



ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Executive Director Chosen to Lead Orangeline High Speed Rail Project

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Paramount, California - Orangeline Chairman Bruce Barrows is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Kodama as the new Executive Director of the Orangeline Development Authority.

In his new role, Kodama, will spearhead the creation of the Orangeline High Speed Rail system in Southern California. This forward thinking transit corridor project is a joint initiative composed of leaders from the cities of Artesia, Bell, Bellflower, Cerritos, Cudahy, Downey, Glendale, Huntington Park, Maywood, Palmdale, Paramount, Santa Clarita, South Gate and Vernon. The Orangeline High Speed Rail System is a high speed, environmentally friendly, grade separated transit system designed to link cities, foster sustainable land-use development, reduce traffic and alleviate air pollution.

Kodama's 20 years urban and transportation planning experience on local and regional issues, gives him the ideal skill set to lead this multi-city collaborative project. Kodama's extensive planning background includes freeways, rail and bus transit projects, parking management and transportation demand management. Mr. Kodama has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at Los Angeles in Sociology and Economics and a Masters of Arts degree from the University of California at Los Angeles in Urban Planning, with an emphasis in Social Policy Analysis and Transportation. He currently is President of his own transportation planning firm and is a professor teaching transportation planning at the University of Southern California.

"With Michael's extensive knowledge of Los Angeles and Orange County transportation issues, he is the perfect choice for this position. As many people who have worked with Michael know, he will have the agency and the public's best interest in mind when planning and executing a large scale project such as the Orangeline High Speed Rail Project," noted Orangeline Authority Chairman, Bruce Barrows, Mayor of Cerritos.

The proposed Orangeline High Speed Rail Project uses existing right-of-way and extends from Orange County north to Santa Clarita and Palmdale. Vice Chair and Santa Clarita Councilmember Marsha McLean states, "The Orangeline is a great opportunity for us to develop a high speed, environmentally friendly rail system that connects Los Angeles County from Palmdale and Santa Clarita to Downey, Cerritos and beyond."

The Orangeline Development Authority is a joint powers agency formed to pursue development of a high speed environmentally friendly transit system in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

City of Artesia
City of Bell
City of Bellflower
City of Cerritos
City of Cudahy
City of Downey
City of Glendale
City of Huntington Park
City of Maywood
City of Palmdale
City of Paramount
City of Santa Clarita
City of South Gate
City of Vernon

Chairman

Bruce Barrows
Mayor
City of Cerritos

Vice Chairman

Marsha McLean
Councilmember
City of Santa Clarita

Treasurer

Mike McCormick
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Vernon

General Counsel

Yvette M. Abich Garcia, Esq.
Colantuono & Levin, PC

Executive Director

Michael Kodama



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"For more information about the Orangeline High Speed please visit www.olda.org"

Press contact: Denise Van Stratten (626) 926-5786

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