



Katherine Summerlin, MPA

Katherine Summerlin is a senior staff analyst with the City of Houston’s Public Works, Transportation and Drainage Operations. She serves as the entity’s chief transportation policy analyst and policy liaison to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). Her focus involves analyzing and distilling federal, state, and local policy for the City’s leadership. She also leads Public Work’s federal transportation efforts, which has earned the City over \$80 million dollars in fiscal year 2022 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for transportation projects.

Katherine previously served with the Harris County Toll Road Authority, overseeing capital improvement planning, financial planning and analysis, capital asset procurement, and FEMA compliance. She has spent more than two decades analyzing local and state government policy in roles from city council aide to state legislative staffer and has also worked in the legal services sector, assisting clients recover funds resulting from stockbroker malfeasance. Her introduction to public service and local government began as an intern in the University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs’ Civic Houston Internship Program. As a first-generation immigrant, Katherine strongly believes it is government’s role as a steward of public resources to leverage funds that build resilient communities and equitable institutions.

Katherine is an alumna of the University of Houston, earning a bachelor’s degree in political science and a graduate degree in public administration with a concentration in management and evaluation. She is an at-large trustee with the League of Women Voters–Houston and a member of the American Society of Public Administrators. Katherine’s speaking engagements include serving as a panelist at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Urban Design 2022 Series: Action on Resiliency “Connecting Resilient Needs” and AIA’s Gulf Coast Green Conference “Transportation and Policies” and as a presenter at the UH-Master of Public Administration course on “Capital Planning.”

