



# Department of the Month

## Department of Transportation

### A Message From the General Manager

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation has the national reputation as being one of the premier transportation organizations in the country. It is well deserved. Since its creation in 1979, the Department and its members have distinguished themselves in many areas. Its engineers have been leaders in the development and deployment of advanced traffic management systems to combat congestion. They have been at the cutting edge in using technology to move buses quicker in the enormously successful rapid bus lines.

On the streets, one of the country's largest team of traffic officers facilitates the flow of traffic and enforces a wide range of parking regulations. A special operations unit manages traffic associated with hundreds of events including the Academy Awards and the Los Angeles Marathon. The transit staff manages the popular community DASH and commuter express lines and specialized senior transit services that are used by 25 million passengers annually. Investigators regulate the massive taxicab industry and the medical transportation companies that serve Los Angeles. Members of the Department operate more than 100 parking facilities and manage the Metrolink transit stations in Los Angeles.

In concert with the community, the DOT staff works hard to develop and implement solutions to mitigate the negative impacts of traffic and to ensure the safe access to nearly 1000 schools. In partnership with other agencies, both inside and outside the City, DOT staff work to plan, fund and construct freeway improvements, rail lines, parking facilities, transit stations and street, bicycle and pedestrian projects. In accordance with the requirements of the Department, private developers fund needed transportation improvements.

The success of the Department is largely the result of the dedication and talents of its 2000 members. They are transportation planners, accountants, auditors, technicians, hearing officers, investigators and engineers. They

serve in a wide variety of maintenance and construction professions. They are traffic officers, analysts, clerks, secretaries, communications operators and adult crossing guards. They are some of the very best in public service.

There are extraordinary examples of that service. Last year Janie Tandy, a veteran crossing guard, broke up an attempted abduction of a fifth-grade student. This year, Traffic Officer Barbara Hartsfield saved the life of a motorist who had suffered a heart attack. There are many other efforts by individuals who go beyond their required duties, to do whatever is needed to meet and exceed the expectations of their customers. Their efforts reflect a genuine love for the City of Los Angeles and respect for the people whom they serve.

Through the collective efforts of its members, the LADOT enhances public safety, reduces congestion, provides for a stronger community and promotes a better economy. As the General Manager of the LADOT, my job is to help my colleagues succeed in their endeavors. I cannot imagine a better job. 🏠



**Wayne Tanda,**  
General Manager,  
Department of  
Transportation



Loading thermoplastic raw material for another day of striping.



Earl Brown, Traffic Painter Sign Poster III -16 years.



Bob Blackmer,  
Senior Systems Supervisor -37 years.



Carlos Henriquez,  
Signal Systems Electrician -5 years.



L-R Gilbert Vasquez, Mechanical Repairer II -15 years;  
Frank Aguilar, Mechanical Repairer II -12 years;  
Angel Oligane, Mechanical Repairer II -16 years.



**FRONT ROW, L-R:** All Traffic Painter and Sign Posters:  
Mike Prado -30 years;  
David Roble -19 years;  
Charles A. Coleman -18 years.

**BACK ROW, L-R:**  
Curtis Ambrose, T.M.S. Superintendent -37 years;  
Scott Kramer -18 years;  
Herbert A. Orso -14 years;  
Robert E. Jackson -15 years;  
Kevin E. Duncan -15 years;  
Ronald E. McCollum -18 years.

### A Day in the Life of the Department of Transportation



Traffic officers take to the streets.



Phan Vuong, Senior Clerk Typist -15 years;  
Edna Alba, Clerk Typist -1 year.



John E. Fisher, Assistant General Manager -30 years.

# Department of the Month



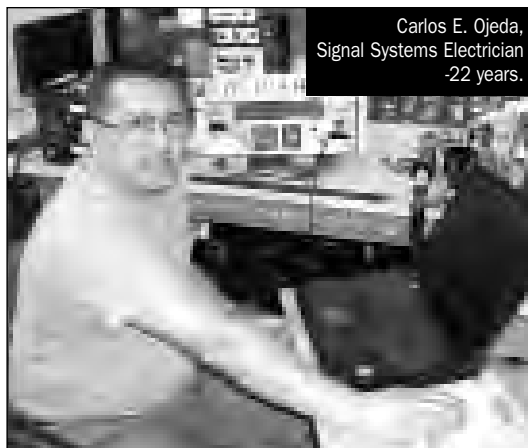
Thermoplastic Operators striping the street.



