

Robert J. Puentes

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Recent Professional Experience

Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

Vice President and Director, Brookings Metro, 2024 - present

Eno Center for Transportation, Washington, DC

President/CEO, 2016-2024

Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program, Washington, DC

Non-Resident Senior Fellow, 2016-2024

Director, Metropolitan Infrastructure Initiative and Senior Fellow, 2008-2016

Fellow, 2004-2008

Senior Research Manager, 2000-2004

Intelligent Transportation Society of America, Washington, DC

Director, Infrastructure Programs, 1998-2000

Senior Planner, 1996-1998

Education

M.A., University of Virginia, Urban Planning, 1998 • B.S., Old Dominion University, Political Science, 1990

Select Local Activities

- Planning Commissioner, City of Falls Church, Virginia, 2018-present (Chair since 2024)
- Chair, Executive Steering Committee, Washington Regional Bus Study Project, 2018-2020
- Champions Council, Coalition for Smart Growth, 2018-present
- Appointed Member, District of Columbia Infrastructure Finance Task Force, 2015-2016
- Appointed Member, District of Columbia Streetcar Financing Task Force, 2012-2014
- Appointed Member, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Technical Advisory Committee, 2008-2013
- Advisory Council, Tysons Tomorrow, 2008-2012
- Planning Commissioner, City of Falls Church, Virginia, 2004-2008
- Appointed Member, Panel on Alternate Dedicated Revenue Sources for Washington's Metro, 2004-2005
- Advisory Board, University of Virginia School of Architecture, 2002-2008

Select Professional Activities

- Advisory Board, Innovative Infrastructure Initiative, March 2021-2024
- Advisory Council, Northwestern University Transportation Center, 2018-2024
- Advisory Board, International Association of Transportation Regulators, 2018-2023
- Board of Directors, Jobs to Move America, 2017-present
- Board of Directors, United for Infrastructure, 2017-2022

- Advisory Board, Los Angeles Metro Office of Extraordinary Innovation, 2017-2023
- Member, Evaluation Panel, MacArthur Foundation 100&Change, 2016-2019
- Board of Directors, Shared Use Mobility Center, 2016-2023
- Appointed Member, Federal Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity, 2016-2017
- Advisory Board, Young Professionals in Transportation, 2016-2024
- Voting Jury Member, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Design + Deliverability Competition, 2016
- Strategic Implementation Assessment Team, New York Regional Economic Development Council, 2015
- Advisory Board, National Conference of State Legislatures on Transit Funding, 2014
- Appointed Member, New York MTA Transportation Reinvention Commission, 2014
- Advisory Board, West Coast Infrastructure Exchange, 2013-2017
- Appointed Member, New York State 2100 Infrastructure Commission, 2012-2014
- Advisory Committee, National Building Museum Intelligent Cities, 2010-2013
- Advisory Board, Congressional Livable Communities Task Force, 2010-2012
- Editorial Board, *Housing Policy Debate*, 2007-2011, *Urban Affairs Review*, 2010-2016
- Instructor, Rutgers University, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, 2007-2008
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, Georgetown University, Public Policy Institute, 2007-2008
- Conference Board, A Suburban World? Decentralization and the New Metropolis, 2006-2008
- Advisor, Cities Research Project, Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, 2005-2008
- Member, First Tier Suburbs Council, National League of Cities, 2004-2010
- Advisory Board, Transportation and Civil Rights, Harvard Civil Rights Project, 2003-2007

Select Congressional/Legislative Testimony (since 2005)

