

## **MTA Audit Department Earns APTA's Top Rating**

By AL LOREDO

After conducting a rigorous evaluation of the MTA's Management Audit Services Department (MASD), an American Public Transportation Association peer review team has awarded the department its highest rating.

The APTA team, consisting of senior transit industry auditors, looked at the MTA's audit policies, practices and work products during a weeklong review. It took into account such factors as independence, staff qualifications, supervision, quality assurance and conformance with other industry standards.

"Considering how important our work is, it's nice to see it independently validated by the APTA peer reviewers," says Bill Bernsdorf, managing director, MASD.

The APTA rating is particularly significant because MASD's scope of services is generally much broader than those of other transit agency audit departments.

MASD audits contractors, grantees, projects, internal departments and work processes. MASD also performs contractor pre-qualifications, audit work to support litigation, contract closeout efforts, and conducts self-assessment workshops

### **500 external audits**

During the past fiscal year, MASD completed 500 external audits with questioned contract costs of some \$22 million, cash recoveries of about \$4 million, in addition to an estimated cost savings of more than \$13 million in contract payments.

MASD also contributed significantly to a recent court judgment that awarded the MTA \$30 million in a counter suit brought against a general contractor.

Currently the external auditors have been extensively involved in on-going litigation and closeout of completed contracts. On the internal side, MASD conducts a comprehensive internal control risk self-assessment program, tests internal controls with regularly scheduled audits of key management functions, and conducts management audits to evaluate the economy and efficiency of operations.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)