Imelda Perez, Sr. Clerk Typist -20 years;  
Nini Moore, Sr. Clerk Typist -18 years.



A traffic officer in control, near City Hall.



Carlos E. Ojeda,  
Signal Systems Electrician  
-22 years.



At the AT-SAC —

**FRONT ROW, L-R:**  
Transportation Engineering Associates: Vivian Lu -10 years; Saif Rahimuddin - 5 years.

**BACK ROW, L-R:**  
Transportation Engineering Associates: Kartik Patel -8 years; Larry Nelson (Signal Systems Electrician) -18 years; Daniel Mitchell (Transportation Engineer) -6 years; Jason Samonte -12 years; Steve Rostam -3 years.

## Department of Transportation: PROFILE

### Executive Management

- Wayne Tanda, General Manager
- John Fisher, Assistant General Manager
- James Okazaki, Assistant General Manager
- Rita Robinson, Assistant General Manager
- Diane Cunningham, Parking Administrator

### Mission

- To provide for the safe, reliable, convenient, accessible and efficient delivery of transportation services in a balanced manner that enhances Los Angeles' economic and quality of life goals.

### Annual Budget

- More than 1500 full time and 500 part-time

### Number of Employees

- More than 1,800 regular employees

### Awards

- John F. Kennedy School of Government Innovations in State and Local Government Award
- California Alliance for Advance Transportation Systems Best California Public Innovation
- Public Technology Outstanding Project
- California Transportation Foundation Tranny Award
- American Public Transit Association Ad Wheel Award
- California Legislative Assembly Certificate of Recognition
- Propane Exceptional Energy Fleet Award



14. Clavis McKenzie, Parking Meter Technician - 22 years.



Anthony Bova, T.M.S. Superintendent -22 years;  
Robert Quezada, T.M.S. Superintendent -28 years.

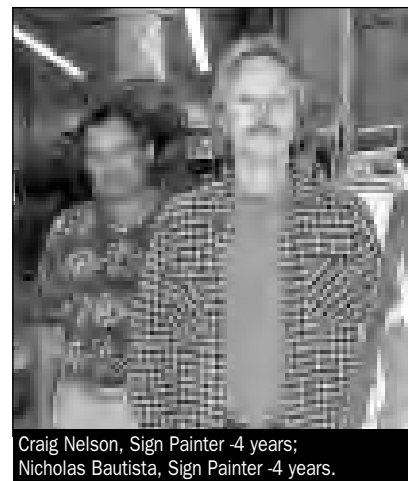


Crossing guards and traffic officers keep pedestrians and traffic moving — safely.



James Okazaki, Assistant General Manager -30 years.

## A Day in the Life of the Department of Transportation



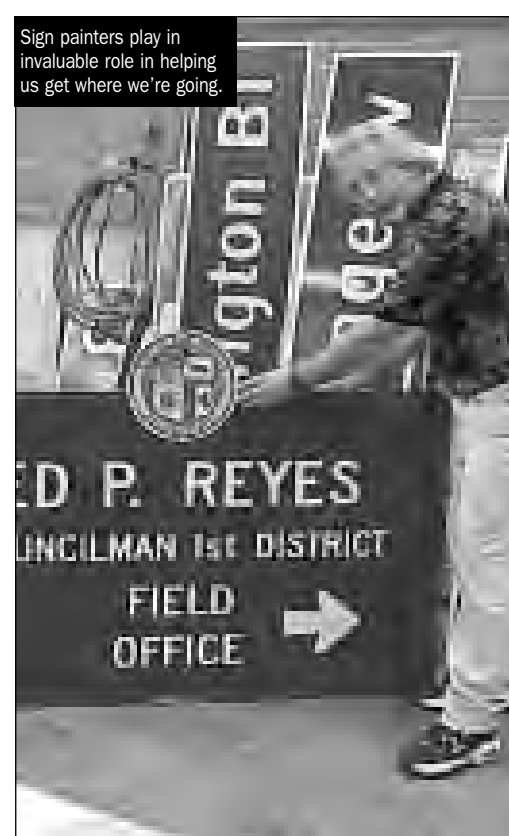
Craig Nelson, Sign Painter -4 years;  
Nicholas Bautista, Sign Painter -4 years.



