



# KRISTEN AHLFELD, AICP

PRINCIPAL PLANNER | ASSOCIATE



## OVERVIEW

Ms. Ahlfeld's expertise is focused in the area of environmental documentation, transportation planning, and public/stakeholder outreach. Her broad-based experience includes the management of and technical support on a wide variety of projects such as corridor studies, transit studies, environmental impact assessments, and other short- and long-range transportation plans and studies. Throughout her 13 years of experience, she has developed a versatile skill set that can be adapted to most planning projects and studies; she effectively uses her skills across disciplinary lines. Ms. Ahlfeld has provided technical and management support for projects throughout Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Ms. Ahlfeld has participated in the preparation of several environmental impact statements and environmental assessments for a variety of federal, state, and private clients. Kristen has an understanding of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it relates to transportation projects. She has provided technical and management support for several NEPA documents including environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, and related alternatives analyses, for commuter rail feasibility studies, bus rapid transit corridors, proposed rail stations, and other highway improvements. Kristen has conducted impact analyses for a broad range of resource areas including land use, zoning, environmental justice/socioeconomics, floodplains, and water resources. Her experience also covers the NEPA public information process requirements and related documentation – she has developed an efficient and effective method of collecting and responding to all public comments.

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Ms. Ahlfeld has participated in transportation planning and multi-modal corridor studies which focused on the linkage of transportation and land use as well as the safety of corridor users. Kristen has experience in collecting and analyzing data for short- and long-range transportation plans, corridor studies, congestion management programs, and bicycle and pedestrian planning projects. She has participated in several transit and rail corridor studies, transit needs assessments, welfare-to-work studies, and regional transit feasibility studies. She has also developed conceptual-level recommendations for circulator shuttle services, marketing, and incentive programs in mixed-use environments.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Throughout her career, Kristen has participated in public information workshops and made presentations to county planning commissions, boards of supervisors, neighborhood advisory committees, and the general public as part of transportation and environmental planning projects. She has been involved in large consensus-building exercises as part of agency coordination as well as meeting planning and the preparation of presentation materials such as scripts, power point presentations, and presentation boards and handouts. She has also been involved in conducting one-on-one stakeholder interviews for a variety of transportation planning projects. Ms. Ahlfeld's exemplary written and oral skills allow her to communicate effectively with all stakeholders.

## EDUCATION

- M.C.P., University of Rhode Island, 1997
- B.A. Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island, 1994

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Institute of Certified Planners
- New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association
- WTS Philadelphia
- WTS Greater New York

## YEARS EXPERIENCE

- 7 Years with firm
- 13 Years in industry





## PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### **NJTPA PLANNING VISUALIZATION TOOLS | NORTHERN NJ | 2011-ONGOING**

NJTPA is developing a web-based planning tool that will enable users to visualize the potential impacts of future projects. Ms. Ahlfeld will be supporting NJTPA and the study team with stakeholder outreach and interagency coordination over the course of this project. Her responsibilities will include assisting with meeting preparation, logistics, break-out/focus group facilitation, and preparation of meeting summaries for Technical Advisory Committee meetings and other stakeholder meetings.

### **BAYSHORE HERITAGE BYWAY CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN | CUMBERLAND, SALEM AND CAPE MAY COUNTIES, NJ | 2011-ONGOING**

The Bayshore Heritage Byway is a 122-mile scenic byway that connects communities along Southern New Jersey's "western shore" in Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May counties. The route follows the Delaware Bay and the Delaware River and includes a significant number of scenic, natural, historical, recreational and cultural resources. FHI is part of a larger team developing a corridor management plan for NJDOT for the Bayshore Heritage Byway. The purpose of the corridor management plan will be to provide guidance to the communities located along the byway and their agency partners, in their effort to preserve, protect, interpret and enhance the characteristics and assets of the byway corridor. Ms. Ahlfeld is serving as FHI's project manager for this effort and will be overseeing a team of individuals tasked with community and stakeholder outreach, natural resources screening, bicycle and pedestrian analyses and GIS mapping.

