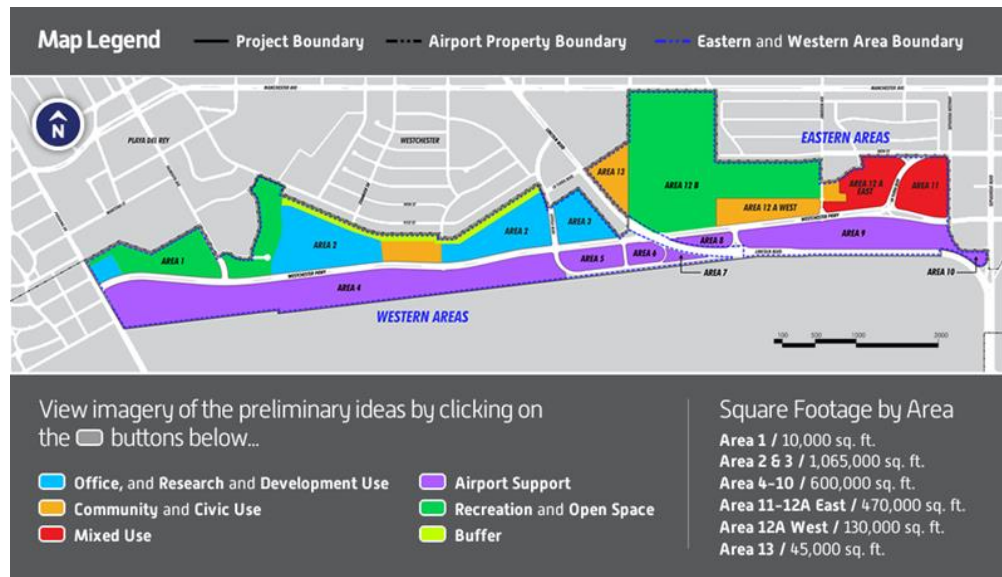


WTS-LA Innovation Transportation Solutions Award: LAX Northside Plan



The WTS-LA Innovative Transportation Solutions Award is unique. It celebrates a great idea, a great idea that's been put into action. More specifically, that idea must be an "outstanding and innovative transportation project that improves transportations, adds community value, and makes the difference in the lives of its users." This year, WTS-LA recognized the LAX Northside Plan.

Transforming approximately 340 acres of underutilized, mostly vacant land directly north of LAX, the LAX Northside Plan will transform it into a vibrant, sustainable transit center with active transportation, retail, restaurants, offices, hotels, research and development facilities, and quite a bit more. Though hugely positive, that in and of itself is not necessarily innovative. What's unique about the project is how the project team arrived at the plan. Going to great lengths, the largely female LAWA project team led by project manager Lisa Trifiletti first earned the trust of the surrounding community and then gained their comprehensive input for the plan. Though many give community input lip service, Trifiletti and her team based their plan on exactly what the community wanted. And it worked. The team's plan gained unanimous approval from the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, the Board of Airport Commissioners, the City Planning Commission, and the Airport Land Use Planning Commission. They also received only positive public testimony at all public project hearings-an extreme rarity. And the results match the process.

Dramatically improving what was essentially fallow land, the project will also create more than 7,000 new jobs and provide dedicated community space and connective bike paths. According to Councilmember Mike Bonin, "the LAX Northside Plan is a bright, shining example of what we can accomplish together when we bring the community in as a partner in planning for the future of our airport. The openness, honesty, and enthusiasm she brings is going a long way toward making LAX a world class airport that is a first-class neighbor." And for Trifiletti and her team's efforts, WTS-LA named the LAX Northside Plan the 2017 WTS-LA Innovative Transportation Solutions Award winner.