

City of Seattle



Director Seattle Department of Transportation

Confirmation Packet
December 18, 2018

Samuel D. Zimbabwe



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

December 18, 2018

The Honorable Bruce A. Harrell
President, Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Harrell:

I am pleased to transmit to the City Council the following confirmation packet for my appointment of Samuel D. Zimbabwe as Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT).

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

A. Samuel D. Zimbabwe

This section contains Mr. Zimbabwe's appointment and oath of office forms, his resume, and the press release announcing his appointment.

B. Background Checks

This section contains the report on Mr. Zimbabwe's background check.

Samuel D. Zimbabwe is an experienced urban planner, specializing in integrating multi-modal transportation investments into equitable and sustainable cities.

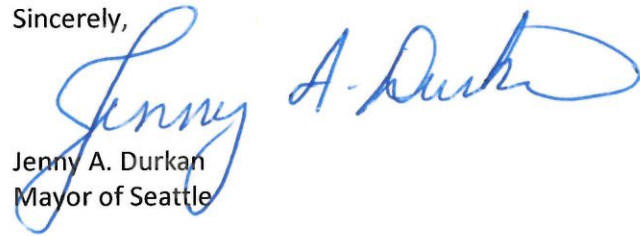
He has most recently served in senior management positions with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. Since 2016, Sam has served as the agency's first Chief Project Delivery Officer, where he has led planning, design, construction and transit operations, including streetcar and bus systems and a bikeshare program. Prior to his time with the District, Sam worked for Reconnecting America, a non-profit that worked with communities to use transit investments to improve the lives of their residents without displacement.

Sam has both the experience and the vision SDOT needs at this time. His experience delivering a range of transportation projects will be invaluable as we implement the Move Seattle levy, prepare for Sound Transit expansion, and make multi-modal investments.

Sam's work around equity and sustainability will crucially inform his work in Seattle to ensure that we are building the city of the future that is vibrant, inclusive, connected, and sustainable. His work in the District on VisionZero demonstrates his commitment to our goal of having a safe and reliable transportation system for all.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, please contact Deputy Mayor Shefali Ranganathan at 206-256-6195, or via e-mail, at shefali.ranganathan@seattle.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jenny" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Durkan".

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle

SECTION

A



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

December 17, 2018

Samuel D. Zimbabwe
Washington, DC
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Sam,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation at an annual salary of \$200,000.

Your appointment as Director is subject to City Council confirmation; therefore, you will need to attend the Council's confirmation hearings. Once confirmed by the City Council, your term will be through January 1, 2023.

Your contingent offer letter provided employment information related to the terms of your employment, benefits, vacation, holiday and sick leave.

I look forward to working with you in your role as Director and wish you success. We have much work ahead of us, and I am confident that the Seattle Department of Transportation will thrive under your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Seattle Department of Human Resources file



City of Seattle Department Head Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Samuel D. Zimbabwe</i>		
City Department Name: <i>Seattle Department of Transportation</i>		Position Title: <i>Director</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment <i>OR</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Specify appointing authority</i>		Term of Office: <i>City Council Confirmation to January 1, 2023</i>
Legislated Authority: <i>Seattle Municipal Code Section 3.12.010</i>		
Background: Samuel D. Zimbabwe is an experienced urban planner, specializing in integrating multi-modal transportation investments into equitable and sustainable cities. He has most recently served in senior management positions with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. Since 2016, Sam has served as the agency's first Chief Project Delivery Officer, where he has led planning, design, construction and transit operations, including streetcar and bus systems and a bikeshare program. Prior to his time with the District, Sam worked for Reconnecting America, a non-profit that worked with communities to use transit investments to improve the lives of their residents without displacement. Sam has both the experience and the vision SDOT needs at this time. His experience delivering a range of transportation projects will be invaluable as we implement the Move Seattle levy, prepare for Sound Transit expansion, and make multi-modal investments. Sam's work around equity and sustainability will crucially inform his work in Seattle to ensure that we are building the city of the future that is vibrant, inclusive, connected, and sustainable. His work in the District on VisionZero demonstrates his commitment to our goal of having a safe and reliable transportation system for all.		
Date of Appointment: <i>12/18/2018</i>	Authorizing Signature (original signature): 	Appointing Signatory: <i>Jenny A. Durkan</i> Mayor



CITY OF SEATTLE ▪ STATE OF WASHINGTON
OATH OF OFFICE

State of Washington

County of King

I, Samuel D. Zimbabwe, swear or affirm that I possess all the qualifications prescribed in the Seattle City Charter and the Seattle Municipal Code for the position of Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation; that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Washington, and the Charter and Ordinances of The City of Seattle; and that I will faithfully conduct myself as *Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation*.

Samuel D. Zimbabwe

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this ____ day of _____, 2019.

