



**Spring Conference**  
**April 24, 2019**  
**Speaker Biographies**

**Lieutenant Ray Hassett** (ret) completed his police career with the New Haven Department of Police, New Haven, CT in 2012 after 25 years of service. His assignments have included: Patrol Officer, Detective, Lieutenant, and District Commander of one of the busiest policing districts in New Haven.

Ray began his Police Career in 1987 as a Patrol Officer answering calls for service. In 1993, he was promoted to the rank of Detective after completing a two-year investigation into Organized Crime in New Haven. He has worked as a Detective in the Narcotics Division, the Major Crimes Unit, and the Arson Squad. While a Detective, he became part of a unique collaboration between a group of Child Psychologists, and first responding Police Officers. The Yale Child Studies Program began by working with children of homicide victims and has since expanded to help children exposed to domestic violence as well as any other incidence of violence and trauma. Ray is a fellow with the Yale Child Studies Center, and throughout his career has worked as a trainer, replicating this program to other Police Agencies throughout the region.

Ray is an FBI trained Hostage Negotiator, and has been the Officer in Charge of NHPD's Hostage Negotiation Unit since 2003. He was also responsible for bringing in professional actors to simulate real life incidents so that Negotiators could be better prepared for Unit Callouts. Ray is Crisis Intervention trained, and was team leader for CIT Officers in New Haven since 2006. He was also named CIT Officer of the Year on 2009 by the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (CABLE) and continues to assist CABLE today, as Lead Instructor, training Police Officers in DeEscalation/Connection Techniques that will strengthen their relationship with the public, as well as with persons within the mental health community.

Prior to entering Law Enforcement, Ray was a professional actor working in London England, New York, and Los Angeles. Some of his film credits include: Superman, the Movie; Ragtime; The Spy Who Loved Me, The Empire Strikes Back; and Body Double.

Since his retirement, Ray has worked as a Contractor for the U.S. State Department, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, teaching the Art of Hostage Negotiation, as well as Behavioral Observations Skills (BOS) to foreign Police Agencies around the world. To date, he has worked in the Middle East; The Philippines; New Delhi, India; Bogota Colombia; Morocco; Kingston Jamaica; Trinidad; Kuala Lumpur; Chiang Mai, Thailand; and most recently Daka, Senegal and Dhaka Bangladesh.

**Ed Perzanowski** is the Director of Business Engagement and Program Services for CTrides. In his position, he oversees a team of Commuter Program Managers, operating across Connecticut. Prior to this role, he worked as an Outreach Coordinator, where he helped establish commuter programs with companies. Ed graduated with a BS in Journalism from Southern CT State University. He has received the Commuter Choice Certification from the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida. Ed is working toward a Masters in Sustainable Transportation from the University of Washington in Seattle. Expected graduation is in June.

**Sergio Coronado** is a Program Manager at FTA. He graduated from UC Merced with a Bachelor of Arts and went on to Intern in the CA State Legislature. He then attended UMass Boston for his Master in Public Administration. Upon graduation he was hired as an Investigator for the Massachusetts Attorney General's office. Currently he is a Team Chief for the US Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operation Command and as a Transportation Program Specialist with the FTA for two years.

**Kristin Wood** is the Director of the Office of Planning and Program Development at FTA. She graduated from Boston College with a dual degree in finance and marketing. She then went on to be a business analyst for TJX Companies for a number of years before receiving a Master degree in Public Policy and Administration with a focus in Economics and Community Planning from UMASS Amherst. Upon graduation she was hired by THUD Appropriations Chairman Congressman John Olver as an Economic Development Specialist then promoted to be his Economic Development Director for close to a decade. After Congressman Olver's retirement Kristin went on to be Congresswoman Tsongas's Senior Economic Development Advisor and has worked for the FTA for the last five years being promoted to Planning and Program Development Director in 2016.

**Patrick Capobianco** is a Safety and Security Manager with North East Transportation Company. Pat started his career as a fixed route bus driver and was promoted to Route Supervisor. Prior to becoming a Safety and Security Manager, Pat was a Lead Dispatcher. Pat has participated in a number of training programs including: Transportation Safety Institute: Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation, And Instructors Course; The Community Transportation Association of America: Safety and Security Officer Program (CSSO); Allstar: Distracted Driving Awareness for Today's Professional; NTI (National Transit Institute): Assault Awareness and Prevention for Transit Operators; All-Hazards Awareness and Preparedness for the Transit Employees. Pat is experienced in Forklift and Scissor Lift Training, CDL Training, Rodeo Training, and New Hire Training.

**Erin Williams** is the Superintendent of Safety & Training for CTTransit. Erin started driving school buses for First Student in October of 1999 at 21 years old. She became a driver trainer in 2008 and moved into a fulltime safety position in 2011. Erin began her career at CTtransit in September 2013 where she quickly moved up the ranks to become a Transportation Supervisor in 2014. She took on the role of safety and training supervisor in January 2016 and was recently promoted to Superintendent of Safety and Training in January 2019. In her current position Erin is responsible for the safety and training of drivers for all 3 divisions of CTTransit.

**Lisa Seymour** is the current Administrator of Middletown Transit District (MAT) in Middletown CT. She was hired by First Transit exclusively for this property in 2017 following an emergency contract placement by the Board in association with CTDOT and the town of Middletown. She has 28 years background in Finance and joined transit six years ago quickly moving up to Administrator. Under her direction the Transit District has gone from almost closing its doors to thriving and in the middle of a bus study to expand service and improve efficiency. The district just completed its FY18 audit where in less than a year they went from 11 compliance findings to one minor finding which has already been fixed and showing for the first time in six years the district running within its financial means. Lisa cut close to \$400,000 out of the budget by administration reorganization and controlling costs to run within means without any cuts to transit or any layoffs of drivers. Prior to being placed at MAT Lisa was at Windham Region Transit District (WRTD) where she cleaned up the finances as Finance Director in less than a year giving the district it's first "clean" audit in many years. Lisa lives in Windsor Locks with her husband of 23 years and has three grown daughters and one grandson. She is active in feral cat rescue and cat fostering and has six cats of her own.

**Joe Comerford** began his transit career 20 years ago washing and driving buses while a student at UConn. He later headed the Monroe Transit System in Monroe, LA for over five years during a period of tremendous ridership growth. He has served as Executive Director of the Estuary Transit District (ETD) in January of 2009, where he leads an organization that has seen tremendous growth in ridership and service and has been at the forefront of technology for small transit districts. In 2011, ETD was named Community Transportation Association of America's Rural System of the Year.