

WILLIAM W. BOYER LECTURE SERIES

Shifting Gears: Toward a more equitable and sustainable transportation system

Susan Handy, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of
Environmental Science and Policy at
the University of California at Davis



The transportation system in the U.S. has been shaped by a core set of ideas that are embedded in professional practice. These ideas – freedom, speed, mobility, vehicles, capacity, hierarchy, separation, control, and technology – have produced a system in which most people are dependent on driving, with all the negative consequences that entails. Shifting to a system that is both equitable and sustainable requires a shift in thinking on the part of the transportation profession. In this talk, I take a critical look at the way of thinking that, for the last century, has shaped our transportation system and consider the ways in which that thinking is – and is not – shifting.

Thursday April 2, 2026 • 4:00pm

Amherst Room, Campus Center
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Reception to immediately follow



UMassAmherst

Daniel J. Riccio Jr.
College of Engineering
Civil & Environmental Engineering

*Professor William W. Boyer was instrumental in the development of the
UMass Transportation Program in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.*

