



## State of the Capital Region 2022: Commuting Patterns and Transportation Infrastructure

American Enterprise Institute, May 18, 2022

[Ian Duncan](#), *Moderator*

Transportation Reporter, *Washington Post*

Ian Duncan is a reporter covering federal transportation agencies and the politics of transportation. He previously worked at the Baltimore Sun for seven years, covering city hall, the military and criminal justice. He was part of the Sun's team covering Freddie Gray's death in 2015 and then-Mayor Catherine Pugh's Healthy Holly books scandal.

[Canek Aguirre](#), *Panelist*

City Councilmember, City of Alexandria

Canek Aguirre was first elected to the Alexandria City Council in November 2018 and re-elected to a second term in November 2021. Born and raised in Los Angeles to Mexican immigrants, Canek is the first Latino to ever serve on the City Council. During his time in public office, Canek has focused on increasing housing opportunities, investing in our public schools and transportation infrastructure, eliminating health inequities, and making government more accessible and accountable. He serves as Chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, Chair of the Transportation Planning Board's Access for All Advisory Committee, and as an alternate on the WMATA Board. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

[Michael Abrams](#), *Panelist*

Foulger Pratt

Michael Abrams serves as Managing Director at Foulger Pratt and has over 40 years of experience in commercial real estate development and investment in the Washington DC Metro area. In this capacity he is responsible for executing the investment strategy for a broad range of products including multifamily, office and mixed- use developments. Recent projects include the redevelopment of Landmark Mall into a 3.5 million SF mixed use community anchored by Inova Hospital, over 2,000 units of multifamily rentals in DC and Maryland, a trophy quality 400,000 sf office building in Tysons Corner and most recently the firm is planning over 750 units of residential units through the conversion of obsolete downtown office properties.

Mr. Abrams holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Johns Hopkins University and a Juris Doctorate from Washington College of Law at American University. He currently serves as a Commissioner of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

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*Stewart Schwartz, Panelist*  
Coalition for Smarter Growth

Stewart Schwartz is the Executive Director and a founder of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, which he built into the leading smart growth organization in the Washington DC region, addressing the interconnected issues of land use, transportation, urban design, housing, and climate change. An attorney with experience in land use, transportation, and the environment, Mr. Schwartz has worked for the President's Council on Sustainable Development, the Land Trust Alliance, the Southern Environmental Law Center, and has volunteered for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He is responsible for the strategic direction of the Coalition, whose Blueprint for a Better Region makes the case for urban revitalization, transit and transit-oriented development, affordable housing, and more walkable communities. He is a leader of state transportation reform campaigns in Virginia, serves on the board of the Virginia Conservation Network, and is a founder and board member of the Richmond Area Partnership for Smarter Growth.

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