



# RUTH FITZGERALD, AICP



FOUNDING PRINCIPAL

## OVERVIEW

Ms. Fitzgerald is the founding principal of Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc., and served as FHI's president for 24 years. Since "passing the baton" of the presidency, she Chairs FHI's Board of Directors and has frequent corporate involvement in addition to serving as Principal-in-Charge for many projects and Project Manager for some of FHI's key projects.

Ms. Fitzgerald has over 35 years of experience in the planning field with specialization that ranges across transportation planning, environmental documentation and public outreach. Her strengths include strong project management and strategy, quality assurance, application of the planning and environmental documentation process, and design and implementation of inclusive and successful community and stakeholder engagement processes, including meeting facilitation. Her skills are of particular value on complex multi-disciplinary projects.

### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Ms. Fitzgerald's career has been spent primarily in the transportation field, working on planning studies in many geographies and for all modes. She has been responsible for the management of numerous transportation studies for planning agencies at all levels. Projects have included highway and multimodal corridor studies, regionwide planning analyses, regional and state transportation policy plans, travel demand estimation, design and application of travel surveys, transit analysis, including short-range bus studies, paratransit coordination studies, light rail and BRT fixed guideway corridor studies, pedestrian and bikeway planning, intermodal facility studies, freight systems analyses, truck routing analyses, and rest area/truck parking studies.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Ms. Fitzgerald has had many years of experience in the preparation of environmental documentation, including major Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments for both transportation facilities and for other types of development including public buildings, campus planning and private development. Her technical expertise includes socio-economic, land use, and community impact analyses; environmental justice evaluations; and secondary and cumulative impact analyses. Her particular specialty, however, is her in-depth knowledge of the environmental documentation regulatory framework and her strength in document preparation.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Fitzgerald has a career-long involvement and interest in engaging the public to create implementable win-win solutions. She has facilitated numerous public meetings, group working sessions/charrettes, and focus groups and specializes in working with client and community toward consensus. Her role often involves strategic advice to tailor public outreach programs to meet the needs and resources of individual clients and projects. She is adept at using a variety of outreach tools to communicate project objectives to stakeholders and to solicit and incorporate input. Further, she has been involved in the development of public involvement guidelines and practices and in mentoring others in the concepts and objectives of public involvement.

### EDUCATION

- M.S. Urban and Regional Planning, 1974
- B.S. History, 1972

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
- American Planning Association (APA)
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- Transportation Research Board (TRB)
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- Am. Council of Eng. Companies (ACEC)
- Connecticut Chapter APA

### YEARS EXPERIENCE

- 24 Years with firm
- 37 Years in industry





## PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### **LAKE CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE | NEW YORK STATE DOT | 2009-ONGOING**

Ms. Fitzgerald serves as FHI's project manager for this fascinating fast track project. Short after beginning a standard, long term planning study to address concerns with the 80 year old Lake Champlain Bridge, the bridge had to be precipitously closed because of very serious safety concerns. The ensuing work toward finding solutions and carrying those solutions to implementation involved very intense efforts from the entire project team, both public and private sector. The fast track project elements included demolishing the old bridge, designing and building a new bridge, and constructing facilities to operate a temporary ferry service until a new bridge could be opened. FHI's role was to lead the effort at public engagement and to carry out a variety of environmental tasks, including both NEPA environmental documentation and environmental permitting. Ms. Fitzgerald was a very active participant in planning and preparing for many public meetings, facilitating all public meetings, as well as Public Advisory Committee meetings. She also facilitated subsequent meetings of an Ad Hoc Working Group formed to develop and implement a variety of commemoration measures to mitigate the loss of the 1929 historic bridge. This highly successful project is now under construction, with total anticipated time from bridge closing to completed construction of a major new bridge across Lake Champlain being only two years.

