



Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority

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ALAMEDA CORRIDOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE NAMED PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR BY GOVERNING MAGAZINE

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The chief executive of the public agency that built the \$2.4 billion Alameda Corridor freight rail expressway has been named a 2002 Public Official of the Year by Governing magazine.

James C. Hankla, chief executive officer of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA), "defied the predictions of skeptics by managing the most ambitious intermodal transportation project in American history to a successful completion, on time and within its budget," the magazine said.

Hankla credited the ACTA Governing Board for setting clear policy direction, ACTA personnel and ACTA's many partners at the local, state and federal levels for the project's success. "The Alameda Corridor is a prime example of what can be accomplished when public agencies put aside competition in favor of a greater good and cooperate with the private sector," he said. "I am grateful to work on a project of national significance and proud and pleased that our efforts are being recognized."

Opened last April after five years of construction, the Alameda Corridor is a 20-mile freight rail expressway linking the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach to the railroad yards near downtown Los Angeles. It is designed to facilitate booming international trade through the nation's busiest port complex while minimizing impacts on local communities. By consolidating four branch rail lines into an expressway, the Alameda Corridor has cut travel times of cargo trains by more than half. By eliminating more than 200 at-grade railroad crossings, the Alameda Corridor reduces traffic congestion and air and noise pollution.

The Alameda Corridor was built by ACTA, a joint powers authority governed by the cities and ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. It is operated by the ports, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway and Union Pacific Railroad.

Many complexities were overcome to open the Alameda Corridor on time and on budget. For example, the project passes through eight separate government jurisdictions. It required the relocation of approximately 1,700 underground and overhead utility operations, and rail service had to be maintained at all times during construction. More than 1,000 professionals from 124 engineering and construction management firms contributed to the project. Funding came from multiple public and private sources, including the sale of ACTA revenue bonds, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the California Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Debts are being retired with use fees paid by the railroads.

(MORE)



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ACTA CEO Named Top Public Official

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The Alameda Corridor has been praised by many as a model for how major public works projects ought to be constructed. For example, U.S. Transportation Secretary called the Alameda Corridor “one of America’s most significant transportation projects.” House Rules Committee Chairman David Dreier declared the Alameda Corridor to be the “Silk Road of the Third Millennium.” And Gov. Gray Davis said: “It’s an engineering marvel that will be studied all over the world.”

Hankla, 63, joined ACTA in 1998 prior to the project’s bond financing and the start of full-scale construction. A career civil servant, Hankla is former city manager of Long Beach and chief administrative officer of Los Angeles County. A native of Louisville, he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from California State University, Long Beach, and a master’s degree in government and urban affairs from California State University, Los Angeles. He lives in Long Beach.

Hankla is scheduled to receive the award at a Nov. 21 ceremony in Washington, D.C. Among the 10 others named as the magazine’s 2002 Public Officials of the Year are Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, Kansas City, Kan., Mayor Carol Marinovich, and New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. Profiles of Hankla and the other recipients appear in the Nov. 1, 2002 issue of *Governing*.

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