

John S. Niles

Independent Consultant, dba Grush Niles Strategic
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Summary

Over three decades of independent consulting experience in policy research, technology assessment, program design, and quantitative analysis for businesses, universities, government agencies, associations, and civic consortia. Always focused on creative, sustainable, technology-based solutions for personal travel and freight movement. Delivery of ideas via writing, small group meetings, public speaking, social media, and mainstream media relations. Co-founder and start-up participant in several think tanks.

Examples of Diverse Project Experience

- Production of thought-leading concepts supporting the development and deployment of automated vehicles as part of two new consulting think tanks, Grush Niles Strategic and Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions (CATES). Track record of invited reports and publications posted at <http://endofdriving.org>. Presentations at MIT Disrupting Mobility Conference in December 2015 ([poster](#) in pdf), at MIT Enterprise Forum in October 2014 ([video excerpt](#)), and as lunch speaker at the ITS Canada Annual Meeting, June 2014 ([text](#) in pdf).
- Co-Producer with Steve Marshall of the King County Transportation Boards' Advanced Transportation Technologies Conference held October 9, 2015 at Mercer Island Community Center, co-sponsored by INRIX. Designed the program and recruited speakers. 200 local government elected officials and staff attended, creating demand for a follow-on event, autumn 2016, with development underway as of June 2016. Recordings at <http://PlanForNewTech.org>.
- Development and execution of an integrated assessment of the likely contribution to transportation sustainability from electric, connected, automated vehicles having advanced telematics features, for the Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute, University of Michigan on behalf of CATES, in which Niles is a founding officer. Presentation of results in a [chapter](#) of the book *Road Vehicle Automation*, Springer, 2014.
- Designed and described "incremental BRT" as a strategy for public transit agencies to improve public transit cost effectively and quickly in a published, peer-reviewed report for Mineta Transportation Institute. Follow-on quantification of best levers for performance improvement conducted with FTA funding in association with Breakthrough Technologies Institute, Washington, DC. Results posted at <http://globaltelematics.com/brt>.
- Organized and directed policy research and advocacy on cost-effective transportation alternatives – for example, advanced ride sharing, bus rapid transit, traffic operations management, congestion-sensitive road use fees, and telecommuting – on behalf of Kemper Development Corporation (Bellevue, WA), Cascadia Center for Regional Development (Seattle), Center for the New West (Denver), and several metropolitan planning organizations. Reports include *Travel Value Pricing: Better Traffic Operations Management and New Revenue for the Puget Sound Region*; *Technology & Transportation: The Dynamic Relationship*; and *Southern California Telecommunications Deployment Strategy* [for Transportation Improvement].
- Conducted pioneering research into how retail market trends and resulting consumer behavior influence non-work trips and transit-oriented development. This work resulted in

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papers for TRB, the American Planning Association, and Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI). The last published was the co-authored, peer-reviewed MTI report, *A New Planning Template for Transit-Oriented Development*.

- Consultation to the Washington State Secretary of Transportation to have the Washington State Department of Transportation programs of ramp metering and incident response become more accurately measured in the nationwide congestion measurement system from Texas Transportation Institute.
- Teamed with Washington State University and the Comcare Alliance to design, plan, and execute a three-state exercise demonstration of interoperable data communications in support of transportation systems response to disruptions ranging from terror attacks to traffic accidents.

Employment

- Independent analyst, writer, researcher, evaluator, management adviser, and change agent based in Seattle, Washington focused on state and local government policy. Nationwide clients. Intermittent research and consulting assignments as Research Associate at Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State University, and Senior Fellow for Transportation and Technology at Cascadia Center for Regional Development (Seattle, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation).
- Consulting work has encompassed research, analysis, design, planning, and implementation of improvement strategies for public and private interests in transportation, telecommunications, and economic development – particularly where these topics intersect. Active in these fields since 1978, beginning in Washington DC and continuing in Seattle since 1982. In the 1980s, served as a contract consultant to Control Data Corporation, inventing, designing, implementing, and marketing a pre-Internet professional electronic data-sharing and communication network for local government agencies. In 1986 founded Global Telematics.
- Earlier, served as a productivity improvement specialist and project manager in the Mayor's Office, District of Columbia, and before that, a U.S. Naval Officer responsible for the quality of maintenance in a squadron of anti-submarine patrol aircraft. Achieved rank of lieutenant; honorably discharged.

Writing Samples

- [“Connected, Automated, Zero-Emission Cars Are Essential for Improving Livable, Sustainable Communities,”](#) for the 2014 ITS World Congress
- Curated content on vehicle automation: <http://www.scoop.it/t/driverless-cars-by-john-niles>
- Historic: [“T-Ops: Use Technology to Combat Congestion,”](#) Seattle Times Op-ed, 2001

Education

- M.Sc. in Industrial Administration, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. Specialties included quantitative analysis and public policy.
- Sc.B. in Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge. Specialties included electrical engineering and systems analysis.
- Overseas travel as member of [Servas](#) and [Friendship Force International](#).