- "Public/Private Partnerships: 101," Joint Briefing: Maryland House Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee & Senate Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee, June 2021.
- "Rebuilding and Reinvesting in Infrastructure in an Age of Fiscal Constraint," U.S. Congress, Joint Economic Committee, July 2013.
- "Strengthening the Federal/State Partnership on Passenger Rail," U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, May 2013.
- "Transformative Infrastructure to Boost Exports and Manufacturing," U.S. Congress, Joint Economic Committee, November 2011.
- "Creating Infrastructure Banks," U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, May 2010.
- "Advancing Healthy Metropolitan Growth in Virginia," Urban Policy Task Force, Commonwealth of Virginia, October 2009.
- "Supporting Integrated Planning and Decision Making by Joining Up Housing and Transportation," U.S. House of Representatives, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, & Urban Development, March 2009.
- "Creating Livable Communities: Housing and Transit Policy in the 21st Century," U.S. Senate, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, September 2008.
- "Strengthening the Ability of Public Transportation to Reduce Our Dependence on Foreign Oil," U.S. Senate, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, September 2008.
- "Beginning Again: A Metropolitan Transportation Vision for the 21st Century," U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, April 2008.
- "Key Policy Considerations for Surface Transportation Investment Needs," U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Budget, October 2007.
- "Housing: The Critical Issue for Virginia's Future," Housing Commission, Virginia General Assembly, December 2005.

Select Policy Studies and Publications (since 2000)

- "Driving Change: Advice for the National Vehicle Miles Traveled Fee," with J. Davis and G. Shrode, Eno, July 2023.
- "Data for Environmentally Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Mobility," with A. Chittiri, Eno, June 2023.
- "Filling Gaps in US Spectrum Allocation: Reforms for Collaborative Management," with G. Shrode, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, March 2023.
- "Austin's Project Connect: Independent Review of Governance and Leadership," with P. Lewis and R. Aevaz, Eno, March 2022.
- "Saving Time and Making Cents: A Blueprint for Better Transit," with R. Aevaz and others, Eno, July 2021.
- "Mobility Lessons Learned: A Summary of the Mobility on Demand Pilots in the Los Angeles and Puget Sound Regions," with P. Lewis, Eno, April 2021.
- "Congestion Pricing in the United States: Principles for Developing a Viable Program to Advance Sustainability and Equity Goals," with B. Eby and M. Roskowski, Eno, May 2020.
- "Transportation Workforce Planning and Development Strategies," with A. Grossman and B. Eby, Transportation Research Board, November 2019.
- "Transportation at the Ballot Box 2018," Eno, November 2018.
- "The Implications of the Federal Ban on Chinese Railcars," with J. Davis, Eno, September 2018.
- "Deal or No Deal: Prospects for Airport Privatization," with P. Lewis, Eno, August 2018.
- "Taxing New Mobility Services: What's Right? What's Next?" with SJ Kim, Eno, July 2018.
- "Time for Reform – Delivering Modern Air Traffic Control," with R. Neiva, Eno, February 2017.
- "What the Candidates Need to Know about Infrastructure," with W. Galston, Brookings, November 2016.
- "Vital Capital: Using Alternative Procurement and Financing Models to Capitalize on the 'Infrastructure Moment' in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region," with S. Ditta and others, Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation, University of Toronto, December 2015.
- "Improving America's Procurement System," with P. Sabol, Brookings, September 2015.
- "Global Goods Trade and Metropolitan Economies," with A. Tomer, Brookings, June 2015.
- "Expanding Opportunity Through Infrastructure Jobs," with J. Kane, Brookings, May 2015.
- "Building Better Infrastructure Better Bonds," with P. Sabol, Brookings, April 2015.
- "Driving in the 21st Century: Current Trends and Future Needs," with A. Tomer, Brookings, April 2015.
- "Linking Transportation, Planning, and Economic Growth: Lessons for Metropolitan Las Vegas," with A. Tomer, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, March 2015.
- "Delivering on the Promise of India's Smart Cities," with A. Liu, Brookings, January 2015.
- "Private Capital Public Good: Drivers of Successful Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships," with P. Sabol, Brookings, December 2014.
- "The Way Forward: A New Vision for America's Infrastructure," with B. Katz, Brookings, May 2014.
- "Beyond Shovel-Ready: The Extent of U.S. Infrastructure Jobs," with J. Kane, Brookings, May 2014.
- "Getting Smarter About Smart Cities," with A. Tomer, Brookings, April 2014.
- "Metro Freight: The Global Goods Trade that Moves Economies," with A. Tomer, Brookings, October 2013.
- "Build America Bonds to Support State and Local Investments," with P. Sabol, Brookings, September 2013.
- "Establish a National Infrastructure Bank Capitalized by a Repatriation Tax Holiday," with P. Sabol and J. Kane, Brookings, August 2013.
- "A New Alignment: Strengthening America's Commitment to Passenger Rail," with A. Tomer and J. Kane, Brookings, March 2013.
- "Have Americans Hit Peak Travel? A Discussion of the Changes in US Driving Habits," Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Conference, Paris, November 2012.
- "Establish a National PPP Unit to Support Bottom-Up Infrastructure Investment," Brookings, November 2012.