### **NJTPA PERFORMANCE RESULTS STUDY | NORTHERN NJ | 2009-2010**

Ms. Ahlfeld was FHI's project manager for this recently-completed study in Northern New Jersey that developed performance measures that can be used by municipalities to make better planning decisions in the future. Ahead of the federal transportation reauthorization, the result of this project will be a guidebook that can be used by municipalities within the NJTPA region to measure the success of their planning efforts. Ms. Ahlfeld's role included assisting with the development and implementation of a stakeholder outreach plan, coordinating Technical Advisory Committee meetings, coordinating and attending face-to-face interviews with key stakeholders at NJDOT, New Jersey Transit, PANY & NJ, and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

### **NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY METRO MOBILITY STUDY | BERGEN AND PASSAIC COUNTIES, NJ | 2010-ONGOING**

Ms. Ahlfeld is working closely with community leaders and other stakeholders in Bergen and Passaic counties to collect information and feedback on the state of bus transit services today. Bus transit routes or operations have not been evaluated in either county in close to 25 years. Working closely with New Jersey Transit to develop a stakeholder outreach plan, Ms. Ahlfeld scheduled and conducted face-to-face interviews with municipal leaders (e.g., mayors, city managers, and planners) in several communities within each county to discuss issues with existing bus services and to identify opportunities for new and/or enhanced services. Ms. Ahlfeld also conducted meetings with hospital administrators and regional shopping mall managers to obtain similar information. Ms. Ahlfeld also developed and carried out travel preference surveys at two regional shopping malls to determine how the general public was traveling throughout the Bergen-Passaic county region (by car or bus) and to identify improvements that are needed to existing bus services.

### **CAPITAL BELTWAY SOUTH SIDE MOBILITY STUDY | FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD | 2011-ONGOING**

Ms. Ahlfeld is FHI's Project Manager for this study looking at potential/feasible transit options from Fairfax County, Virginia over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge into Prince George's County, Maryland. The purpose of this study is to identify feasible transit options that would connect several modes of transportation with several job and activity centers located within the very densely populated and congested suburbs of Washington, D.C. Ms. Ahlfeld prepared a technical memorandum outlining updates to regional and local transportation and land use plans,





summarizing how the changes may affect the project. Ms. Ahlfeld will also be overseeing the preparation of GIS mapping depicting the demographic, mode split, and origin-destination characteristics of the study area.

**CENTRAL NEW JERSEY / RARITAN VALLEY LINE EXTENSION FEASIBILITY STUDY | HIGH BRIDGE TO PHILLIPSBURG, NJ | 2007-2009**

Ms. Ahlfeld directed a team of individuals in the completion of an environmental screening analysis required to evaluate the feasibility of extending New Jersey Transit passenger rail service from High Bridge, NJ to Phillipsburg, NJ. Tasks included developing an evaluation methodology, mapping critical resources with GIS and the identification of resources that had the potential to be affected by the construction of the rail line as well, station platforms, and park-and-ride lots. Ms. Ahlfeld documented the potential for impacts to natural resources and also conducted a high-level (town) cursory environmental justice review to determine the locations of potential for impact to low-income and minority populations along this 40-mile corridor. A more detailed analysis will be undertaken during the next phases of the project.

**CENTRAL NEW JERSEY/RARITAN VALLEY LINE EXTENSION FEASIBILITY STUDY | PHILLIPSBURG, NJ TO ALLENTOWN, PA | 2009-2010**

Ms. Ahlfeld directed a team of individuals in the completion of an environmental screening analysis required to evaluate the feasibility of extending New Jersey Transit passenger rail service from Phillipsburg, NJ to Allentown, PA. Tasks included developing an evaluation methodology, mapping critical resources with GIS and the identification of resources that had the potential to be affected by the project. However, due to the location of the proposed rail line along the banks of the Lehigh River, Ms. Ahlfeld needed to coordinate with the City of Allentown as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding stormwater discharge and the potential affects to floodplains. Ms. Ahlfeld was the lead staff person who documented the potential for impacts to natural resources from the proposed rail alignment. A more detailed analysis will be undertaken during the next phases of the project.

