

Joseph William Kane

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Summary

- Expert in economic development, infrastructure policy, and urban planning.
 - Experienced researcher well-versed in quantitative and qualitative methods, with extensive knowledge and interest in regional built environment issues.
 - Leader in producing new metrics and other interactive content to inform plans, coordinate action, and drive impact at a local, state, and national level.
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Professional Experience

The Brookings Institution

June 2012 to Present

Fellow

- Lead and collaborate on research in the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program. Cover local, state, and national issues related to economic development and the built environment, including investment, governance, and workforce concerns.
- Manage quantitative and qualitative analysis across several policy areas, including transportation policy and planning, water funding and financing, digital technologies and automation, and career pathways and skills. Produce new metrics and write frequent blog posts, policy briefs, and related publications. Have authored more than 150 pieces of content, including dozens of reports, cited and used by academics, journalists, and practitioners.
- Work with public, private, and civic leaders to launch regional engagements and policy innovations. Create customized reports and data products to broaden economic opportunity across a variety of geographic and market contexts nationally.
- Engage regularly in workshops and conferences to present research to policymakers and practitioners. Have provided keynotes in sessions with 500+ attendees. Organize public and private events to inform research and foster collaboration among project stakeholders, including the development of new regional plans and sector partnerships.
- Draft grant proposals, formulate project plans, and manage relationships with current and prospective funders.
- Conduct interviews and outreach with various national and regional media outlets. Research featured in: The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Economist, Politico, Vox, Houston Chronicle, Denver Post, Baltimore Sun, CityLab, Bloomberg, CNBC, CSPAN, NPR's Marketplace, and PBS NewsHour, among numerous other outlets.
- *Previous Brookings Positions:* Senior Research Associate & Associate Fellow (2017-2021), Senior Research Analyst (2016-2017), Senior Policy/Research Assistant (2014-2016), Policy/Research Assistant (2012-2014)

Institute for Environmental Negotiation

January 2011 to May 2012

Associate

- Coordinated research and organized community dialogues for an environmental non-profit focused on consensus building, dispute resolution, and mediation.
- Worked on statewide and local projects in Virginia to promote community revitalization, environmental justice, and public health.

U.S. Department of Labor

September 2009 to August 2010

Economist

- Conducted research on employment, wages, and economic trends at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) national office.
- Created articles and other content for the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program, covering a variety of workforce development issues. Collaborated with labor economists and statisticians on methodological approaches and release strategies.
- Reviewed and prepared statistical data in reports at the local, state, and national level. Processed annual survey materials and fielded information requests from internal and external colleagues.

Education

University of Virginia · Master's in Urban and Environmental Planning (M.U.E.P.) May 2012

College of William and Mary · B.A. in Economics and History, *summa cum laude* May 2009

London School of Economics · Certificate in Economics August 2008

Publications

Chapters in Books

- "Short- and Long- Term Strategies to Renew American Infrastructure," with Adie Tomer, in *Brookings Big Ideas for America*, Michael E. O'Hanlon (ed). (Washington: Brookings Press, 2017).

Journal Articles

- Joseph W. Kane and Adie Tomer. "Valuing Human Infrastructure: Protecting and Investing in Essential Workers during the COVID-19 Era." *Public Works Management & Policy*, Volume 26, Issue 1, January 2021, 34-36.

Reports and Policy Briefs

- "What regional leaders want from Biden's infrastructure bill," with Adie Tomer and Caroline George, Brookings, 2021.
- "Rethinking climate finance to improve infrastructure resilience," with Adie Tomer and Caroline George, Brookings, 2021.
- "Short-term federal funding from ARP can jumpstart long-term water infrastructure improvements," Brookings, 2021.
- "Reversing America's poor track record on inclusivity in infrastructure jobs," with Caroline George, Brookings, 2021.

