Gary Toth - Senior Director, Transportation Initiatives  gtoth@pps.org

Gary Toth has helped to lead a national movement to integrate land use and transportation issues as a means to creating more livable, walkable communities and streets. During his 34 years of project management experience with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), Gary helped transform NJDOT to a stakeholder inclusive agency focused on the integration of transportation and land use planning. He was the founder and leader of the NJFIT: Future in Transportation Program, which provided transportation and planning land use assistance to more than 50 communities in New Jersey from 2003 to 2007, as well as founder of the agency’s Context Sensitive Solutions Program, in which he developed the agency’s CSS training program and CSS Implementation Team. While at NJDOT, he was also the agency’s Project Manager for the preparation of the multi-state groundbreaking Smart Transportation Guide.

As a transportation engineer, Gary possesses extensive knowledge of street and network design principles and he is one of the leading U.S. experts on utilizing flexible design and design standards to create great streets and communities. Since joining PPS in 2007, Gary has worked with dozens of communities to help them plan and create more sustainable streets and transportation networks with sound engineering principles, including conducting hundreds of trainings and community engagement sessions.

He has developed numerous public engagement tools and trainings for PPS, including Streets as Places trainings, Street Typology exercises, and Street Audits. Gary is also one of seven instructors certified to lead the National Highway Institute’s Transportation and Land Use Course, and leads the course discussion on what makes a great street. His knowledge, credentials, and collaborative approach have made him a popular trainer, facilitator, and presenter on transportation issues.

Mike Lydon - Principal, Street Plans  mike@treetplans.org

Mike Lydon is a Principal with Street Plans and leads the firm’s New York City office. Mike is an internationally recognized planner, writer, speaker, and advocate for livable cities. NPR, The New York Times, CNN Headline News, ABC News, City Lab, Planetizen, Salon, Next City, Architect Magazine, and Streetsblog have featured his work, among other publications. Mike is the creator and primary author of the The Open Streets Project and the globally acclaimed series Tactical Urbanism: Short-Term Action, Long-Term Change Vol.1 – 4. With Tony Garcia, Mike authored the full-length book Tactical Urbanism, published by Island Press in March 2015. Mike also collaborated with Andres Duany and Jeff Speck in writing The Smart Growth Manual, published by McGraw-Hill in 2009 and honored by Planetizen as one of the top ten planning books of 2010.

A founding member of the New England Chapter of the Congress for the New Urbanism, a Board Member for CNU New York, and a steering committee member of the Next Generation of New Urbanists, he remains active in both local and national planning, design, and smart growth advocacy issues. He lectures frequently and leads workshops and trainings on the topics of smart growth, tactical urbanism, and complete streets/active transportation.

Before launching the firm in 2009, Mike worked for Smart Growth Vermont, the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition, and Ann Arbor’s GetDowntown Program. From 2006 – 2009 Lydon worked for Duany Plater-Zyberk and Company (DPZ), an international leader in the practice of smart growth planning, design, and research techniques.

Mike currently serves on Transportation Alternative’s Executive Committee for the New York City Harbor Ring project, is an advisor to the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, and sits on the Board of the Center for a New American Dream. Mike received a B.A. in American Cultural Studies from Bates College and a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. He encourages you to trade four wheels for two.