

WELCOME REMARKS



Phillip A. Washington

CEO, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Board Member, Mobility 21

Phillip A. Washington was unanimously selected CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) by the Metro Board of Directors on March 12, 2015.

As Metro CEO, Phil manages a total balanced budget of \$7.2 billion for FY20, is responsible for overseeing \$18+ billion in capital projects, and provides oversight of an agency with nearly 11,000 employees that transports 1.2 million boarding passengers daily riding on a fleet of 2,000 clean-air buses and six rail lines. LA Metro is the lead transportation planning, programming and financing agency for LA County. As such, it is a major construction agency that oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related infrastructure projects – together representing the largest modern public works program in North America.

Phil was a key leader in the 2016 successful effort to pass a new half-cent sales tax in Los Angeles County, which garnered 71.15 percent voter approval. Measure M will allow Metro to build 40 major highway and transit projects over the next 40 years, create 778,000 jobs and provide \$133.3 billion in economic impact for the region.

Phil came to Los Angeles from Denver where he served as the CEO of Denver Regional Transportation District since 2009, after serving as assistant general manager of RTD for nearly 10 years before being named CEO.

In Denver, Phil led and implemented the FasTracks program, one of the largest voter-approved transportation expansion programs in the country. Under his leadership, Denver's WestCorridor Rail Line project was completed under budget and eight months earlier than scheduled, and the award-winning Denver Union Station project was completed five months early and is realizing tremendous revenue/value capture from the surrounding development.

Also, in Denver, Phil implemented the first and only \$2.2 billion transit public-private partnership (P3), which is still in operation. His emphasis on measuring and managing agency performance led to a nearly 90 percent on-time bus and rail service, and 96 percent ADA on-time performance.

Phil has received numerous prestigious assignments and honors. In 2019, he testified before the U.S. Congressional Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In 2018, he was awarded the Honorable Ray LaHood Award (former U.S. Secretary of Transportation) by the Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) for his outstanding contribution in promoting opportunities to advance and advocate for women in the transportation industry. In 2017, he was awarded the Judge Harry Pregerson Public Service Award for his service to U.S. military veterans. In 2016, he was chosen by the National Safety Council as one of the CEOs Who "Get It" – an honor bestowed on CEOs who demonstrate leadership in safety at the highest levels. In 2014, he was selected by the editors of *Engineering News-Record* as one of the Top 25 Newsmakers of 2013. Phil was named 2013-2014 Outstanding Public Transportation CEO of the Year in North America by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). In 2012, he was awarded a White House Transportation Innovators Champion of Change Award. In 2009, he was appointed

by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter to serve on the State of Colorado's Workforce Development Council helping the state create a 21st century workforce. In 2007, he was appointed by the mayor of Denver to head the Host Transportation Committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

Originally from the South Side of Chicago – the Chicago housing projects of Altgeld Gardens – Phil is a 24-year veteran of the United States Army, where he held the rank of Command Sergeant Major, the highest non-commissioned officer ranks an enlisted soldier can achieve. He retired from active duty, as a disabled veteran and was awarded the prestigious Defense Superior Service Medal for exceptional service to his country. He holds a B.A. in Business from Columbia College, an M.A. in Management from Webster University, and is a graduate of the Harvard University Kennedy School for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. He is also a past chair of APTA.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE



Hon. Eric Garcetti

Mayor, City of Los Angeles and First Vice Chair, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Mayor Eric Garcetti is the 42nd Mayor of Los Angeles. As the city's chief executive, he has led LA to raise its minimum wage, lower its business tax, bring Hollywood jobs home, and pass the nation's boldest transportation plan and a groundbreaking initiative to house the homeless. He is running for Mayor again to keep getting things done.

Mayor Garcetti was elected four times by his peers to serve as President of the Los Angeles City Council from 2006 to 2012. From 2001 until taking office as Mayor, he served as the Councilmember representing the 13th District which includes Hollywood, Echo Park, Silver Lake, and Atwater Village – all of which were dramatically revitalized under Mayor Garcetti's leadership.

Mayor Garcetti was raised in the San Fernando Valley and earned his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University. He studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and the London School of Economics and taught at Occidental College and USC. A fourth generation Angeleno, he and his wife, Amy Elaine Wakeland, have a young daughter. He is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy reserve and is an avid jazz pianist and photographer.

PRESENTATION OF 2019 MOBILITY 21 AWARDS



Lifetime Achievement Award

Hon. Michael D. Antonovich

Former Supervisor, County of Los Angeles

Mike Antonovich represented the two million residents of the Fifth Supervisorial District from December 1980 to December 2016 with a remarkable focus on serving the needs of diverse communities and constituents. A Los Angeles County native, Former Supervisor Antonovich created Town Councils in unincorporated areas of the

County to give them a voice over services to their neighborhoods. His responsiveness and accessibility have earned him re-election by overwhelming margins.

Former Supervisor Antonovich's public service career was characterized by his commitment to public safety, fiscal responsibility and in supporting small business. He championed solutions to address the needs of the County's foster children, seniors and veterans. And, he has proven skills in working across party lines to get things done.

As Supervisor, he led the effort to form the Quality and Productivity Commission which has already saved county taxpayers over \$4 billion. Mike also initiated efforts to eliminate duplication of services and the consolidation of county departments to streamline the county bureaucracy. This has resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in additional cost savings for taxpayers.

To make communities safer, he pushed for expansion of Meghan's Law to make communities safer from sex offenders and established Disarm, a program to remove guns from convicted criminals.

As Supervisor, he also co-founded the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts located on the Cal State LA campus and has been a strong advocate of the expansion of pet adoption programs and dog parks.