- “We can’t beat the climate crisis without rethinking land use,” with Adie Tomer, Jenny Schuetz, and Caroline George, Brookings, 2021.
- “Rebuild with purpose: An affirmative vision for 21st century American infrastructure,” with Adie Tomer and Caroline George, Brookings, 2021.
- “How a federal Climate Planning Unit can manage built environment risks and costs,” with Jenny Schuetz, Shalini Vajjhala, and Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2021.
- “Empowering the US Global Change Research Program to further climate education and training,” with Christina Kwauk, Brookings, 2021.
- “How renewable energy jobs can uplift fossil fuel communities and remake climate politics,” with Adie Tomer and Caroline George, Brookings, 2021.
- “Four steps to undo the harms of legacy infrastructure in the COVID-19 recovery,” with Shalini Vajjhala, Brookings, 2020.
- “Prioritize people, not projects: Addressing the harms of legacy infrastructure in the COVID-19 recovery,” with Shalini Vajjhala, Brookings, 2020.
- “Designing an Infrastructure Stimulus for the Coronavirus Recession,” with Adie Tomer and Lara Fishbane, Brookings, 2020.
- “Boosting local climate resilience and economic opportunity in the COVID-19 era,” Brookings, 2020.
- “To protect frontline workers during and after COVID-19, we must define who they are,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2020.
- “How to protect essential workers during COVID-19,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2020.
- “COVID-19 is hurting many industries and workers, but could it help trade and logistics?” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2020.
- “We should bail out airlines during the coronavirus pandemic—but on taxpayers’ terms,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2020.
- “To fix our infrastructure, Washington needs to start from scratch,” with Adie Tomer and Lara Fishbane, Brookings, 2019.
- “Shifting into an era of repair: US infrastructure spending trends,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2019
- “Advancing inclusion through clean-energy jobs,” with Mark Muro, Adie Tomer, and Ranjitha Shivaram, Brookings, 2019.
- “Creating a new marketplace for resilient infrastructure investment,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2019.
- “Where states and prospective governors stand on infrastructure in the 2018 election,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2018.
- “Can ‘infrastructure academies’ solve our most pressing workforce challenges?” with Lara Fishbane, Brookings, 2018.
- “Where will online orders get fulfilled? The changing local geography of e-commerce,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings 2018.
- “Renewing the water workforce: Improving water infrastructure and creating a pipeline to opportunity,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2018.
- “Localities will deliver the next wave of transportation investment,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings 2018.
- “Less water, more risk: Exploring national and local water use patterns in the U.S.,” Brookings, 2017.
- “Delivering inclusive access,” with Jeffrey Gutman, Adie Tomer, Nirav Patel, and Ranjitha Shivaram, Brookings 2017.

- “The Digital Road to Safety,” with Ranjitha Shivaram, Adie Tomer, and Annie Rice, Brookings, 2017.
- “Investing in Water: Comparing Utility Finances and Economic Concerns Across U.S. Cities,” Brookings, 2016.
- “How Lyft and Uber can improve transit agency budgets,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2016.
- “Infrastructure Skills: Knowledge, Tools, and Training to Increase Opportunity,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2016.
- “Broadband Rates and Gaps in U.S. Metropolitan Areas,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2015.
- “Expanding Opportunity through Infrastructure Jobs,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 2015.
- “Establish a national freight investment program to improve trade and economic performance,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2015.
- “Mapping Freight: The Highly Concentrated Nature of Goods Trade in the United States,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2014.
- “Beyond Shovel-Ready: The Extent and Impact of U.S. Infrastructure Jobs,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 2014.
- “Invest But Reform: Establish a National Infrastructure Bank Capitalized by a Repatriation Tax Holiday,” with Robert Puentes and Patrick Sabol, Brookings, 2013.
- “A New Alignment: Strengthening America’s Commitment to Passenger Rail,” with Robert Puentes and Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2013.
- “A New Alignment: Strengthening America’s Commitment to Passenger Rail,” with Robert Puentes and Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2013.
- “Cut to Invest: Exempt Private Activity Bonds (PABs) from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT),” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 2012.