### **GUIDEBOOK FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN SITING FREIGHT FACILITIES | TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD | 2010**

For the National Cooperative Freight Research Program of the Transportation Research Board, FHI was part of a team to research the decision-making process for the siting of freight facilities. FHI's role was to develop a guidance manual for public officials at all levels to assist in the local processes of freight facility assessment and development. Ms. Fitzgerald was one of two authors of that manual, with primary responsibility for chapters on background and overview, public process, and global factors affecting freight patterns.

### **NEW HAVEN-HARTFORD-SPRINGFIELD HIGH SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR | CONNECTICUT DOT | 2010-ONGOING**

Ms. Fitzgerald serves as FHI's project manager for the program management team assisting the Connecticut DOT with the planning, design and implementation of this rail project. Originally planned as a commuter rail corridor, the project will now be developed eventually into high speed rail, with enhanced service and some new/upgraded stations. FHI's role involves public involvement strategy and implementation, as well as environmental permitting for the proposed 62-mile corridor improvements. This exciting project will better link the north-south communities along Amtrak's "inland route" and connect to the northern New England rail system as well as Canada.

### **ROUTE 34 URBAN BOULEVARD | NEW HAVEN, CT | 2010-ONGOING**

Ms. Fitzgerald serves as FHI's Principal-in-Charge for this project to transform a limited access roadway in downtown New Haven to an urban boulevard, yielding many benefits for the City, including neighborhood connection, livability, urban scale, and creation of developable land in the city core. Transportation conditions for transit, bicycles and pedestrians will also all be enhanced as a result of implementation of this project. Ms. Fitzgerald's role includes advice to the project team on the engagement of project stakeholders.

### **ROUTE 2 BRIDGE WIDENING | RICHMOND, VT | 2011-ONGOING**

Ms. Fitzgerald is FHI's project manager for the widening of this historic bridge over the Winooski River in Vermont. The project is a design-build effort, so close interaction with both the design engineer and the contractor are critical to project success. FHI's role, led by Ms. Fitzgerald, is the public relations, communication and interaction with the public to ensure that the process goes smoothly and that questions are answered before they arise. A variety of techniques will be employed, including news bulletins and a project website. Knowledge of the proposed construction process and addressing of local issues and concerns will be key to project success.





## ADDITIONAL PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- Connecticut Statewide Rest Area and Service Plaza Study
- Northwest Transportation Corridor/Union Station/Downtown Hartford (CT) Study
- Rural Independent Transportation System Study, CT
- United We Ride Paratransit Coordination Study, CT
- Stamford (CT) Ferry Feasibility Study
- Northern New Jersey Truck Stop Study
- Waterbury and New Canaan (CT) Rail Corridor Feasibility Studies
- Route 35 Corridor Study, CT
- Greater New Haven (CT) Transit District Hydrogen Bus Demonstration Project
- Route 202 (CT) Corridor Management Study
- Downtown Hartford (CT) Circulation Project
- New Britain – Hartford (CT) Busway Station Area Planning Studies
- Griffin Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study, CT
- Bridgeport (CT) Intermodal Transportation Center
- Northwestern Connecticut Analysis of Parking Needs
- Routes 4/10/44 Corridor Studies, CT
- Manchester – Hartford (CT) Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study
- Connecticut DOT Public Involvement Guidance Manual
- Western Corridor Management Plan, VT
- Massachusetts State Freight and Rail Plans
- Interstate 95 Southeastern Connecticut Feasibility Study
- Maryland Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Gateway Community College Consolidation EIE, CT
- New Haven (CT) Rail Yard Improvements Planning and EA
- Hartford (CT) Civic Center Redevelopment
- On-call Preparation of Environmental Documents, Connecticut DOT
- Hampton Roads (VA) Crossing Study and EIS
- MAGLEV Program EA Document Review and Oversight, CA, LA, MD, FL, PA, NV
- On-call Preparation of Environmental Documents, Connecticut DPW
- I-95 Commuter Shoulders Project Environmental Assessment, CT
- I-95 New Haven (CT) (Q-Bridge) Program Management
- Route 15 Bridge over the Housatonic River (Sikorsky Bridge) Replacement, CT

