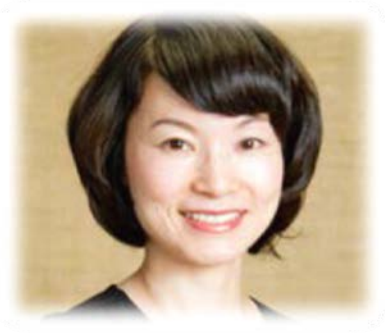




URBAN FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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Introduction

Hi, nice meeting you, everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Akiko Yamagami. I will be serving as Urban Freight Transportation Committee's Communications Coordinator, following Becky Karasko's footsteps.

Professional Background

I have been a regional transportation planner, focusing on goods movement, at Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for the past six years. SCAG is a federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, tasked to coordinate regional planning efforts throughout six counties in Southern California. SCAG's Goods Movement Planning group has recently completed a multi-year regional goods movement study in which we assessed the regional transportation system and operational needs, identified gaps and deficiencies, then refined and developed strategies to meet our future demand and address air quality issues.

My recent interest areas include further understating on how various supply chain systems are structured to better assess their impacts on our transportation system, how public policy may influence industry decisions related to warehouse and distribution center locations, and how best engage industry stakeholders in our planning process in pursuit of more meaningful planning.

TRB Involvement

I have been attending TRB workshops that are held in Southern California since I joined SCAG, but my involvement became more active when I introduced myself to Ted, our committee chair, a few years ago during the Annual Conference in Washington D.C. He thought Southern California may have something meaningful to contribute (this is my guess) and invited me to participate in Urban Freight Transportation Committee as a member in 2012.

Personal Note

I became a mother about two years ago, and this has turned me into an avid on-line shopper (well, more so than before, to be accurate). Needless to say, I was overjoyed when I learned that Amazon.com was opening a new fulfillment center in Southern California and Amazon Lockers are one block away from SCAG. For better or worse, this has instigated my curiosity about e-commerce operations and how their supply chain system is structured, and often times I bore my husband to sleep with my so exciting stories about e-commerce. I'm comforted to know that there are people, like you, out there who also finds this topic fascinating.