Blogs, Op-Eds, and Commentary

- “Weatherizing homes could be one of the most vital legacies of Biden’s infrastructure plan,” with Tara Pelton, Brookings, 4/2021.
- “In Jackson, Miss., a water crisis has revealed the racial costs of legacy infrastructure” with Andre Perry and Carl Romer, Brookings, 3/2021.
- “Inclusion must be front and center in President Biden’s focus on clean energy jobs,” with Mark Muro and Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2/2021.
- “Biden needs to create an infrastructure talent pipeline, not just more jobs,” Brookings, 1/2021.
- “We should design cities for shorter distances, not faster speeds” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 12/2020.
- “The hidden role of water infrastructure in driving a COVID-19 recovery” with Newsha Ajami, Brookings, 10/2020.
- “How clean energy jobs can power an equitable COVID-19 recovery” with Ranjitha Shivaram, Brookings, 9/2020.
- “What’s in Biden’s \$2 trillion climate plan?” with Adrianna Pita, Brookings, 7/2020.
- “Local governments employ most essential workers — why isn’t Congress doing more?” with Adie Tomer, *The Hill*, 7/2020.
- “Costly car loans may stall the COVID-19 economic recovery,” Brookings, 5/2020.
- “COVID-19 is a chance to invest in our essential infrastructure workforce,” Brookings, 4/2020.

- “Banning cars won’t solve America’s bigger transportation problem: Long trips,” Brookings, 1/2020.
- “As fire ravages California, our infrastructure is still not equipped to handle climate change,” Brookings, 11/2019.
- “Recognizing labor’s local role amid national strikes: A metro-level look at union membership,” Brookings, 10/2019.
- “Another summer of flooding should be a wake-up call to redesign our communities,” Brookings, 9/2019.
- “Parks make great places, but not enough Americans can reach them,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 8/2019.
- “Connecting people by proximity: A better way to plan metro areas,” with Adie Tomer and Lara Fishbane, Brookings, 6/2019.
- “Removing a highway and reconnecting a community: I-81 and Syracuse, NY,” Brookings, 5/2019.
- “Aging and in need of attention: America’s infrastructure and its 17 million workers,” Brookings, 4/2019.
- “Stop trying to solve traffic and start building great places,” with Adie Tomer and Lara Fishbane, Brookings, 3/2019.
- “Equipping today’s AV workforce with skills to succeed tomorrow,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2/2019.
- “New year, same debate? Washington needs a fresh infrastructure approach,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2/2019.
- “The Green New Deal promises jobs, but workers need to be ready to fill them,” with Mark Muro and Adie Tomer, Brookings, 1/2019.
- “The US needs a new approach to invest in resilient infrastructure,” Brookings, 12/2018.
- “How big could the AV industry be? 9.5 million workers and counting,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 11/2018.
- “Water shutoffs in Detroit schools are symptoms of a bigger infrastructure challenge,” Brookings, 9/2018.
- “Recognizing infrastructure’s role as a local economic anchor,” Brookings, 8/2018.
- “Five steps to prepare the next generation of water workers,” Brookings, 6/2018.
- “The water workforce opportunity: How Camden is driving collaborative solutions around its infrastructure and economy,” Brookings, 5/2018.
- “Looking to hire: Louisville’s efforts to expand and diversify its water workforce,” Brookings, 4/2018.
- “Investing in water infrastructure and workers: Examining the Bay Area’s regional approach,” Brookings, 3/2018.
- “Trump’s infrastructure plan puts workers at the bottom. They should be at the top,” Brookings, 2/2018.
- “Water affordability is not just a local challenge, but a federal one too,” Brookings, 1/2018.
- “The future American workforce will have a lot of jobs to fill, particularly in infrastructure,” Brookings, 12/2017.
- “U.S. households are using less water, but what does that mean for metros and infrastructure?” Brookings, 12/2017.
- “As flood risks intensify, stormwater utilities offer a more resilient solution,” with Ranjitha Shivaram, Brookings, 9/2017.
- “Amazon’s Recent Hiring Spree Puts New Focus on Warehouse Jobs and Worker Needs,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 9/2017.