[Seal]

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

Samuel D. Zimbabwe, LEED AP

Professional Experience

District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Washington, DC

Chief Project Delivery Officer

September 2016-present

Associate Director, Policy, Planning & Sustainability Administration

November 2011-September 2016

- Lead transportation planning, design, construction, and transit operations for the District's transportation agency. Managed transition to new organizational structure as agency's first Chief Project Delivery Officer.
- Supervise staff of 150 with \$40M annual operating budget and \$150M annual capital budget. Lead agency programming of annual capital budget of \$250-\$300M.
- Direct DC Streetcar system, including planning and project development for extensions and interaction with State Safety Oversight Office for existing operations.
- Direct DC Circulator bus system, including modernization of bus fleet and introduction of first battery-electric buses, launch of new routes, efforts to improve service speed and reliability, and first DDOT-led procurement process for Operations & Maintenance Contractor.
- Supervise the operation and expansion of Capital Bikeshare program, including programs to address equity gaps and expand into underserved communities.
- Lead \$500M Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Replacement project. Design-build project will result in signature bridge span, improved multi-modal access, and new public spaces on both sides of the Anacostia River.
- Lead District's Vision Zero Initiative to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries within 10 years, including December 2015 Action Plan and implementation activities.
- Led development of moveDC Plan (2014), the first long-range transportation plan for the District of Columbia in 17 years. Engaged over 1,500 people in planning process that won national awards.
- Coordinate interagency activities with District and Federal agencies, including DC Office of Planning, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, National Park Service, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, and Office of City Administrator on transportation planning and investment decisions.
- Lead installation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including over 40 miles of bike lanes, 5 miles of protected bike lanes, 5 miles of multi-use trail, and over 100 blocks of missing sidewalk.
- Develop innovative public/private partnerships around transportation programs, including dockless bikeshare, carshare services, parking and curbside management, program sponsorship, and Transportation Demand Management.
- Represent agency on range of sustainable transportation issues to media, citizen and stakeholder groups, at national and regional conferences. Develop and deliver testimony before City Council and Zoning Commission and serve as District representative on Metropolitan Washington Transportation Planning Board (MPO).

Reconnecting America, Washington, DC

Director, Center for Transit-Oriented Development

September 2009-October 2011

Technical Assistance Director

September 2006-September 2009

- Led and collaboratively set direction for the Center for Transit-Oriented Development, a three-organization partnership focused on public transportation and its role in housing, equitable community development, and public health.
- Supervised 6 staff in 3 offices and indirectly managed 25 staff throughout 3 partner organizations, and responsible for hiring and staffing decisions for direct reports.
- Developed strategic program and budget plans, wrote funding proposals, and managed relationships with local and national philanthropic foundations and public agencies, including the Federal Transit Administration.
- Engaged 13 local and national foundations in formation of Central Corridor Funders Collaborative to maximize the benefits of light rail investment in St. Paul, Minnesota and supported regional transit-oriented development working group with policy and investment best practices, technical studies, and strategy.
- Led efforts to gather and synthesize national best practices and case studies on public transportation and urban development, and wrote and edited national publications for practitioners and community audiences.
- Led collaborative research projects and policy development related to urban design, mixed-income housing, and transportation planning in regional and national contexts.
- Spoke on issues related to transportation and its relationship to community and economic development to media, a variety of stakeholder groups, and at national and regional conferences.

Community Design + Architecture, Oakland, CA

Associate

January 2005-August 2006

Urban Designer

April 2003-December 2004

- Led team of 3 staff on design, research, and policy development projects related to public transportation, including station design, regional planning, and real estate development throughout the United States.
- Led all aspects of project management, including budget and contract negotiations, management of subcontractors, budget management, and producing technical and policy reports.
- Managed successful marketing efforts for expanding firm, including identifying and pursuing potential projects.
- Developed presentations on policy and design issues for elected officials, community stakeholders and general public, including testimony to City Councils and other local elected bodies.

Van Meter Williams Pollack, San Francisco, CA

Urban Designer

August 2001-April 2003

- Managed development of plans and strategies for public infrastructure improvements, public transportation, and land use policy.
- Produced plan graphics and hand and computer renderings for projects of building prototypes and illustrations for design guidelines.
- Assembled, wrote, and produced final reports and plans. Compiled construction documents for mixed-use architecture projects.

