

Dear COMTO Colleague:



I wanted to take this opportunity to extend my deep and abiding appreciation to you for your vote of confidence in me to serve as your new president. I embark on this wonderful opportunity full of enthusiasm and optimism and look forward to working with each of you as we jointly reinvigorate and advance this vital organization.

I especially want to thank Lee Davis, our outgoing president, for his diligent and inspired leadership during an especially difficult and challenging period for our industry here, across the nation and around the globe.

As we all know so well, the Great Recession took a dire toll on our enterprises, regardless of which aspect of the transportation industry in which we toiled. While we are by no means enjoying the halcyon days that preceded the economic downturn, there are encouraging indications that the economy is on the rebound. Most notably, more jobs are being created, investment is reviving and people are generally expressing a more optimistic view of the future.

At the same time, certain dire realities remain. Transportation funding of all types and at all levels of government continues to be inadequate or in question, whether it be Re-authorization in Congress or state assistance and local funding being held hostage by debilitating budget deficits.

These realities will surely require our best thinking as we work together with others outside of COMTO. I am confident that we are up to the task and well positioned to make the case for transportation with our elected officials and other stakeholders as long as we remain at the table and participate actively in the debates that will define funding in the coming years. Clearly, we and our COMTO colleagues outside of California have all been there before and have achieved significant successes. Given our combined experience and expertise, our focus and our commitment, I know that we will again prevail. Moreover, I know that working with you will be a highlight of my career and I look forward to seeing you at our first general membership meeting of the new year on February 2 at the offices of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency headquarters located at One South Van Ness.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Johnson  
President, COMTO Northern California Chapter