

When the going gets tough, the tough move people ingeniously...



Moving people from Point A to Point B is the most basic transportation goal. But when you insert that goal into a highly complex, lifeline system like Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), things get an order-of-magnitude tougher instantly. And when things are this complex, the tough get innovative. That's exactly what happened at LAX and why WTS-LA has named Los Angeles World Airports' (LAWA) \$4.9 billion Automated People Mover project (APM) its 2019 WTS-LA Innovative Transportation Solutions Award winner.

"The Automated People Mover (APM) project is a first of its kind in the City of Los Angeles and state of California, and will significantly enhance the traveler experience at LAX," explains Nossaman LLP, partner and project participant Andrée Blais. "The APM was procured through an innovative public private partnership (P3) model, an alternative procurement and financing structure involving private finance—it is the largest P3 ever undertaken by the City of Los Angeles and the largest contract in the city's history.



The project has been recognized industry-wide and world-wide as the most important P3 project of 2018-2019, having been named the 'Global Transport P3 of the Year' and 'Global Project of the Year' by industry authority *P3 Bulletin*, as well as winning *Project Finance International's* 'Americas P3 Deal of the Year,' *IJ Global's* 'North American PPP Deal of the Year,' and the *National Council of Public-Private Partnerships'* 'Innovative Project of the Year.'" It's safe to say that this is a highly regarded project. But it's P3 component is by no means its only innovation.

Blais points out that numerous women played key roles throughout the development and procurement of the APM. And they continue to be integrally involved through the project's execution. They include LAWA CEO Deborah Flint, LAWA Chief Environmental and Sustainability Officer Samantha Bricker, LAWA Director of Terminal Planning and Design Ellen Wright, Director – Innovation and Guest Experience Barbara Yamamoto, Third-Party Coordinator Pattie Antich and many others. So, what does the project itself deliver?

“Convenience, reliability and easy accessibility are key elements of the user experience and are integral requirements for the APM,” adds Blais. “Trains will arrive every two minutes during peak operations (9 a.m. to 11 p.m.), have wide doors for easy access with luggage, large windows, and seats for those in need. Station platforms are open air, light-filled and have escalators, elevators, and moving walkways for quick, convenient access to the terminals. LAWA anticipates that the APM will offer a maximum ridership capacity of 10,000 passengers per hour and up to 87.7 million passengers per year. The system will be operational in 2023.”

Moving people easily and seamlessly into LAX, LAWA’s APM also serves as a cutting-edge P3 project model for the city, state, and the nation. For these reasons and many more, WTS-LA proudly names it the 2019 Innovative Transportation Solutions Award winner.