

## **BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT**

### **Dan Dirks**

**Dan Dirks** is a United We Ride Ambassador for FTA Region VI, serving the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. He formerly served as the president of the Board of Directors of the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). In 2007, Dan retired as general manager of SMART, the regional transportation system in Detroit. During his nine years as general manager, SMART consistently achieved record ridership without increases in service, eliminated a \$20 million deficit, and developed a nationally recognized community-based paratransit system operating in over 60 communities in southeastern Michigan. Also during Dan's tenure, voters in three counties on three separate occasions approved a local property tax to support transit operations. His leadership left an indelible mark on SMART, guiding the way toward innovation, attention to customer service, and effective communication, both internal and with the community SMART served.