



[Home](#)

[CEO Hotline](#)

[Viewpoint](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[Archives](#)

[Metro.net](#) (web)

**Resources**

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)

**Metro Info**

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

**Need e-Help?**

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Chief Planning Officer Carol Inge to retire at the end of the year. Photo: Gayle Anderson

## Exiting Planning Chief Carol Inge Says She'll Miss 'Professional, Capable' Staff

• Farewell event is Thursday, Dec. 17

By Michael D. White  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 24, 2009) It might just be a little more than simply curious that Carol Inge, Metro's soon to-retire Chief Planning Officer, doesn't really have any retirement plans.

That is, unless you count spending some quality time with her two high school-age kids, joining a gym, learning Spanish and volunteering for some heavy-duty community service work. "I've no burning desire to go out and start a consulting business," says Inge, who joined

Metro in 1987 as a planner and assumed the position of Chief Planning Officer in 2006. "You can never say what doors might open in the future, but, for now, I know I'll be busy enough. I'm content with my 'no-plans' retirement plan."

Metro employees are invited to join Inge at a farewell cake and punch event from 2 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 17. in the Metro cafeteria.

A Southern California native, Inge graduated from North Hollywood High School before traveling across the country to Massachusetts where she earned her undergraduate degree at Wellesley College, one of the elite group of women's colleges known collectively as the "Seven Sisters."

A return to the Southland and volunteer work at the Ecology Center of Southern California led to what she calls her "passionate" interest "in how the form of the city shapes people's daily lives."

"I was fascinated to study how people and the communities they live in can be impacted by the physical form of the city," she says, recalling the learning path that led her to one of the top posts in one of the country's largest mass transit agencies.

A Master's degree in Urban Planning from UCLA led to increasingly responsible planning positions with the cities of Inglewood and Huntington Beach and then Metro, where she's spent the last three years responsible for a staff of more than 100 specialists overseeing the strategic transportation planning for the entire county including the programming of capital funding and grants for Metro projects and local city transit projects

and the preparation of complicated transit feasibility and environmental impact reports.

"The thing that I've treasured the most here at Metro is working every day with professional and highly capable people who know their business and are committed to the successful completion of the projects they work on," says Inge.

A transportation project – any transportation project, she says – "is made up of a huge number of extremely detailed components that call for maintaining communication between Metro's construction, engineering, communications, legislative, operations and other teams with the Project Managers pulling it all together. It isn't easy, but it goes a lot smoother when you can consistently count on the people you're working with."

What Metro project was the most challenging and gave her the most satisfaction when it was completed?

"There've been many, but the one that immediately comes to mind is the completion of the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley," says Inge. "There were some huge challenges, but the most delicate was addressing community concerns. Once the project opened it was gratifying to see how successful it was."

"All in all, I've had a wonderful experience at Metro. I'll miss it all," she says, remembering there's one more critical piece to her "No Plans" retirement plan.

That'd be cleaning out her garage.