



Founders

Ira Dorfman

Ira Dorfman, prior to IRT, served as Executive Director of the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition between January 2017 and 2021. He also served on the MWCOG's Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee and was Past Chairman of the Society of Automotive Engineers' Washington, DC Section.

Mr. Dorfman has extensive public policy and private sector experience at the Congressional, federal, state and local levels in cutting-edge technology, clean transportation, energy, conservation, environment and safety. He has lived in the DMV for most of his professional career, first serving as a Professional Staff Member of the United States Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee; and later as a national trade association executive and as a Washington representative for numerous companies including Simula, a company offering solutions for passenger safety and vehicle crashworthiness. On behalf of Simula, Mr. Dorfman persuaded Congressional leaders to study the crashworthiness of passenger trains – resulting in a government-funded series of trainset crash tests at the Federal Railroad Administration's Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, Colo. In addition, Ira has worked on numerous alternative fuel transportation projects, most notably the vehicular use of battery-electric, hydrogen-fuel-cell, and natural gas technologies.

Mr. Dorfman is a graduate of Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio and attended graduate school in public administration at Rutgers University.

Mike Nicoletti

Mike Nicoletti began his professional career at the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad (IHB), the largest switching railroad in North America with annual revenue of \$150 M. He has held various positions within the railroad industry from accounting and finance to department-head positions in purchasing and mechanical. As IHB's Director of Mechanical Operations, Mr. Nicoletti oversaw the strategic and tactical operations of a fleet of more than 50 locomotives and 1,100 railcars valued greater than \$50 M. He also managed a staff of 150 employees comprising of eight unions and management.

Mr. Nicoletti has more than 20 years of railroad experience and has been instrumental in introducing and deploying alternative fuels in the rail industry. He authored and directed a \$60 M locomotive project to begin converting IHB's fleet to CNG. This ambitious, environmentally friendly, and profitable project was the first fleet conversion to CNG in North America, assisted by \$34.25 M of air quality funding and the support of the US Department of Transportation. For this work, Mike was recognized as the 2014 recipient of the "Rising Star" award from *Progressive Railroading Magazine*. Mr. Nicoletti earned an MBA from Indiana University.

Rick Herndon

Prior to IRT, Rick Herndon was most recently CEO of Voltabox of Texas. Rick founded Voltabox in March 2014 at the request of the Group CEO of Paragon AG. Voltabox was, at that time, a wholly owned subsidiary of the paragon organization. Mr. Herndon built the organization from its inception to become a world leader in Li-ion battery system design and manufacturing. Mr. Herndon led Voltabox through its IPO with an initial offered market cap of \$545 M in October 2016.

Prior to Voltabox, Rick was COO of Firstronic Manufacturing, an electronic service provider located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Despite the economic downturn of 2008-2009, Rick was able to expand Firstronic's business by diversifying its customer base from just an automotive supplier to one that included medical and industrial customers. Previously, Rick held senior leadership positions with Reptron Electronics, LaGrange Products Inc., and Woodard Manufacturing.

Mr. Herndon has an Executive MBA from Loyola University - Chicago, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from Northern Arizona University, and advanced coursework in engineering physics. He holds numerous professional certificates and accreditations in both engineering and quality.

