

## Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type "None" or "Not Applicable" if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

### A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): **Polly Ellen Trottenberg**
2. Position to which nominated: **Deputy Secretary of Transportation**
3. Date of Nomination: **February 13, 2021**
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

**Home:** 

5. Date and Place of Birth: **March 16, 1964; Boston, MA**
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

**Spouse:** **Mark Zuckerman**  
**President**  
**The Century Foundation**  
**1 Whitehall St.**  
**New York, NY 10004**

**Children:** **Naomi Zuckerman, age 30**  
**Noah Zuckerman, age 26**

7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.
  - **B.A. in History, Barnard College, Columbia University, May 1986**
  - **Master in Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, June 1992**

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

*Related Managerial Experiences:*

- **New York City Department of Transportation, Commissioner, New York, NY, January 2014-December 2020**
- **U.S. Department of Transportation, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, Washington, DC, January 2013-January 2014**
- **U.S. Department of Transportation, Assistant Secretary of Transportation Policy, Washington, DC, July 2009-January 2013**
- **Building America's Future, Executive Director, Washington, DC, Aug. 2008-July 2009**
- **Senator Barbara Boxer, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, Washington, DC, Jan. 2006-July 2008**
- **Senator Charles E. Schumer, Legislative Director, Washington, DC, Jan. 1999-Dec. 2005**

*Related Non-Managerial Experiences:*

- **Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Legislative Assistant for Transportation, Public Works, and Environment, Washington, DC, Oct. 1996-Dec. 1998**
- **Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, New York, NY, Senior Executive Assistant to the Director of Aviation and Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, Oct. 1994-Sept. 1996**
- **Massachusetts State Senate, Boston, MA, Policy Analyst, Joint Committee on Commerce and Labor, State Senator Lois Pines, Chair, June 1992-Sept. 1994**
- **Massachusetts Port Authority, Boston, MA, Research Associate, Department of Administration and Finance, Summer 1991**
- **Perry Davis Associates, New York, NY, Research Director, March 1988-April 1990**
- **Freelance Writer and Editor, New York, NY and Chicago, IL, September 1986 –February 1988**

9. Attach a copy of your resume. See Attachment A.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last ten years.

- **New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), ex officio Board Member 2014-2020, Chair 2019-2020**
- **Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Board Member, 2014-2019**
- **GrowNYC, ex officio Board Member, 2014-2020**
- **U.S. Access Board, ex officio Member 2009-2013, Chair 2010-2011**
- **Northeast Corridor Commission, Vice Chair 2012-2014**

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last ten years.

**None.**

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

- **Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), 2008-present**
- **TRANSCOM, ex officio Member, 2014-2020, Chair 2016-2019**
- **National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), 2014-2020**
- **Columbia University Center for Buildings, Infrastructure and Public Space (CBIPS), Industry Advisory Board, Member 2018-2020**
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems of America (ITSA), 2020**
- **Transportation Research Board Executive Committee, ex officio Member, 2009-2014**

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

No.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

- **Biden-Harris Transportation Transition Agency Review Team, Senior Advisor, 2020-2021 (advisory, uncompensated)**
- **Biden-Harris Campaign, GOTV volunteer, 2020**
- **Clinton-Kaine Campaign, GOTV volunteer, 2016**
- **Obama-Biden Campaign, GOTV volunteer, 2012**

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years.

**See Attachment B for a listing of contributions responsive to this request. All entries in the attachment are the result of electronic searches (e.g., FEC.gov) and reflect the best of my recollection. Should any additional contributions be identified, I will promptly let the Committee know.**

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

- **Regional Plan Association “Making It Happen” Award, 2021**
- **Transportation Alternative’s “Street Fighter” Award, 2020**
- **Honoree on City and State’s 2017-2020 New York “Power 100” and 2017-2020 Women “Power 100” list**
- **One of Governing Magazine’s 10 “Public Officials of the Year,” 2018**
- **Municipal Engineers of the City of New York Special Honoree, 2017**
- **Council of Minority Transportation Officials, “Women Who Move the Nation,” 2015**
- **Women’s Transportation Seminar Greater NY Chapter, Woman of the Year, 2015**
- **Phi Beta Kappa, 1986**
- **Ellen Davis Goldwater History Prize, 1986**

17. Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

***Publications***

**Please see Attachment C for the most up-to-date list of publications – to the best of my ability. If additional publications are identified following the submission of this questionnaire, I will promptly let the Committee know.**

***Speeches***

**Please see Attachment D for the most up-to-date list of speeches and non-congressional hearings I have been able to compile – to the best of my ability. If additional speeches or remarks are identified following the submission of this questionnaire, I will promptly let the Committee know.**

18. List digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the name of an “alias” or “handle” you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/pollytrott>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/polly.trottenberg>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/polly-trottenberg>

19. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

**Please see Attachment E for the most up-to-date list of congressional hearings in which I have testified.**

20. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

**Transportation has been a lifelong passion and career path for me, and I am deeply committed to helping lead a department that prioritizes safety for the traveling public and workforce, job creation, economic growth and competitiveness, environmental sustainability, equity, accessibility and**

**improving the quality of life for all Americans. I have over 25 years of public sector experience at the Federal, State and local levels and have served in a number of relevant high-level transportation operational, managerial, and policymaking roles that qualify me to serve as USDOT's Deputy Secretary.**

**For the past seven years, I have served as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT), one of the nation's largest and most complex municipal transportation agencies. At NYCDOT, I managed an annual operating budget of over \$1 billion and a \$17.3 billion 10-year capital plan. During my tenure, I focused on building a high-performing team that prioritized safety, environmental sustainability, accessibility and equity and a diverse, inclusive workplace and agency culture. Over the last year, I led NYCDOT through the COVID-19 response and recovery, with a focus on the safety of our 5,800-person workforce and the traveling public.**

**Prior to my role as the Commissioner of NYCDOT, I served for five years at USDOT in the Obama Administration, as the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, the third ranking official at the Department, and as Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy. I also have over 20 years of policy and managerial experience in the U.S. Senate working for three U.S. Senators as well as the Aviation Department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Department of Administration and Finance at the Massachusetts Port Authority, and in running an infrastructure non-profit focused on transportation.**

**I am honored to be nominated by President Biden to be part of Secretary Pete Buttigieg's leadership team at USDOT. I believe that my high-level operational experience running a major municipal transportation agency, my previous service at USDOT, and my other professional experience at all levels of government have prepared me, if confirmed, to serve as Deputy Secretary.**

21. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

**The Deputy Secretary has a primary responsibility for the management and accounting controls of the agency, as well as other major operational oversight duties. As noted above, I have extensive experience managing a large, municipal transportation agency with a world-class leadership team and a large and very diverse workforce, in a very complex political, fiscal and legal environment, especially during the COVID pandemic. I also have extensive experience as a senior appointed official at USDOT itself and am highly familiar with many of the agency's functions, procedures and challenges.**

22. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

**The top challenge USDOT faces will always be safety. This challenge is particularly urgent in the face of COVID-19 and its devastating toll on the operations and financial condition of our nation's transportation system and its direct impacts on the transportation workforce as well as the traveling public. USDOT has a central role in creating a safe and healthy transportation system, particularly through its operational role in the nation's air traffic control system and its safety regulatory role for aviation, rail, transit, roadways, motor vehicles, trucks and buses, and pipelines.**

**USDOT also has a crucial role to play in the challenge of economic recovery from COVID and in the nation's overall job creation, economic growth and manufacturing competitiveness. And we have the potential to deliver an environmentally sustainable transportation system, which will address climate change and create jobs, foster innovation and new technologies, and provide equity and opportunity for all Americans.**

**Finally, USDOT faces the managerial challenges of a complex operating environment and in administering a growing number of resource-intensive grant and credit programs. USDOT also faces challenges in managing a broad array of regulatory processes in a period of rapid technological change in the transportation sector.**

## **B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

**My arrangements are fully described in Part 3 of my Public Financial Disclosure report.**

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

**No.**

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

**In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Transportation's Designated Agency**

**Ethics Official to identify any potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will continue to be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any potential conflicts of interest.**

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

**In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Transportation's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify any potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will continue to be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any potential conflicts of interest.**

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

**In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Transportation's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify any potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will continue to be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any potential conflicts of interest.**

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

**In the last seven years as New York City Transportation Commissioner, I have been involved in a large volume of legislative and public policy issues at the local and State level on behalf of my agency and mayoral administration. As part of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), I have been involved in advocating at the Federal level on transportation policies of concern to urban areas.**

**As Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy and Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, I helped oversee U.S. DOT's legislative and policy work with Congress, as well as regulatory matters.**



### C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:
  - a. Provide the name of agency, association, committee, or group;
  - b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
  - c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
  - d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

**No. Please see, however, response to question 3 on lawsuits in which I have been named solely in my official capacity.**

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

**No.**

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

**As New York City Transportation Commissioner, I have been named in a number of lawsuits solely in my official capacity. Please see Attachment F for the most up-to-date list as compiled by the NYC Law Department, which handles these cases on behalf of NYC officials. If additional lawsuits are identified following the submission of this questionnaire, I will promptly let the Committee know.**

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

**No.**

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

**No.**

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

**None.**

#### **D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE**

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

**Yes.**

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

**Yes.**

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

**Yes.**

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

**Yes.**

(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

**F. AFFIDAVIT**

Polly Trottenberg being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

Polly Trottenberg  
Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 18 day of Feb, 2021.

Ajay Patel  
Notary Public

SAJID PATEL  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
No. 01928310067  
Qualified in Kings County  
My Commission Expires  
February 03, 2023