



# NEWS

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## MTA APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR TRANSIT OPERATIONS

MTA CEO Joe Drew has named Ellen Levine as the agency's new Executive Officer for Transit Operations. She becomes the first female to lead the agency's Operations unit.

Levine, who is currently Western Regional Operations Manager, will oversee all bus and rail services and maintenance, as well as Operations Planning for the Authority's bus and rail fleet. She replaces Jim Reichert, who was serving on an interim basis.

"Here was a situation where a nation-wide search led us to an extraordinarily talented person within our own ranks," said Drew. "Ellen has performed superbly in every position she has held, and the MTA is fortunate to have her to serve in this vital capacity."

As Western Region Manager, Levine led nearly 1200 employees, who operated 420 buses which serve over 300,000 passengers per day.

Her scope of responsibility now expands to 6,000 employees, 2,000 buses and 251,400 miles of bus routes, 100 rail cars and 48 miles of track, and almost 1.2 million passengers per day.

"We need strong internal and external communication in order to succeed in this competitive environment," said Levine. "I'm going to bring an intensified effort to ensure the quality of our service lives up to the expectations of our passengers. At the Western Region, I solicited both employee suggestions and passenger comments, which were incorporated into our operations. It worked for us there, and I'll continue to use that approach."

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Levine was born in New York City and raised and educated on the East Coast. She has 17 years of experience in public transit, including budget development and management, research design and evaluation, and labor relations.

Prior to entering the transportation field, she worked in public health, and holds a masters degree in that field with a specialty in mental health.

She and her husband Ed live in North Hollywood. They have two married daughters and two grandchildren.

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