- “Despite federal infrastructure cuts, EPA’s WIFIA water loan program holds promise,” Brookings, 7/2017.
- “Can Trump’s “Apprentice” model fix infrastructure and create jobs?” Brookings, 6/2017.
- “How historic would a \$1 trillion infrastructure program be?” with Adie Tomer and Robert Puentes, Brookings, 5/2017.
- “At the moment, an ‘Infrastructure Bill’ is Washington fantasy,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 4/2017.
- “Automated trucking’s rapid rise overlooks the need for skilled labor,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 3/2017.
- “Oroville Dam, a reminder that infrastructure challenges go far beyond Washington,” Brookings, 2/2017.
- “Trump, infrastructure, and jobs: Is construction hiring ready to take off?” Brookings, 1/2017.
- “Infrastructure ballot measures win big in 2016 election, but significant gaps remain,” Brookings, 11/2016.
- “Striking a better balance between water investment and affordability,” with Lynn Broaddus, Brookings, 9/2016.
- “How to fill infrastructure’s looming jobs gap,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 5/2016.
- “A surefire strategy to improve water infrastructure in Flint and beyond,” with Lynn Broaddus, Brookings, 3/2016.
- “How Lyft and Uber can improve transit agency budgets,” with Adie Tomer and Robert Puentes, Brookings, 3/2016.
- “Pathways to opportunity: Linking up housing and transportation,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 3/2016.
- “Don’t dismiss Obama’s clean transportation plan,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 2/2016.
- “Flint’s Water Crisis Highlights Need for Infrastructure Investment and Innovation,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 1/2016.
- “FAST Act Ushers New Era for U.S. Freight Policy,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 12/2015.
- “Income Disparities Holding Back U.S. Internet Adoption,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 11/2015.
- “While Congress Trumpets New Transportation Bill, Real Leadership Lies Outside Washington,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 11/2015.
- “Shortage of Truck Drivers and Air Traffic Controllers a Challenge and Opportunity for Many Regions,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 10/2015.
- “Since 2000, American Commuters More Likely to Work from Home or Use Alternate Modes,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 9/2015.
- “Many Metro Areas Stuck in Neutral According to New Census Commute Data,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 9/2015.
- “As Summer Construction Winds Down, Transportation Jobs Challenge still Looms Large,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 9/2015.
- “Metro Energy Production a Big Part of the Clean Power Plan,” with Adie Tomer and Robert Puentes, Brookings, 9/2015.
- “Train Derailments on the Decline Despite Recent Spate of Accidents,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 8/2015.
- “Seattle Isn’t the Only Metro Bracing for Another Big Earthquake,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 7/2015.

- “In Flood-Prone Areas, a Rising Tide of Population,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 7/2015.
- “The Senate Builds a Freight Policy Foundation, but Construction Ongoing,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 7/2015.
- “Water Systems Everywhere, a lot of Pipes to Fix,” with Patrick Sabol and Robert Puentes, Brookings, 7/2015.
- “The Top 10 Metropolitan Port Complexes in the U.S.,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 7/2015.
- “What the New Clean Water Rule Means for Metro Areas,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 6/2015.
- “Population Surging in Drought-Stricken Areas,” with Robert Puentes and Adie Tomer, Brookings, 6/2015.
- “Memphis as a Center for Infrastructure and Jobs,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 5/2015.
- “Tolls on the Rise as Highway Funding Dries Up,” with Patrick Sabol and Robert Puentes, Brookings, 4/2015.
- “As Hiring Picks Up, Infrastructure Plays a Lead Role,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 3/2015.
- “Latest Deal on Detroit-Canada Bridge a Huge Boost for Metro Trade,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 3/2015.
- “It’s Time for a National Freight Investment Program,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 2/2015.
- “How the West Coast Port Strike is Hurting Metro Trade,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 1/2015.
- “Keystone XL or Not: How Does America Move Oil Now?” with Robert Puentes and Adie Tomer, Brookings, 12/2014.
- “Relieving Congestion to Boost Metro Trade,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 11/2014.
- “What the Top Eight Freight Corridors Tell Us About Trade,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 11/2014.
- “Place Central to Metropolitan Trade and Freight Investment,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 11/2014.
- “Infrastructure a Key Ballot Issue in Many States and Metros,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 10/2014.
- “Cars Remain King and Barrier to Economic Opportunity,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 10/2014.
- “Millennials and Generation X Commuting Less by Car, But Will the Trends Hold?” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 10/2014.
- “Car Commuting Still Rules, But New Census Data Reveals Important Shifts,” with Adie Tomer, Streetsblog USA, 9/2014.
- “New Amtrak Bill Still Means the Same Old Funding Debate,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 9/2014.
- “Measuring Water’s Sizable Impact on the Economy and Job Market,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 9/2014.
- “Ranking the Top States for Infrastructure Jobs,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 8/2014.
- “Developing Infrastructure Job Skills at the Metro Level,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 7/2014.
- “America’s Infrastructure Needs the Next Generation of Workers,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 7/2014.
- “The Enormous Wage Potential of Infrastructure Jobs,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 6/2014.
- “Water Resources Bill: What It Means for Ports and Place in American Freight Policy,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 6/2014.
- “Infrastructure’s Long-Term Role in the Jobs Recovery,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 6/2014.
- “Expanding the Infrastructure Jobs Tour,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 5/2014.