Education

University of California, Berkeley

Master of City Planning, Concentration: Urban Design

1999-2001

- Professional Report: Octavia Boulevard Development Plan and Design Guidelines
- Berkeley-Ferrara-Waseda International Urban Design Workshop, May 2001
- Teaching Assistant, Methods of Urban Design Research, Fall 2000

Cornell University

Bachelor of Science, With Honors, Major: Urban and Regional Studies

1995-1999

- Honors Thesis: Social Design and Urban Interaction: Neighborhood Planning and the Formation of Community in Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Academic Achievement Award for Urban and Regional Studies, 1999
- Cornell-In-Rome Program, Rome, Italy, Fall 1997

Professional and Community Service

Member, Technical Working Group, Federal Highway Administration *Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation*, 2014-present

Board of Advisors Member, Young Professionals in Transportation, August 2018-present

Invited Guest Lecturer, Georgetown University Urban and Regional Planning, 2014-present

Steering Committee Member, Institute for Transportation Engineers Vision Zero Initiative, 2016-present

Steering Committee Member, NACTO Transit Streets Guide, 2014-present

Steering Committee Member, NACTO Urban Street Design Guide, 2013-present

Subject Matter Expert, US Green Building Council, LEED Transit Quality Working Group, 2009-2011

Member, American Public Transportation Association, Urban Design Standards Working Group, 2007-2011

Author, Planning Advisory Services QuickNotes 29: Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, December 2010

LEED Accredited Professional, certification achieved 2007

Meeting Facilitator, Community Design Program, Urban Ecology, Oakland, CA, 2000-2006

Little League Baseball Coach, San Francisco/Washington, DC 2005-2008



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Chelsea Kellogg, Chelsea.kellogg2@seattle.gov

Mayor Jenny Durkan Nominates Transit and Transportation Project Delivery Expert Sam Zimbabwe to Be the Next Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation

Zimbabwe Currently Serves as the Chief Project Delivery Officer for Washington, D.C.'s District Department of Transportation

SEATTLE (December 18, 2018) – Mayor Jenny A. Durkan and community leaders announced today that she is nominating transit and transportation project delivery expert Sam Zimbabwe to be the next Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), pending Council confirmation. Zimbabwe currently serves as the Chief Project Delivery Officer for Washington, D.C.'s District Department of Transportation (DDOT), a role that unites planning, traffic engineering, transit, and capital projects.

“Sam is the right person to help build a transportation system of the future, keep people and goods moving in Seattle, and deliver on essential projects for taxpayers. For decades, our region has been playing catch-up on its transportation needs. As more public and private mega projects lead to serious traffic disruptions downtown, the next few years will be critical for creating more safe, efficient, and well-connected transportation choices that make it easier and safer for residents to get around on foot, by bike, and via mass transit for decades to come. With a number of significant projects in the pipeline, I am confident Sam is ready to deliver on investments that will help us create a city of the future,” said Mayor Durkan.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to help keep Seattle moving, build a transit and transportation system for the next generation, and deliver on projects for the people of Seattle,” said Sam Zimbabwe. “Seattle is entering a new era of transit and transportation that will require effective delivery of capital projects along with a focus on giving more people access to safe options for walking, biking, and using transit.”

Zimbabwe's nomination comes after an [extensive public input and national search process](#) that included candidates from across the United States. Following the departure of the previous director, Mayor Durkan oversaw an extensive review and reshaping of SDOT so the department could better deliver on projects. In May, [Mayor Durkan announced a search committee](#) that included nearly a dozen business, transportation, labor, and community leaders. The search for a new director of SDOT also included an extensive community outreach process. After conducting interviews with applicants, the Search Committee submitted their recommendations for finalists to Mayor Durkan, who interviewed the finalists earlier this month.

“We are excited about the Mayor’s selection and confident that Sam is the right person to help deliver forward-thinking, accountable leadership for SDOT and to deliver on the crucial Move Seattle projects.

Seattle's transportation decisions have an impact throughout our region, and this is a critical role at a critical time. In less than one month, Seattle will enter years of transportation challenges as the Alaskan Way Viaduct closes and several other transportation and construction projects converge. At the same time, our region is in the midst of expanding light rail, increasing bus service, and building safer bike infrastructure," said Search Committee Co-Chairs Betty Spieth-Croll, Co-Chair of the Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee, and Marilyn Strickland, President and CEO of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. "Through all of this, we will need to provide residents, businesses, and visitors additional options for moving in and through Seattle. We look forward to working with Sam for years to come."

Before assuming the role of Chief Project Delivery Officer, Zimbabwe served as the Associate Director of DDOT's Planning and Sustainability Division. Prior to joining DDOT, Zimbabwe was the Director of the Center for Transit-Oriented Development at Reconnecting America. In that role, he led planning and technical assistance projects focused on transit and transit-oriented development with local and national philanthropic foundations and public agencies around the country. He also has experience as an urban designer. He holds a master's degree in city planning and urban design from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in urban and regional studies from Cornell University.

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SECTION

B



City of Seattle

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Susan McNab, Acting Director

December 17, 2018

TO: Adam Schaefer, City Budget Office

FROM: Sue McNab, Acting Director

SUBJECT: Background check for Samuel Zimbabwe

The Seattle Department of Human Resources has received a copy of Mr. Zimbabwe's background check run by A-Check Global. There were no finds that would impact his employment eligibility.

Cc: Personnel File

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue Suite 5500, PO Box 34028, Seattle, WA 98124-4028
(206) 684-7999 • TTY:7-1-1 Fax: (206) 684-4157 • Employment Website: www.seattle.gov/jobs

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