

Melissa Johnson, Vice President of The Port

Melissa Johnson is an economic development specialist with a 20-year track record of improving real estate, managing multimillion-dollar capital projects and attracting funds for land repositioning strategies that facilitate growth and improve productivity and quality of life within Greater Cincinnati communities. Her expertise in manufacturing site readiness and business attraction makes her a sought-after development partner.



As a Port Vice President and business line leader, Melissa leads the Industrial Redevelopment strategy for Hamilton County, for which she has created the investment profile and site ROI metrics based on The Port's goal of maximizing high-paying jobs and tax return to the municipality from sites it acquires and redevelops.

Melissa is the program manager for Foreign Trade Zones #46 and #47 on behalf of the federal grantee, Greater Cincinnati Foreign Trade Zone, Inc. She executes this work under a management contract the grantee has with The Port. Melissa manages all aspects of the agreement and program delivery for the regional FTZ program. She is the lead regional point of contact, and works to promote and expand the FTZ program, applying her expertise to maximize FTZ benefits to prospective and existing companies in the 8-county region. An important component of the success of the FTZ program is its integration into the regional economic landscape – Melissa has successfully promoted the program to economic development and policy organizations for the benefit of the regional economy. She actively cultivates and promotes relationships among existing regional FTZ operators and extends educational and industry networking opportunities to them to strengthen the program.

Melissa currently serves on the National Association of Foreign Trade Zones (NAFTZ) nominating committee. She is a member of the Urban Land Institute; Central Ohio River Business Association (CORBA); Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals; Council of Minority Transportation Officials; and the UC Real Estate Roundtable. She serves on the boards of NAIOP Cincinnati, the European American Chamber of Commerce, and Southwest Ohio Workforce Investment Board; and is a Hamilton County Environmental Action Commissioner as appointed by the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. She is a recipient of a "Forty Under 40" award and is a member of Leadership Cincinnati Class 42.

Melissa holds a BA in Urban and Regional Planning and a BA in Geography from Miami University,