



**Boardroom Breakfast with
Petra Todorovich Messick, Senior Program Director,
Amtrak Capital Delivery
(Speaker Bio)**

Petra Messick is a Senior Program Director in Amtrak’s Capital Delivery Department. In this role, she leads a staff responsible for integrating the delivery of individual project elements within the overall plan and transportation objectives of the Gateway Program. She oversees Gateway Program planning, management, and program controls, ensuring that Amtrak delivers the program in accordance with federal funding requirements and fulfills its commitments to state and other project delivery partners.

Since joining Amtrak in 2012, Messick has singularly focused on the Gateway Program. She started in communications and external affairs, crafting the narrative about the need for the Gateway Program and building support among key stakeholders to secure funding for its planning and program development.

The Gateway Program is a generational rail investment plan to rebuild the Northeast Corridor and expand train service between Newark, New Jersey and New York City. The program draws funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation, State of New York, State of New Jersey, and Amtrak, and relies on a partnership of federal, state, and bistate agencies for project delivery.

Since joining Amtrak in 2012, Messick has singularly focused on the Gateway Program. She started in communications and external affairs, crafting the narrative about the need for the Gateway Program and building support among key stakeholders to secure funding for its planning and program development. She then transitioned into a planning role and acted as Gateway Planning Director during the design and environmental review of the Hudson Tunnel Project and development of other key Gateway projects. Following the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021, Messick jumped into a program management role, building program management systems, hiring staff, and procuring design contracts, to scale the Gateway organization quickly for the historic funding opportunity.

A regional planner by training, Messick has over two decades of professional experience in New York City working on region-shaping megaprojects. Prior to Amtrak, she spent twelve years at Regional Plan Association, where she led America 2050, a



national policy and planning initiative focused on the growth of megaregions and high-speed rail. While working as a planner at RPA she led public engagement and planning efforts around the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site after 9/11. Messick received a Master of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University and a B.A. from Vassar College and has taught urban and regional planning at Pratt Institute and the New School. She is a certified Project Management Professional and the mother of two girls.