



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Beverly Greene

510-599-9813

Email: bevgreene@aol.com

Website: www.comtonorcal.org

**Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)
of Northern California
Announces 2009 Industry Award Winners**

COMTO Industry Award Honorees will be recognized at an evening reception on August 13, 2009 at the Carnelian Room in San Francisco. Honorees represent AC Transit, Caltrans, Jacobs Engineering Group, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Merriwether & Williams, and the San Francisco County Transportation Authority

San Francisco, CA [July 13, 2009]. The Northern California Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) will honor individuals and businesses for their transportation achievements and contributions to the industry at the 5th Annual COMTO Industry and Awards Recognition Reception on Thursday, August, 13, 2009 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.) at the Carnelian Room, 555 California Street, San Francisco, CA. Awardees will be recognized for advancing COMTO's goals of providing equal access to careers in transportation and advancing the transportation interests of communities of color.

The cost of the event is \$60 for COMTO members and \$75 for non-members. RSVP by August 6, 2009. Ticket and donation information is available via internet at www.comtonorcal.org. Contact Christina Verdin at 510-817-5869 or by email at comto.norcal@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding contributions. Proceeds from this event will provide scholarships to local minority college students. The 2009 Northern California COMTO Industry Award honorees are:

Lifetime Achievement: *MARY KING*, Assistant General Manager, AC Transit, former member of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and former Alameda County Supervisor, is being recognized for extraordinary leadership in advancing major Bay Area transportation initiatives and being a fearless advocate for those who depend on public transportation.

Special Recognition Award: *BEVAN DUFTY*, Chair of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, and Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, is being recognized for his leadership as the SFCTA Plans and Programs Committee Chair,

advocacy for the development of the SFMTA Third Street Light Rail Project, and role in promoting inclusion of minority businesses enterprises in transportation projects.

Employer of the Year – Public Sector: CALTRANS (California Department of Transportation) is being recognized for instituting the Small Business Program which collectively includes Small, Disabled Veteran and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. Through maximizing outreach efforts and partnering with government and industry agencies, the Small Business Program provides services and resources to remove barriers and increase participation in Caltrans projects.

Employer of the Year – Private Sector: JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP, one of the largest global providers of professional transportation services, Jacobs is being recognized for building a culturally diverse workforce – over 20% of Jacobs managerial workforce are people of color. Jacobs partners with small and disadvantaged businesses to maximize access and expertise, and strongly supports COMTO's scholarship programs.

Employee of the Year: ALBERT YEE, Director, Highway and Arterial Operations, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, is being recognized for extraordinary competence in transportation and commitment to increasing opportunities for minorities. A visionary transportation official, Albert was one of the founders of the Caltrans Highway Operations Academy, nationally renowned for providing training in the Operations field.

Minority Business Enterprise of the Year: MERRIWETHER & WILLIAMS INSURANCE SERVICES is being recognized for its success in developing the SFMTA Third Street Light Rail Surety and Bond & Financing Program, the City & County of San Francisco Surety Bond Program, and the Port of Oakland Surety Bond & Contractor Financing Program, which increased the participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in transportation-related capital projects.

Honorary Co-Hosts for the awards reception include Chairpersons of the Boards of Directors of the Bay Area's preeminent transportation and land use agencies including the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority, the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District, the Port of San Francisco, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, the San Mateo County Transit District, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority, and the Water Emergency Transportation Authority, among others.

About the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO): COMTO is a national, multi-ethnic organization founded in 1971 in Washington, DC to advocate for the transportation careers and transportation needs of minorities. The Northern California Chapter of COMTO was established in 1985 to promote the development of people of color within the transportation industry in the San Francisco Bay Area and the greater Sacramento area. COMTO's membership includes transportation officials from most of the major transportation agencies and transportation-related business sectors in the two aforementioned areas.