

Cynthia Guidry's Plans Keep Millions on the Move

MEMBER PROFILE



Cynthia Guidry (LAWA's Deputy Executive Directors and WTS-LA board member), Photos © John Livzey, 2015

Los Angeles International Airport is the sixth busiest airport in the world, but it is only one of three airports managed by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). The Capital Programming, Planning & Engineering (CPPE) Group is responsible for developing the plan to implement the vision of the Board of Airport Commissioners and the Executive Director. One of LAWA's Deputy Executive Directors and WTS-LA board member, Cynthia Guidry, leads that charge.

"We're working on a \$7-plus billion capital program and we have much more to do ahead of us as we're planning our new Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP), which includes a new Automated People Mover, Consolidated Rental Car Facility, roadway improvements, and inter-modal facilities. I manage LAWA's CPPE Group and my team is responsible for the long-term development and modernization plans for the airport, which includes our comprehensive planning efforts and shepherding LAWA's capital planning process to produce our overall capital improvement program. We're also responsible for preparing project definition documents for each capital project, as well as executing the environmental and entitlement processes. As you can see, we're pretty busy. Fortunately, I have an exceptional, professional staff."



LAWA is a Los Angeles city department that owns and operates three airports: Los Angeles International, Los Angeles/Ontario International, and Van Nuys Airport. Treated as a holistic aviation system, the three airports combine to contribute to the economy and quality of life for Southern California, providing a high level of safety, security, and service.

Guidry began her career with the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works after receiving her BS in civil engineering from the University of California, Irvine. She has been with LAWA for 14 years and began her aviation career as a project engineer in the airport's engineering group. Guidry later joined the

airport's planning group. At that time, the group comprised 20 people; after Guidry's promotion last year, today she manages a team of 450 employees. Rounding out her education, she also earned an MBA from Pepperdine University. A longtime WTS-LA member, she credits the chapter with helping to make a meaningful difference.

"Intissar Durham was the Chief Airports Engineer when I joined LAWA. And she was very involved with WTS-LA. She was on the board, and she introduced me to the chapter. Though WTS-LA provides numerous benefits, I was attracted to the Adopt-A-School Program. Adopt-A-School appealed to me because it was about helping high school students learn about transportation careers. I enjoy working with youth and exposing them to different opportunities. We really tried to go into the schools and show them what a transportation career could mean, and how varied the transportation industry is. We were able to make a great impression on these kids. And I'd like to think we changed their lives at least in some small way."

But WTS-LA is not the only way that Guidry changes lives. "It's a privilege to do what I do for a large airport organization. I help millions of people and tons of cargo get to their desired destination. LAX is a world-class airport and I enjoy being a part of executing its vision."