



## **Michael R. Kodama**

**Michael Kodama** is Executive Director of Eco-Rapid Transit, a joint powers authority of 13 government agencies. He has worked on transportation planning, policy and funding issues at the local, regional, state and federal level. He is nationally recognized for his work in parking management. Mr. Kodama is a Professor teaching transportation planning at USC and is a graduate of UCLA with a Master Degree in Urban Planning and a Bachelor Degree in Economics and Sociology.

Mr. Kodama is well versed with transit oriented development, teaching the subject for UC Berkeley's Tech Transfer program. While many of his projects are here in Southern California, he has worked on plans and projects throughout the country and in recent years has visited countries in Asian and South America to learn more about how to look at transit oriented development from a variety of perspectives. Among his many accomplishments, he led efforts to create the Central City Neighborhood Partners (CCNP) Community Transportation Plan, which was awarded the 2008 American Planning Association's Planning Excellence Award for Grassroots Initiative.

Eco-Rapid Transit has moved forward working with Metro to plan and build a \$5 billion 20-mile light rail transit project (West Santa Ana Branch) with ridership that will rival any new light rail line in the country. The project recently completed its alternative analysis and is now in the environmental phase of planning. During his time as Executive Director, Eco-Rapid Transit worked with its members to analyze environmental justice issues, develop a transit oriented development guidebook and create a series of station area plans. It created new concepts related to "plane-to-train" and ground access at airports. It has turned a vision into a project.