- "Cut to Invest: Exempt Private Activity Bonds (PABs) from the Alternative Minimum Tax," with J. Kane, Brookings, November 2012.
- "Global Gateways: International Aviation in Metro America," with A. Tomer, Brookings, October 2012.
- "Banking on Infrastructure: Enhancing State Revolving Funds for Transportation," September 2012.
- "The Role of Freight and Logistics in Miami's Economic Future," with A. Tomer, Brookings, June 2012.
- "The Intersection of Place and the Economy," with P. McFerrin, Brookings, May 2012.
- "U.S. and International Experience with PPP Units," with E. Istrate, Brookings, December 2011.
- "Missed Opportunity: Transit and Jobs in Metropolitan America," with A. Tomer and others, Brookings, May 2011.
- "Moving Past Gridlock: A Proposal for a Two-Year Transportation Law," Brookings, December 2010.
- "Developing a National Strategy for Goods Movement," Brookings, September 2010.
- "Commuting," in State of Metropolitan America: On the Front Lines of Demographic Transformation, with E. Istrate and A. Tomer, Brookings, May 2010.
- "Growth Through Innovation: It Will be Metropolitan-Led," with M. Muro, Brookings, May 2010.
- Investing in the Nation's Infrastructure: Obama's Plans to Rebuild American Prosperity," Brookings, January 2010.
- "Investing for Success: Examining a Federal Capital Budget and a National Infrastructure Bank," with E. Istrate, Brookings, December 2009.
- "Expect Delays: An Analysis of Air Travel Trends in the United States," with A. Tomer, Brookings, October 2009.
- "Metro Potential in ARRA: An Early Assessment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," with M. Muro and others, Brookings, February 2009.
- "Memo to the President: Invest in Long-Term Prosperity," Brookings, January 2009.
- "Options for Innovative State Transportation Funding and Financing," with D. Burwell, National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, January 2009.
- "Leveraging Infrastructure Investment Now and for the Future," Brookings, December 2008.
- "The Road...Less Traveled: An Analysis of Vehicle Miles Traveled Trends in the U.S.," with A. Tomer, Brookings, December 2008.
- "Candidate Issue Index: Transportation," with A. Tomer, Brookings, August 2008.
- "A Bridge to Somewhere: Rethinking American Transportation for the 21st Century," Brookings, June 2008.
- "America's Infrastructure: Ramping Up or Crashing Down?" Brookings, January 2008.
- "New Ways to Invest in and Transportation Infrastructure," Policy Brief, the Commons Project, University of Wisconsin-Madison, December 2006.
- "From Traditional to Reformed: A Review of the Land Use Regulations in the Nation's 50 Largest Metropolitan Areas," with R. Pendall, Brookings, July 2006.
- "Prosperity at Risk: Toward a Competitive New Jersey," Brookings, May 2006.
- "One Fifth of the Nation: A Profile of Change in America's First Suburbs," with D. Warren, Brookings, February 2006.
- "Remaking Transportation Policy for the New Century," with B. Katz, Brookings, January 2006.
- "What Can Historic Preservation Accomplish?" Living Cities Policy Series Volume 1: The National Community Development Initiative, September 2005.
- "Today's Roads with Tomorrow's Dollars: Using GARVEE Bonds to Finance Transportation Projects," with David Warren, Brookings, March 2005.
- "Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority: Deficits by Design," Brookings, June 2004.
- "Investing in a Better Future: A Review of the Fiscal and Competitive Advantages of Smarter Growth Development Patterns," with M. Muro, Brookings, March 2004.
- "Highways and Transit: Leveling the Playing Field in Federal Transportation Policy," with E. Beimborn, Brookings, December 2003.

