

# Sahar Shirazi



Sahar is passionate about enhancing equity, sustainability, and access in communities through local, regional, and national mobility and land use solutions. Sahar is an experienced problem solver and has spent most of her career tackling complex issues that span multiple stakeholders. From coordinating across 14 federal agencies at the Office of Management and Budget to engaging with California's diverse communities and international partners for the Governor's Office to her daily activities in mobility and land use planning, she works to frame the goals and outcomes, then dig into the nuance to make solutions actionable.

Sahar's varied background spans across policy and planning arenas — including transportation, land use, climate, housing, economic development, public health, and equity—and focuses on the intersections and connections between goals. She sees technology and emerging mobility as an opportunity to rethink the way our cities and towns are formed and address past mistakes that caused direct and indirect harm to communities.

Prior to joining Cityfi, Sahar served as a Principal, practice lead, and research lab director at Nelson\Nygaard, planning and policy lead for emerging mobility at WSP, senior planning advisor in the office of California Governor Jerry Brown, policy analyst for the Office of the Secretary at USDOT, policy lead at the Office of Management and Budget at the White House during the Obama Administration, and as a preschool teacher for 10 years.

Her early childhood in Iran during a war, her family's prolonged escape to the United States, and the challenges faced through her adolescence helped shape her passion for public service. Sahar received her undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley and her Master's in Public Policy at Mills College. She currently lives in Oakland, where she is the appointed Vice Chair of the Planning Commission, Chair of the Zoning Update Committee, adjunct professor at Mills College, serves on several advisory boards, and spends her free time scheming local politics and policy, planning neighborhood benefits and events, cooking feasts for friends and strangers, and taking lazy bike rides.

## EDUCATION

- UC Berkeley, BA English Literature, 2001
- Mills College, Masters in Public Policy, 2011

## AFFILIATIONS

- Vice Chair, City of Oakland Planning Commission
- Chair, City of Oakland Zoning Update Committee
- Adjunct Professor, Northeastern University at Mills College, Public Policy
- Mentor, NACTO Justice Fellow Program
- Policy Advisory Board, Seamless Bay Area
- Advisory Board, Automotus
- Scholarship Committee, Events Committee, COMTO Northern California
- Member, APA Northern California

## Select Experience

**NELSON\NYGAARD CONSULTING ASSOCIATES, INC.  
PRINCIPAL, CITIES AND SREETS SECTOR CO-LEAD,  
MOBILITY INNOVATION RESEARCH LAB CO-DIRECTOR**

**WSP, SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
POLICY AND PLANNING LEAD, AV'S AND EMERGING  
MOBILITY**

**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR EDMUND G BROWN, OFFICE OF  
PLANNING AND RESEARCH, SACRAMENTO, CA  
SENIOR PLANNING ADVISOR**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
(USDOT), OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, WASHINGTON, DC  
POLICY ANALYST/PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT FELLOW**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF  
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC  
POLICY LEAD, PRESIDENTIAL PERMITTING INITIATIVE**