As a member of the Board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and Metrolink, Former Supervisor Antonovich fought for fair allocation of transportation funds to benefit residents throughout the region. He provided strong leadership on the Gold Line extension into the San Gabriel Valley and projects to benefit the San Fernando Valley.

Former Supervisor Antonovich effectively advocated public/private partnerships and promoted pragmatic solutions as a member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

As a former government/history teacher, Former Supervisor Antonovich credits his fifth-grade teacher for the inspiration to enter public life. Prior to his election to the Board of Supervisors, Former Supervisor Antonovich was elected to the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees and the California State Assembly, where he served three terms.

Since leaving office in December of 2016, Former Supervisor Antonovich has remained active in public policy discussions and continues to support political candidates and causes near and dear to his heart. He has also enjoyed spending more time with his wife, Christine, son, Michael, Jr. and daughter, Mary Christine.



Arthur T. Leahy
Former Board Member, Mobility 21

Arthur T. Leahy started his career in 1971 as a bus operator for the Southern California Rapid Transit District and rose through the ranks to become the organization's Chief Operations Officer. During his 47-year career in transportation, Art became one of the nation's leading transit officials at the helm of numerous agencies. Art served as General

Manager of Metro Transit in Minneapolis-St. Paul from 1997-2001, CEO of the Orange County Transportation Authority from 2001-2009, CEO of LA Metro from 2009-2015 and CEO of Metrolink from 2015-2019.

During Leahy's tenure as CEO of the Orange County Transportation Authority, the agency saw record ridership increases in both bus and rail transit, the Measure M half-cent sales tax for transportation was overwhelmingly renewed by voters, the 91 Express Lanes were purchased paving the way for improvements to the Riverside 91 Freeway, and the Garden Grove Freeway (SR-22) improvement project – Orange County's first design-build freeway project – was completed.

As CEO of LA Metro, Art guided implementation of one of the largest public works programs in United States history and helped secure billions of dollars in federal and state funding to match local transit sales taxes to finance construction of dozens of transit and highway projects. Art kept Metro solvent in the wake of the Great Recession while he focused on fulfilling the mandate of Los Angeles County voters in carrying out the Measure R building program and ensuring quality service on the Metro system. Today Metro has transit and highway projects and programs valued at more than \$14 billion, eclipsing that of any other transportation agency in the nation, including an unprecedented five new rail projects under construction during Art's leadership. And he helped turn Union Station into the hub of the region's expanding bus and rail transit network and led the agency's acquisition of the 75-year-old iconic facility. Major highway projects such as the I-5 widening to Orange County broke ground under Art's watch and the new 10-mile northbound carpool lane on the I-405 freeway through the Sepulveda Pass has opened. Art led the successful Carmageddon I & II weekend closures for bridge work as part of that effort.

As CEO of Metrolink, Art led the agency in completing full implementation of Positive Train Control, deploying Tier-4 clean-air locomotives and receiving the largest grant ever for Metrolink, \$875 million, for the Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion - SCORE - Program.



Hon. Gregory Pettis (in memoriam)

Past Chairman, Riverside County Transportation Commission and Past President, Southern California Association of Governments

During his long and distinguished career as a public servant and elected official, Gregory Pettis served as a City Councilman and Mayor of Cathedral City, as a Commissioner and Chairman of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, and President of the Executive Council for the Southern California Association of Governments.

Leadership and commitment were two constants during his career. These characteristics led to his appointment to a number of regional organizations including the Executive Committee of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the SunLine Transit Agency Board of Directors, officer positions for the League of California Cities, Metrolink, the governing board of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee, and the Los Angeles–San Diego–San Luis Obispo Rail Agency Board of Directors.

Greg's career as an elected official began in 1994 when he was elected to the City Council in Cathedral City. He would eventually become the longest-serving city council member in Cathedral City's history.

A few short years after his election, state legislation expanded the Riverside County Transportation

Luncheon General Session Grand Ballroom

Commission to ensure representation from every city in the county. Greg would become Cathedral City's first appointment to RCTC and would serve as a Commissioner or alternate until his passing in 2019. He also served as the Chairman of RCTC in 2011 and the President of SCAG's Executive Council in 2013/14.

During his tenure as SCAG President, Greg visited every county in California.

He was often a trailblazer and was the first openly gay member elected to the Cathedral City Council and to serve as the President of SCAG. While known for being a Democratic Party activist and Super Delegate to the 2016 Democratic Convention, Pettis sought opportunities to work across party lines.

Transportation proved to be an important priority for Pettis throughout his career. He was a tireless and passionate advocate for daily Amtrak service to the Coachella Valley. Greg was no stranger to supporting other alternative forms of transportation to protect the environment and was instrumental in ensuring that the first portion of the innovative CV Link corridor was constructed in Cathedral City.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Dr. Robin Avelar La Salle
Principal, Think Together

Dr. Robin Avelar La Salle is co-founder and CEO of Orenda Education (formerly called Principal's Exchange) an education professional development and technical assistance organization. For more than 20 years, Dr. Avelar La Salle and the Orenda team have been thought partners for districts and schools aspiring to transform their systems and practices to raise student achievement. An equity warrior and an advocate for justice within the educational system, Dr. Avelar La Salle's mission is to change the odds for the two million California kids for whom the current systems of instruction and improvement are not working -- predominantly Latino, African American, and students from under-resourced families.

Dr. Avelar La Salle received her Ph.D. in Education from Stanford University, and during her career has held the roles of teacher, principal, district administrator, researcher, and university professor. She is the author of many articles on education equity and several books, including her newest work *Shattering Inequities: Real World Wisdom for School and District Leaders*, written in partnership with Dr. Ruth S. Johnson.