- "Improving Decision Making in Transportation: Greater Funding and Devolution for Greater Accountability," with L. Bailey, Brookings, October 2003.
- "Fueling Transportation Finance: A Primer on the Gas Tax," Brookings, March 2003.
- "Slanted Pavement: How Ohio's Highway Spending Shortchanges Cities and Suburbs," with E. Hill, and others, Brookings, March 2003.
- "Getting Transportation Right for Metropolitan America," with B. Katz and S. Bernstein, Brookings, March 2003.
- "Is Home Rule the Answer? Clarifying the Influence of Dillon's Rule on Growth Management," with J. Richardson and M. Gough, Brookings, January 2003.
- "Valuing America's First Suburbs: A Policy Agenda for Older Suburbs in the Midwest," with M. Orfield, Brookings, April 2002.
- "Growth at the Ballot Box: Electing the Shape of Communities in November 2000," with P. Myers, Brookings, February 2001.
- "Flexible Funding for Transit: Who Uses It?" Brookings, May 2000.

Articles, Chapters, and Books

- "Airport Privatization," in Handbook on Public Private Partnerships in Transportation, S. Simon and R. Clark, eds. Springer, 2021
- "Mobility Innovations," in The Future of Public Transportation, P. Comfort, ed. Comfort Consulting Worldwide, March 2020.
- "Time for Rebuilding America's Infrastructure," *Milken Institute Review*, January 2018.
- "Infrastructure Issues and Options for the Trump Administration," with W. Galston in Brookings Big Ideas for America, M. O'Hanlon, ed. Brookings, January 2017.
- "Governance in the United States and the Metropolitan Priority: Lessons from Transportation," in *Governing Territories: Antagonisms and Partnerships Between Public Actors*, G. Bettoni, ed. Paris: Institute for Public Management and Economic Development, 2011.
- "Land-Use Regulations as Territorial Governance in U.S. Metropolitan Areas," with R. Pendall in *Journal of the Association of Spanish Geographers*, Vol. 26, No. 1: 2008.
- "Comment on Bruce Seely's 'The Secret is the System'" *The Wilson Quarterly*, Summer, 2008.
- "MPOs in the Post-ISTEA Era: What Went Wrong?" with J. Wolf and others in The Future of Urban Transportation II, Eno Transportation Foundation, 2008.
- "The State of Organizing in Midwestern First Suburbs," *Opolis: An International Journal of Suburban and Metropolitan Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2006.
- "Caution: Challenges Ahead, A Review of New Urban Demographics and Impacts on Transportation," in The Future of Urban Transportation, Eno Transportation Foundation, 2006.
- "Comment on 'Can State Review of Local Planning Increase Housing Production?' *Housing Policy Debate*, Vol. 16, No. 2: 2005.
- Taking the High Road: A Metropolitan Agenda for Transportation Reform, ed. with B. Katz, Brookings Institution Press, August 2005.
- "Assets, Challenges and Opportunities of Older Suburbs," *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, Vol. 29, No. 4, 2002.

Op-Eds and Commentary (since 2010):

- "Decoupling Cars and People," *Falls Church News Press*, February 2022.
- "The Urgent Need to Fix American Suburbs," Brookings, January 2022.
- "To Fix Baltimore, Local Funding, Oversight Needed," with B. O'Malley, *Baltimore Sun*, November 2020.
- "Achieving Racial Equity in Starts with Housing," with others, *Falls Church News Press*, July 2020.

