



## **Rita L. Robinson, General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation**

Rita L. Robinson was appointed General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation in September 2007. She brings over thirty years of government expertise to help find solutions to the traffic challenges that face the nation's second-largest city.



Ms. Robinson is responsible for the day-to-day operations of nearly 2000 employees whose mission is to provide for the safe and optimal mobility of people and goods throughout the City of Los Angeles to support economic activity and desirable quality of life. With the talented Department of Transportation team, other transportation agencies and civic/community/business partnerships, she is leading the Department's innovative vision forward.

While her main focus is to support initiatives that will result in congestion relief, short and long-range local/regional transportation planning and acquisition of funding to implement those projects, it is the positive working relationships she has forged with City partners such as the Planning and Public Works departments, LAPD and DWP that is enabling a smarter use of scarce revenues. The new City of Los Angeles Bicycle Plan, construction of Transit Oriented Developments (TODs) and Mobility Hubs are three good examples. Working with federal, CA State and county agencies, developers and businesses, the Department is providing alternative mitigation options and pilot programs such as 'Express Park' a high tech, congestion relief parking initiative slated for July 2011 funded by a \$15 million federal grant. Improvements accomplished under Ms. Robinson's leadership include a \$150 million expansion and upgrade of the Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control system (ATSAC) scheduled for December 2010 completion and a City-wide LED signal light installation program completion in June 2011.

As the largest municipality with four million citizens in a county of 20 million, Ms. Robinson's appointment to serve on Metro's Board of Directors provides linkage for future transportation challenges facing Los Angeles. Measure 'R' projects such as the Expo Line, Crenshaw Corridor, Regional Connector, East San Fernando Valley North/South Rapidway and a 'Subway to the Sea' are all potential 30/10 initiatives that will create jobs and require LADOT coordination and teamwork. Likewise, projects such as highway upgrades, bridge and tunnel projects with CALTRANS, have Ms. Robinson's staff working side by side with CA State engineers and planners.

Before her appointment to the Transportation Department, Ms. Robinson directed the Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation, which has 3,000 employees and the mission of protecting public health and the environment through legal, efficient and effective collection, treatment, reuse and disposal of liquid and solid wastes.

As Director of the Bureau of Sanitation, Ms. Robinson managed a budget of \$260 million dollars. The Bureau oversaw collection, recycling and disposal of approximately one million tons of refuse annually from about 750,000 residential customers. Additionally, the Bureau provided services to comply with regulatory mandates in the collection, conveyance and treatment of storm water. Lastly, they complied with regulatory mandates in the collection, transport, treatment, reuse and disposal of an estimated 450 million gallons per day of wastewater from four million Los Angeles residents and 30 contract agencies.

Prior to becoming the Bureau of Sanitation's Director in January 2004, Ms. Robinson served as interim General Manager of the Los Angeles Housing Department for one year and as interim General Manager of the Department of Transportation for six months.

As Interim General Manager of the Los Angeles Housing Department, Ms. Robinson directed a staff of approximately 500 employees responsible for housing production, rehabilitation, and preservation. Ms. Robinson's major accomplishments as Interim General Manager included the development of the implementation plan for the use of the \$100 million Affordable Housing Trust Fund approved by the Mayor and City Council for additional housing opportunities within the City.

While serving as Interim General Manager of the Department of Transportation, Ms. Robinson directed a staff of 1,500 full-time and 500 part-time professional, engineering, field and clerical employees responsible for the development of programs and implementation of solutions to meet the ground transportation needs of the traveling public, as well as everyday commerce.

Ms. Robinson, a longtime resident of Southern California and a 1975 graduate of Scripps College in Claremont, California, is a 30-year City employee and has served in a number of capacities in Los Angeles city government, including the Office of the City Administrative Officer, Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Community Development Department. She is also a UCLA School of Public Affairs Senior Fellow for the 2010-2011 academic year.