**I-81 CORRIDOR STUDY | SYRACUSE, NY | 2008-ONGOING**

Ms. Ahlfeld is FHI's Project Manager for this multi-disciplinary, corridor study in Syracuse, New York. Ms. Ahlfeld is leading a team of planners and engineers responsible for documenting existing conditions and impacts to existing highway features as well as neighborhoods and environmental justice populations from improvements to a 24-mile stretch of I-81 in a FHWA-compliant Alternatives Analysis, including the raised viaduct section through Downtown Syracuse. Ms. Ahlfeld performed a tract-level environmental justice analysis consistent with Federal, state, and MPO-level EJ methodologies to identify environmental justice populations. Also documented locations of neighborhoods and key community facilities and resources, as well as documented the potential for impacts to community cohesion.

**ROUTE 27 CORRIDOR SAFETY STUDY | UNION COUNTY, NJ | 2009**

As FHI's project manager, Ms. Ahlfeld led staff in preparing critical pieces of a study looking at the safety of all modes of transportation along Route 27 within the communities of Elizabeth, Rahway, Linden, and Roselle Park in Union County. FHI collected relevant data and prepared qualitative analyses and policy recommendations for transit, land use, and transportation demand management. Specifically, Ms. Ahlfeld prepared the transit and TDM sections and also prepared NJDOT-compliant problem statements for the recommendations carried forward.

**CORRIDOR CITIES TRANSITWAY SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT EIS | MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD | 2010**

As FHI's Project Manager, Ms. Ahlfeld led a team of planners responsible for mapping and documenting the potential impacts of proposed express toll lanes within the I-270/US 15 Corridor from Shady Grove, MD, to Frederick, MD. Existing conditions as well as the potential for impacts to land use, zoning, community facilities and resources, neighborhoods, and future pipeline developments was documented in a NEPA-level environmental assessment.



**I-270/US 15 MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR STUDY EXPRESS TOLL LANES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT | MONTGOMERY AND FREDERICK COUNTIES, MD | 2007-2009**

As FHI's Project Manager, Ms. Ahlfeld led a team of planners responsible for mapping and documenting the potential impacts of proposed express toll lanes within the I-270/US 15 Corridor from Shady Grove, MD, to Frederick, MD. Existing conditions as well as the potential for impacts to land use, zoning, community facilities and resources, neighborhoods, and future pipeline developments was documented in a NEPA-level environmental assessment.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION EVACUATION AND SHELTERING PLAN | WASHINGTON, D.C. | 2006-2007**

As stakeholder liaison, Ms. Ahlfeld was responsible for assisting with stakeholder outreach, meeting logistics, and meeting facilitation for this large, regional effort. Ms. Ahlfeld conducted one-on-one interviews as well as group meetings with more than 100 federal, state, and local emergency managers, transportation planners, and first responders in the National Capital Region. Ms. Ahlfeld was also responsible for developing all meeting materials, including technical presentations, for bi-weekly Study Advisory Committee meetings. Ms. Ahlfeld was also responsible for preparing and editing review drafts of the final plan, as well as tracking and responding to comments received on the draft plan.

**DULLES CORRIDOR METRORAIL PROJECT CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM | NORTHERN VA | 2005-2006**

As CMP Coordinator, Ms. Ahlfeld spent more than one year on-site with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation developing a Congestion Management Program that could be implemented during the four-year construction phase of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. She worked closely with federal, state and local agencies to develop strategies for TDM, transit, communications, incident management, and local network operations with the goal of easing commuter congestion for the more than 115,000 employees in Tysons Corner, Virginia during the construction of the project.

**ADDITIONAL PROJECT EXPERIENCE**

- NJTPA Truck Rest Stop Study, Northern NJ (2007)
- Northeast Corridor High-Speed Rail Programmatic EIS, CT (2010)
- Greater Bridgeport (CT) Transit Authority Maintenance and Storage Facility Environmental Assessment (2009)
- Danbury Branch Electrification EIS, CT (2010)
- Northwest Corridor Transit Improvement Study, CT (2008)
- North Carolina Statewide Rail Plan (2008)
- Buckland Area (CT) Land Use Study (2009)