- "The CDC's Wrong-Way Approach to Contact Tracing," with P.Lewis, *The Hill*, June 2020.
- "The Bus is Key to Fixing our Transportation Woes," *Washington Post*, September 2019.
- "The Shutdown's Effect on Air Traffic Control — and How to End it," *The Hill*, January 2019.
- "Virginia Took a Bold Step in Tolling I-66. And it's Likely to Pay Off," *Washington Post*, December 2017.
- "How to Improve School Bus Transportation of Students," *U.S. News & World Report*, August 2017.
- "Ghosts of Transit Past: What Can We Do About Declining Transit Ridership?" *U.S. News & World Report*, May 2017.
- "American Transportation Needs an Intervention," *U.S. News & World Report*, April 2017.
- "Aviation Needs a Makeover," *U.S. News & World Report*, January 2017.
- "The Road to Safe Streets and Zero Traffic Fatalities," *U.S. News & World Report*, December 2016.
- "Transportation Is a Big Deal at the Ballot Box This November," *U.S. News & World Report*, September 2016.
- "Trump and Clinton Have Good Reason to Talk About Infrastructure Jobs," *U.S. News & World Report*, August 2016.
- "Freight, Cities and Opportunity," with A. Tomer, *Politico*, July 2015.
- "High Costs of Underfunding Rail and Other Needs," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 2015.
- "Raising the Gas Tax Isn't About Politics, It's About Economics," with A. Tomer, *The Hill*, January 2015.
- "A Can-Do Decision for Maryland's Governor-Elect," with S. Apgar, *Washington Post*, December 2014.
- "The Indiana Toll Road: How Did a Good Deal Go Bad?" with P. Sabol, *Forbes*, October 2014.
- "To Fix Infrastructure, Washington Needs to Get Out of the Way," with B. Katz, *Forbes*, May 2014.
- "The Right Way to Build the Futuristic Cities of Our Dreams," with Adie Tomer, *Wired*, April 23, 2014.
- "Federal Aviation Policy Must be Reformed, Updated," with A. Tomer, *The Hill*, October 31, 2012.
- "The Future of Redevelopment Financing in the US: China?" *Atlantic Cities*, July 18, 2012.
- "Move It: How the U.S. Can Improve Transportation Policy," *Wall Street Journal*, May 23, 2011.
- "High Speed Rail: A Measured Approach Can Work," *New York Times*, Room for Debate, October 13, 2010.
- "Rethinking the Way on Infrastructure," with B. Katz, *The Hill*, November 20, 2009.
- "Congress Plans A Transportation Overhaul," with A. Tomer, *The New Republic*, June 19, 2009.
- "The MTA is Not Alone in its Financial Struggles," with E. Istrate, *Newsday*, April 24, 2009.
- "Transportation and Climate Change: The Perfect Storm," *Washington Post*, April 2009.
- "Road Blocked," *The New Republic*, November 14, 2008.
- "Clogged Arteries: The Nation in Numbers," with B. Katz, *The Atlantic*, March 2008.
- "Washington Must Retool for a More Focused Role in Buffalo," *Buffalo News*, February 2008.
- "Keeping Controversial Dulles Project on Track," *Politico*, February 13, 2008.
- "Housing: The Key Hurdle for Hampton Roads' Growth," *Virginian Pilot*, November 2007.
- "The Real Price of Private Toll Roads," *Dallas Morning News*, March 2007.
- "Affluent but Needy (First Suburbs)," with B. Katz, *Newsday*, February 11, 2006.
- "Extreme Makeover: Nassau," with B. Katz, *New York Times*, January 29, 2006.
- "Beyond Campaign Rhetoric: Find Real Solutions to Virginia's Transportation Tangle," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, September 2005.
- "Transportation Breakdown," *Boston Globe*, May 2005.
- "Deficits by Design Plague Washington's Metro," *Washington Times*, June 2004.
- "Fairness in Funding the Dulles Rail Project," *Washington Post*, December 2003.

Interviews:

Print:

Most major U.S. newspapers including: *Baltimore Sun, Boston Globe, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Dallas Morning News, Houston Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, USA Today, Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*. Numerous trade/specialty journals.

Radio:

Numerous including: Marketplace Morning Report, Marketplace Money, On Point with Tom Ashbrook, The Takeaway, The Diane Rehm Show, The Kojo Nnamdi Show, Federal News Radio, NPR News & Notes, Smart City Radio, German Public Radio. Many local outlets.

Television:

ABC News Primetime, NBC Nightly News and News Channel, CNN Newsource and Paula Zahn NOW, C-SPAN/Washington Journal, PBS Nightly Business Report, Dow Jones Investment Banker, Bloomberg News, Reuters TV, NewsChannel 8 NewsTalk, the Weather Channel Your Weather Today.

Podcasts:

The Augmented City, Connecting the Agenda, Hear Say, The Break Down, Water Loop, Transit Unplugged, New Start New Jersey, The Infrastructure Week Podcast.