the President and CEO of the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, where he leads the management and operations of a dynamic business development organization representing more than 1,000 members and affiliates. In this role, he is responsible for shaping public policy, fostering strategic alliances, and serving as a key liaison to regional military commands and installations. His leadership is defined by a collaborative approach to addressing business-related community challenges by bringing together solution-oriented resources to drive meaningful progress.

He is a 1984 graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point, New York. Following his graduation, he served for 27 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. His career included service aboard five ships: USS *Estocin* (FFG-15), USS *Fairfax County* (LST-1193), USS *Mobile* (LKA-115), USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA-3), and USS *Ponce* (LPD-15). He retired with the rank of Captain in 2011.

He has been married to his wife, Kathy, for 40 years, and together they have raised four children.

Mindy W. Carlin

Co-Founder and President

Access Point Public Affairs, LLC

B.S. Public Relations, James Madison University



Mindy has been providing expert public affairs and communications services to support a wide range of businesses and organizations in Virginia for more than 30 years. In 2003, she co-founded Access Point Public Affairs, which offers results-focused public affairs support to clients with interests throughout Virginia. Her unique ability to understand client challenges quickly and create innovative strategic approaches to address them makes her a valuable resource to Access Point's clients.

Mindy has extensive public affairs experience at the state and local levels in Virginia on a wide variety of issues, including transportation, energy, workforce development, education, healthcare, behavioral health, development and land use, tax and general business issues, energy and environmental issues.

Access Point also provides full-service association management support. Within this service area, Mindy leads the VACBP in addition to serving as the staff lead for the Virginia Business Council, as association of the senior executives of Virginia's largest employers.

Mindy also serves as an active leader in the community, which has enabled her to develop strong relationships and visibility as an engaged thought leader and consensus builder. This also has positioned her well to leverage her relationships and credibility to support Access Point clients.

At the state level, she served as a former member of the Virginia Leadership Council for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and is an active member of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

She is particularly well known, however, for her leadership at the regional and local levels in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. She is a member of Virginia Beach Vision, the Hampton Roads Chamber, serving as a former member of the Chamber's Regional Board, a current trustee on HRBizPAC and a member of the Executive Committee for the Chamber's Virginia Beach Division Board. She is also a past Chair of the Board of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, where she also led the Chamber's Public Policy Committee for more than 15 years and launched the Chamber's Health and Wellness Initiative.

Mindy currently resides in Virginia Beach with her husband, Mike, with her son, Danny, close by in Norfolk where he works as a civilian electrical engineering subject-matter expert for the Navy. She is also the proud of stepmom to Megan, Matt and her daughter-in-law, Rita, and "Mimi" to her sweet

granddaughters, June and Sonia, who all give her lots of excuses to spend time in northern Virginia. Mindy is a certified power yoga instructor, avid runner and spends as much time at the beach as she can.