NASHVILLE YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

SPEAKER BIO: BUILDING A GREEN CITY: NASHVILLE'S SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

MARY BETH IKARD (SHE/HER) -
DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE FOR THE CITY OF NASHVILLE

Mary Beth Ikard has two decades of experience in communications and cause marketing on complex issues. She came to the Mayor's Office via the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – the lead policy, planning, and funding authority for surface transportation across Middle Tennessee – where she oversaw public involvement in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

She has had a leadership role in producing multiple-signature mayoral agendas for transportation and sustainability, including a 2018 voter referendum for $5.4 billion in transportation capital investments and dedicated funding for transit operations. She earned the Nashville Emerging Leader Award in her industry sector, and was honored by the Nashville Business Journal as a "Woman of Influence" and a "Top 40 Under 40". She was Walk/Bike Nashville's 2019 "Government Official of the Year."

She holds a BA in Journalism and English from Indiana University and an Accreditation in Public Relations. She is an MFA candidate in Creative Writing at the University of the South.