- “Infrastructure Jobs, They’re More than You Think,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 5/2014.
- “Beyond ‘Shovel-Ready’: Defining a New Range of Infrastructure Jobs after the State of the Union,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 1/2014.
- “Does the Global T-shirt Mark the End of American Textiles?” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 12/2013.
- “Why Isn’t There a More Robust ‘Local Energy’ Movement?” with Adie Tomer, Atlantic Cities, 10/2013.
- “The Lac-Mégantic Oil Spill and the Future of American Energy,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 7/2013.
- “Widening the Panama Canal and the Future of Global Trade Mapping,” with Adie Tomer, Brookings, 5/2013.
- “Expand State Partnerships for Passenger Rail,” with Robert Puentes, Brookings, 3/2013.
- “Promoting Infrastructure Investment through Private Activity Bonds,” with Robert Puentes, The New Republic, 10/2012.

Selected Presentations

- “Rebuilding American Infrastructure for the 21st Century,” Brookings, 4/2021.
- “A Conversation about Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation,” Brookings, 3/2021.
- “Understanding the Geoscience Behind Critical Infrastructure and Unlocking the Intrinsic Value of Its Diverse Communities,” American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, 12/2020.
- “Infrastructure in an Election Year,” American Society of Civil Engineers Annual Conference, 10/2020.
- “InfraCorps: Building the future infrastructure workforce,” Brookings, 10/2020.
- “It’s time for an infrastructure ‘boost’: Confronting utility bill affordability during the COVID-19 recession,” Brookings, 9/2020.
- “The Hidden Element: Water’s Vital Role in Economic Recovery,” Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, 9/2020.
- “Developing a Sustainable Workforce,” New York Water Environment Association Annual Conference, 2/2020.
- “Routes to Opportunity: Connecting Equity and Transportation Jobs,” UCLA Lake Arrowhead Symposium, 10/2019.
- “Revitalizing American Infrastructure: The Need for a New Vision,” National Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference, 5/2019.
- “Pushing the Boundaries of Regional Infrastructure: The Washington DC Region in Focus,” American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, 4/2019.
- “Federalism and Infrastructure: The Need for a New Vision,” National Federation of Municipal Analysts Annual Conference, 1/2019.
- “Research Perspectives on Transportation Jobs & Automation Impacts,” University of Delaware, 12/2018.
- “Hot Topics in the Future: A Moderated Discussion with Transportation Experts,” IBTTA Annual Meeting, 10/2018.
- “Renewing the Water Workforce,” Water Environment Federation’s Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference, 10/2018.
- “Water Industry Workforce Roundtable,” National Rural Water Association, 9/2018.

- “Fueling the Water Workforce Pipeline,” Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference, 9/2018.
- “The Infrastructure Jobs Opportunity,” Brookings, 6/2018.
- “Creating Middle Class Jobs by Upgrading NYC’s Aging Infrastructure,” Center for an Urban Future, 6/2018.
- “Future Infrastructures: The Over and Under of I-81,” Syracuse University, 3/2018.
- “Investing in Water: Comparing utility finances and economic concerns across U.S. cities,” NACWA National Utility Leadership Conference, 7/2017.
- “Financing Resiliency: The Federal Role,” Living Cities Infrastructure Finance Conference, 10/2016.
- “Mapping Freight in Michigan: A Metropolitan Focus on Goods Trade,” Michigan State University Bi-National Logistics Workshop, 12/2014.
- “Advancing the State of Freight Transportation and Measuring Freight Fluidity Performance at the Metropolitan Level,” Transportation Research Board Annual Conference, 1/2014.
- “A New Alignment: American Passenger Rail in an Era of Fiscal Constraint,” National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, 3/2013.