

# Opening Session: Conference Welcome

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## Welcome Address



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It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to welcome you to the National Conference on Advanced Technologies in Public Transportation. The conference is sponsored by the Transportation Research Board (TRB), in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and a number of local agencies. These include the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART), the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC), the San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the University of California.

I would like to thank the numerous individuals from these agencies who helped organize and support the conference. I would also like to recognize the efforts of the Program Steering Committee, especially the Co-Chairs William Loudon and Patricia McLaughlin, in making this conference possible. The names of all the members of the Program Steering Committee are

listed on the back of the program. Finally, I would like to thank the TRB staff members for their assistance. Campbell Graeb was especially instrumental in organizing the conference and his efforts deserve special notice.

The opening session consists of two parts. The first portion will provide you with an overview of the general topics to be covered in the workshops. The 15 workshop sessions have been organized into three tracks. These focus on three themes: customer service technologies, transit and traffic operations technologies, and operations and vehicle technologies. The closing session on Wednesday afternoon will provide you with a summary of the major elements covered in the papers and the presentations at the workshops.

During the second part of the opening session, Lawrence Schulman will provide an overview of federal transit funding and the federal transit research program. Mr. Schulman is the Associate Administrator for Technical Assistance and Safety with the FTA and has been actively involved in transit research for many years. It is a pleasure to have Larry join us for the opening session and for the conference.

In addition to the workshops, a number of TRB committees have scheduled their mid-year meetings in conjunction with the conference. I encourage you to attend any committee you may be interested in, even if you are not a member. I also encourage you to actively participate in the workshop sessions and to meet new people. Thank you and enjoy the conference.