



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA APPOINTS NEW BOARD DIRECTORS TO METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

*Councilmember Jose Huizar, LA Department of Transportation
General Manager Rita Robinson to serve on Metro Board of Directors*

LOS ANGELES –Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today appointed Councilmember José Huizar and Los Angeles Department of Transportation General Manager Rita Robinson to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors.

“With our passage of Measure R, our effort to aggressively build a modern public transportation system in Los Angeles County demands strong leadership,” Mayor Villaraigosa said. “Councilmember Huizar and General Manager Robinson have the experience, wisdom, and vision to build for Los Angeles a transportation system worthy of a world-class city.”

“I am honored that Mayor Villaraigosa asked me to fill this critical post, and I look forward to working with him and the entire Metro Board to do all we can to bring Los Angeles’ transportation system solidly into the 21st Century,” Councilmember Huizar said. “To do that we need to continue working on building a world-class bus service while expanding our rail lines and providing Angelenos with quality transportation options that improve their lives.”

“It is an honor to join the Metro Board of Directors,” Robinson said. “Creating much-needed synergy between the DOT and Metro and providing the best transportation options for Los Angeles will continue to be my focus during these challenging economic times.”

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Metro has a thirteen-member Board of Directors. Four of the seats represent the City of Los Angeles, and are appointed by the Mayor. With these new appointments, those seats are now filled by Mayor Villaraigosa, Richard Katz, Huizar, and Robinson.

Councilmember Huizar replaces Councilmember Bernard Parks, who stepped down in January. Robinson replaces David W. Fleming, who ended his service on the Metro Board yesterday to serve on the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors.

Josè Huizar Biography

José Huizar was first elected to the Los Angeles City Council in November 2005 following his service as both President and Member of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District (2001-2005). Councilmember Huizar was re-elected in March 2007.

Councilmember Huizar's priorities include strengthening public education and youth programs, enhancing public safety, and sustainable economic development.

As President of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Councilmember Huizar earned a reputation as an aggressive policymaker who tackled difficult issues to get results for students and families. During his tenure with the District, Councilmember Huizar oversaw plans to build over 160 new schools within eight years, constituting the largest school construction program in the nation's history. In his final year as LAUSD Board President, Councilmember Huizar led the successful effort to reform the high school curriculum to ensure that all students, regardless of their backgrounds, will complete the A-G courses required for admission to one of California's public universities.

Councilmember Huizar previously served as a Deputy City Attorney in the Real Estate and Environmental Division of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. He has also served as an associate with several law firms.

In 2004, Councilmember Huizar was selected to serve as a Trustee of Princeton University. He has received numerous awards and distinctions, including profiles by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as one of the 25 figures in the Los Angeles Area that "stand out for their potential to shape lives" and by *Hispanic Business Magazine* as one of the "100 most influential Hispanics" in the United States.

José was born in Zacatecas, Mexico, and raised in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. He currently resides in Boyle Heights with his wife Richelle Rios, their young son Simón Luis and two daughters, Emilia and Isabella.

José earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He received a Master's degree in Public Affairs and Urban Planning from Princeton University and a Juris Doctorate from UCLA School of Law.

Council District 14 serves the communities of Boyle Heights, El Sereno, Eagle Rock, Hermon, and portions of Highland Park, Glassell Park, Mt. Washington, and Downtown Los Angeles.

Rita Robinson Biography

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 over 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 community partnerships, she will succeed in meeting the Department's mission.

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. Other improvements planned include expansion and upgrade of the Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control system (ATSAC), installation of additional traffic intersection signals, increasing vehicle turning lanes and left-turn signals, installation of more visible, modern signage, and the construction of new speed humps.

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 to protect 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 in both General Fund and Special Funds. The Bureau Ms. Robinson oversaw is divided into three major Divisions. The first, 'Solid Resources,' is responsible for the collection, recycling and disposal of approximately one million tons of refuse annually from about 750,000 residential customers. The second division, 'Stormwater,' provides services to comply with regulatory mandates in the collection, conveyance and treatment of storm water through a system of City-owned natural and constructed channels, debris basins, pump plants, storm drains and catch basins. The third division, 'Wastewater,' provides services to comply 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 Manger 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. The Department also administers the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance and Code Enforcement Program. 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.

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