Arlecia Maroney, Sr. Clerk Typist -7 years;  
Margie Oliva, Clerk Typist -2 years.



James Lefton,  
Chief of Transit  
-13 years.



Sign painters play in invaluable role in helping us get where we're going.



Jeff Leong, Signal Systems Electrician -17 years.



Mary Hartley,  
Management Aide -12 years.



# Department of the Month

## Department of Transportation: Moving L.A. Forward

### Few cities in the world move at the speed of Los Angeles: What makes it work?

Los Angeles' Department of Transportation is not one of the entities that keeps the city on the go. But it's one of the largest – and most important.

More than 2,200 employees make up the department. Although 400 to 500 are stationed at the department's headquarters downtown, the remainder is spread out among 23 different locations.

And while you might encounter the department's representatives at times of duress – think parking enforcement – the Department of Transportation goes much deeper than that. (But while we're on the subject of parking enforcement – those offices play a vital role in keeping Los Angeles moving. So give 'em a break.)

Any virtual tour of the department must stop in the Automated Traffic Systems and Control (ATSAC) center, deep in the basement of City Hall East. There, dedicated men and women control 2,600 of the City's 4,300 traffic signals via a state-of-the-art facility.

The Department also developed and patented software that figures out optimal traffic signal settings. Other metropolitan areas are now using this cutting-edge software.

Signal-maintenance and sign making are two more significant functions. In fact, the Department is believed to be the only one in the country to own its own thermoplastic formation equipment. (The machine costs \$250,000, according to General Manager James Tanda, making its functionality usually provided by contractors.) LADOT is the only city large enough to enjoy having its own thermoplastic formation equipment in house.

And then there's the traffic and parking enforcement officers (numbering about 600),

who write more than 3.2 million citations per year. "It's important to focus attention on these officers," Tanda says. "They try to gain an adherence to regulations that promote safety (red curbs), promote economic development (parking time limits), promote neighborhood liveability (permits) and combat congestion (towing vehicles in traffic lanes). They also assure that the disabled have a place to park, and they enforce regulations regarding vehicles on private property.

"They are seldom recognized for the important job they do."

The Department also manages liaisons with contractors, including for the localized DASH bus service.

And then there's the department's watchdog function over franchises, including taxicabs, ambulances, pipelines and other services. "They're out there doing great work," Tanda said of those making sure the cab and ambulance drivers are licensed and legitimate.

Project managers and planners work with other agencies to help build and maintain freeway interchanges, light rail inspections and the like.

Have a complaint? You'd probably want to talk to district operations, which deals with constituent concerns (that means people who have a beef or need a traffic condition dealt with). District operations handles more than 17,000 requests per year, requests to address speed limits, safe access to schools, localized congestion, etc.

Finally, there are the support services – info tech officers, personnel, budgeting, accounting, clerical, purchasing and the like.

It takes most every one of them to keep L.A. moving. 🚗



L-R Helene Jacobs, Supervising Trans. Planner -21 years; John Fong, Supervising Trans. Planner II -34 years; Maryann Delkhaste, Mgmt. Analyst II -13 years.



BACK ROW, L-R: Mars Castillo, Senior Auditor -13 years; Bernardo Tumbucan, Accountant II -11 years. FRONT ROW, L-R: Danny Marilao, Accountant II -5 years; Estella Rodriguez, Accountant -16 years; Maria Apusen, Accounting Clerk II -14 years; Cathy Lee, Accounting Clerk II -2 years; Jenny Pilotin, Senior Accountant II -17 years; Vi Mugol, Senior Accountant II -12 years; Hope Shaffer, Accountant II -12 years; Milagros Lumbang, Accounting Clerk II -8 years.



