



NEWS

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LEAGUE OF CITIES RATIFIES NOMINATION OF SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL MEMBER PAM O'CONNOR TO MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division, last night ratified the nomination of Santa Monica City Council member Pam O'Connor to the MTA Board of Directors. She will be sworn in later this month.

O'Connor was nominated April 12, 2001, by the member cities of the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee (Southwest Corridor Sector) to fill the seat vacated by former Gardena City Council member James Cragin, who held the MTA seat since 1993. O'Connor joins three other City Selection Committee appointees on the 13-member MTA Board.

A regular user of public transit who neither owns nor leases a car, O'Connor has served on the Santa Monica City Council since 1994 and twice has served as that city's mayor in 1997 and 1999. She also has served as a member of the National League of Cities, Women in Municipal Government board, and on its information technology and communications steering committee; Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Council; League of California Cities, transportation and public works committee; and on the board of the Local Government Commission.

In addition to serving on the Santa Monica City Council, O'Connor works as a private consultant with Kaplan Chen Kaplan, specializing in historic preservation.

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O'Connor's consulting projects have included: Rowan Building (Los Angeles Spring Street Historic District); Los Angeles City Hall seismic rehabilitation; University of Southern California's historic buildings (seismic repair studies and construction projects); University of California at Los Angeles's historic buildings (seismic repair studies and construction projects); First AME Zion Church (fire repair and renovations); and Beverly Hills Hotel rehabilitation.

Other positions O'Connor has held include program manager for Historic Preservation Partners for Earthquake Response, planner for the City of Pasadena, and research associate for the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

O'Connor has been the recipient of numerous awards including the California Preservation Foundation Design Awards for California State University's Channel Islands Campus (2000) and UCLA's Powell Library (1997), as well as the Milton Marks Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation (1999).

O'Connor earned a bachelor of science degree in journalism from Southern Illinois University and holds masters degrees in historic preservation planning and in technology management from Eastern Michigan University.

As a member of the MTA Board, O'Connor will assist in the oversight of one of the nation's largest transportation planning and operating agencies. In addition to operating a fleet of more than 2,200 buses and the nearly 60-mile long Metro Rail System, the MTA funds street and highway projects, bikeways and other transportation improvements throughout Los Angeles County.

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