

*Board Policies* offers management an excellent tool for guiding day-to-day operations. It is a reference for policy makers and their staffs, which they can use when they need quick access to previous Board policy directives.

*Board Policies* contains summaries of miscellaneous Board decisions consolidated in one place and not covered elsewhere in other documents. Each summary includes the most salient features of the decision, along with a historical perspective that will help one understand the context in which each decision was made.

While other documents emphasize in-depth coverage, *Board Policies* is broadly constructed, covering many areas of the Board's decision making. It offers concise descriptions in a simple format, with references to related items for further reading. It also helps decision makers make timely decisions, informed by a careful understanding of previously adopted policies. And it contributes to the long-term goal of making research easier.

*Board Policies* fulfills an important niche as a companion to other Board-adopted documents. However to avoid confusion, it may be important to distinguish this book from other well-known Board-adopted documents, which play a crucial business role.

The *Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP) guides transportation development in Los Angeles County over a period of twenty-five years. It identifies strategic priorities for projects and services that are regionally significant, but require new or additional revenue sources. The LRTP is essentially a blueprint for transportation improvements. In contrast, the *Short Range Transportation Plan* addresses a shorter duration, prioritizing the County's transportation needs and allocating

available resources. It addresses public transit, freight movement, roads, systems management, transportation demand management, and the link between transportation and land-use.

Like the *Short Range Transportation Plan*, the *Regional Transit Plan* addresses the short-term and helps advance the long-term goals outlined in the LRTP. The difference is that the *Short Range Transportation Plan* addresses all of transportation, while the *Regional Transit Plan* considers only bus and rail issues, such as service changes, fleet size, passenger programs and systems performance— issues in the LRTP that must be addressed. The *Regional Transit Plan* states what the agency will do to address them during the next five years.

The *Adopted Budget* is the document that focuses on an even shorter term. It condenses the visions and strategies outlined in the long range and short range plans into a practical guide for a fiscal year. It coordinates resources and expenditures and provides legal authority to obligate and spend funds. It also includes both operating and capital budgets.

There is also the *LACMTA Administrative Code*, which is an ordinance adopted by the MTA Board of Directors in August 2003. The purpose of the *Code* is to articulate the duties of the Board and officers and the methods, systems and procedures for the agency's operation as required by Public Utilities Code § 130105. It also clarifies our responsibilities by repealing those ordinances from its predecessor agencies that are no longer relevant.

Unlike Board policies, which provide policy direction for the agency as to how it should fulfill its mission, ordinances are laws that govern the LACMTA. All

ordinances adopted by the Board after August 2003 will be incorporated into the Administrative Code.

Taken together all of these documents play an integral role in helping the Board and staff to meet their fiduciary responsibility to the public and to complete our mission—providing an efficient and effective transportation system for Los Angeles County.