Patricia Currie, Accounting Clerk -26 years; Cynthia Lundy, Accounting Cler -15 years.



L-R: Chris Nelson, Clerk Typist -1 year; Rhoma Moore, Sr. Clerk Typist -18 years; Donald Mansion, Chief Transportation Investigator -29 years.



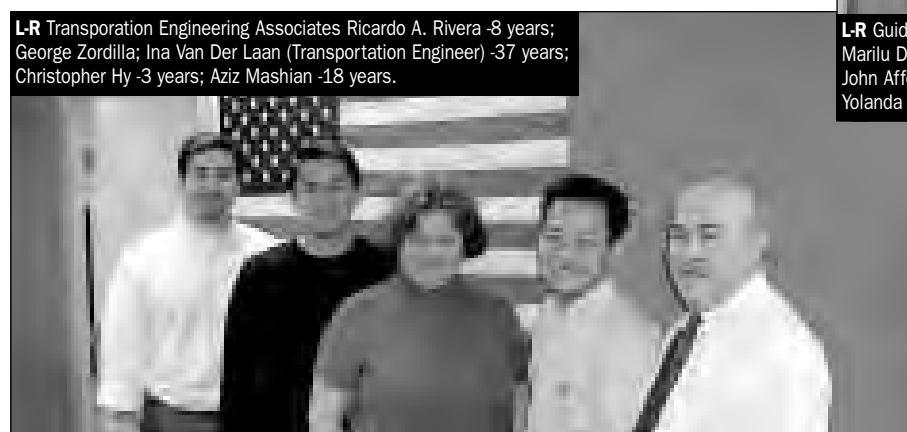
Valerie Pryor, Chief Management Analyst -14 years.



L-R Guido Marucut, Principal Accountant II -17 years; Marilu De Vera, Senior Accountant II -17 years; John Afford, Chief Accountant -34 years; Yolanda Huang, Senior Accountant II -11 years.



Parking regulation officers ensure a smooth flow of traffic.



L-R Transportation Engineering Associates Ricardo A. Rivera -8 years; George Zordilla; Ina Van Der Laan (Transportation Engineer) -37 years; Christopher Hy -3 years; Aziz Mashian -18 years.



L-R Mark Nakata, Senior Personnel Analyst -12 years; Wayne Garcia, Senior Management Analyst -15 years; Lupe Sandoval, Public Safety Coordinator -6 years; Dick Wong, Senior Management Analyst I -13 years.



Bea Zari, Accountant -23 years; Purita Averia, Accountant II -5 years.



Transportation engineers ensure a smooth flow of traffic during special events.



**L-R** Linda Evans, M.P.A., Trans. Planning Associate -15 years; Mary Rodriguez, Clerk Typist -12 years; Luz Echavarria, Trans. Planning Associate -12 years.



**L-R** Eileen Hunt, Trans. Eng. Associate -8 years; Jeannine Brands, P.E., Trans. Eng. Associate III -18 years; Greg Clark, Commission Executive Assistant -13 years; Azar Nejad, Trans. Eng. Associate -3 years. **SITTING:** Jeanne Rogers, Sr. Mgmt. Analyst I -37 years.



**L-R** Reginald Pilotin, Temporary Worker; Yin Woo, Accounting Clerk -18 years; Janice Macoy, Temporary Worker.



**L-R** Tom Jones, Senior Transportation Engineer -38 years; Tim Conger, Transportation Engineer -11 years; Steve Gaur, Transportation Engineer Associate -2 years.



**L-R** Michelle Sambile, Acct. Clerk -15 years; Victoria Lim, Acct. 1 -1 year; Linda Granados, Acct. 1 -1 year.



**L-R** Gerald D'Agostino, Transportation Investigator -31 years; Constancio Abracia, Jr., Transportation Investigator -16 years; Robert Camou, P.E., Sr. Trans. Engineer -3 years.



