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## Architect Martha Welborne Picked for Top Planning Post

### • Measure R projects top agenda

(May 25, 2010) Metro CEO Art Leahy announced May 21 the hiring of architect and urban planner Martha Welborne to Metro's top planning job. Welborne, a moving force in many forward projects in the Los Angeles region and the nation, will join Metro June 1 as Executive Director of Countywide Planning. In that capacity, she will play a key role in accelerating delivery of voter-approved projects funded by Measure R.

"Los Angeles is on the cusp of the most significant improvements in public transportation in its history. To be part of the team that will bring this about is both compelling and exciting. An opportunity like this comes around once in a lifetime," said Welborne.

Welborne's work has ranged from individual building design to such large-scale planning projects as Los Angeles' surface transit project, an effort that led to the creation of the Metro Rapid bus system now running throughout Los Angeles County. She served as director on the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board from May 2005 to February 2006.



Martha Welborne joins Metro June 1

Welborne is the current Managing Director of the Grand Avenue Committee, a public/private partnership focused on revitalizing the civic and cultural districts of downtown Los Angeles through a \$3 billion project that includes six high-rise buildings and a 16-acre civic park. She will continue to spearhead this effort over the next six months as she transitions into her post at Metro.

As an architect and city planner, she has worked on large scale urban design projects such as campus master plans and transit systems as a principal of ZGF Architects, LLP, in Los Angeles. Previously, she was an associate partner of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP, and was also a principal of Sasaki Associates, Inc. in Boston.

Welborne currently serves as a member of MIT's Visiting Committee for the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, serves on the Board of the Community Foundation Land Trust, and on the Board of Councilors for USC's School of Architecture and for KUSC. She was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, and is a member of the

College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. She has also served as president of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

*--from Gayle Anderson*

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