Chad Shirley joined the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in 2010 as an analyst in the Microeconomic Studies Division, specializing in transportation and infrastructure policy issues, and has also served as Deputy Director of the division. He has written or co-authored several publications related to transportation policy, including work on the returns from highway infrastructure investment, spending and funding for highways, infrastructure finance, public-private partnerships for transportation infrastructure, emissions of carbon dioxide from transportation, fiscal substitution in highway spending, and economic influences on urban transportation systems.

Before coming to the agency, he worked in economic consulting examining questions related to intellectual property and industry structure and performance. Before that, as an economist at the RAND Corporation, he focused on issues in transportation policy and government acquisitions and contracting. He has presented his work at conferences sponsored by the Academy of Economics and Finance, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, National Association of Business Economics, Transportation Research Board, and Western Economics Association. Dr. Shirley received his doctorate in economics from the University of California, Berkeley, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University.