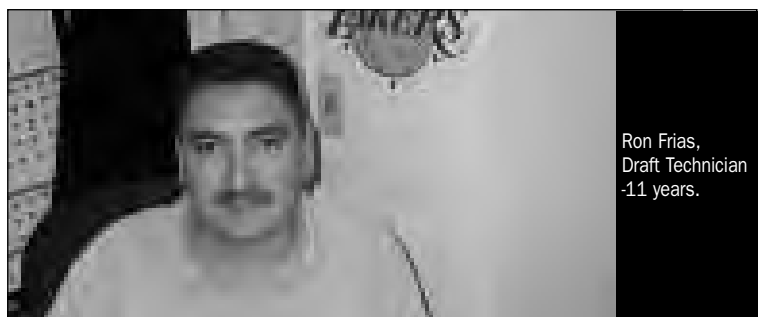
**L-R** Clive Grawe, Transportation Engineering Associate -8 years; Mike Moshksar, Transportation Engineering Associate -4 years; Jesus Avina, Drafting Technician -13 years; James Gonzalez, Transportation Engineering Aide.



Nancy Wagstaff, Sr. Clerk -15 years; Yvonne Coleman, Sr. Clerk -3 years.



Chuck Hammerstein, Trans. Planning Assoc. II -5 years

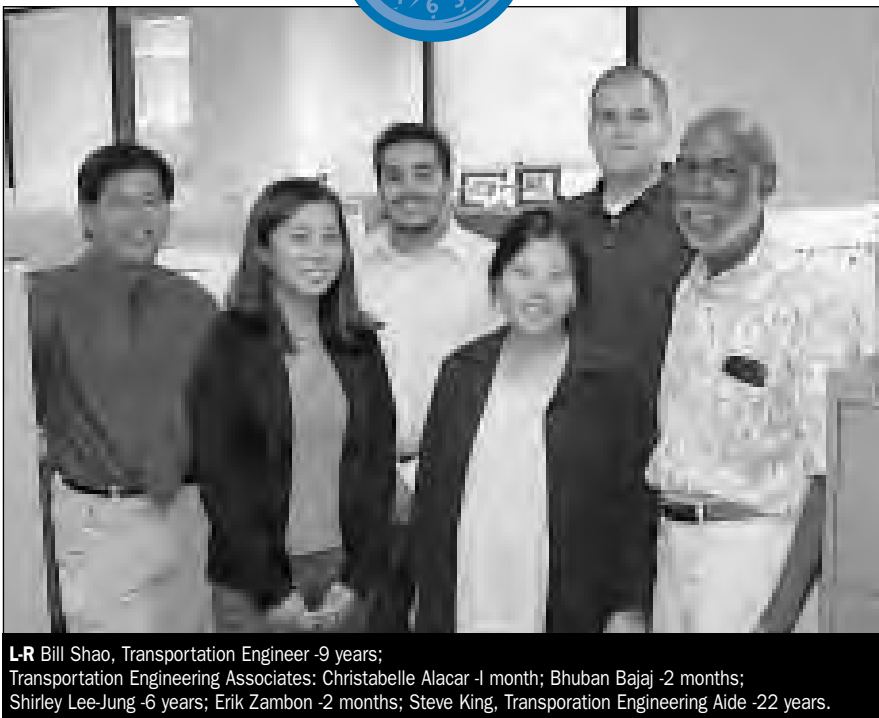


Ron Frias, Draft Technician -11 years.

## A Day in the Life of the Department of Transportation



Mat Eftekhari, Transportation Engineering Associate -11 years; Harry Spilman, Transportation Engineering Associate -32 years.



**L-R** Bill Shao, Transportation Engineer -9 years; Transportation Engineering Associates: Christabelle Alacar -1 month; Bhuban Bajaj -2 months; Shirley Lee-Jung -6 years; Erik Zambon -2 months; Steve King, Transportation Engineering Aide -22 years.



Management Analysts Richard Flores -25 years; Paul Lobato -31 years.