



TAG CONNECTION

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Expansive Transit Growth in Los Angeles

Helping LACMTA Achieve Success

The Allen Group (TAG) is a Project Management Oversight Contractor (PMOC) for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), providing PMO services to FTA-funded rail and bus transit projects nationwide. TAG Task Order Managers Steve Kappler and Rob Owen are both overseeing projects in the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LACMTA's) multi-billion-dollar capital program, and shared the progress on the ambitious LACMTA projects.

LAX-Crenshaw Light Rail Transit (LRT) Extension

The new 8.5 mile LAX-Crenshaw LRT Extension project is creating a much needed connection to the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The route has eight stations – below ground, at-grade, and aerial level. The project is also

bringing in 22 new rail cars, with more planned for the future.

75 percent of the work is complete, including the tunneling and aerial structures; track work is currently in progress. "This challenging \$2.058 billion project is on budget and on schedule for completion by the end of October 2019," Steve is happy to report, and he adds, "It has been a great team effort." Formerly a Group Manager for the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District, Steve brings 22 years of experience in rail transit, with expertise in design, construction, engineering, and project management.

In addition to numerous technical challenges, the project impacted the bustling communities through which it passed. Steve says, "LACMTA has done a great job of keeping the community informed and addressing the need to maintain the quality of daily life. As a result, the surrounding communities are **Spotlight Cont. on Page 2**

TAG TALK



2017 has come and gone in a flash, but not without achieving milestones and accomplishments for our clients and at The Allen Group.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your contributions to making this another great year for us. I eagerly look forward to what 2018 holds in store.

I am proud that the TAG Internship Program continues to be a resounding success, and has added young professionals with great talent and new perspective to our team. We are introducing a new feature in this issue of **TAG CONNECTION** – *Where Are They Now?* – to follow TAG interns as they finish their studies and embark upon their careers.

I am also proud of our formal mentoring program, which draws from TAG management staff as well as from industry experts and client organizations. In this issue, we introduce two of our mentors, and will continue to do so in subsequent newsletters.

LaVerda, Bianca, and I extend our hearts and best wishes to you and your families for the holidays and New Year.

Schatzje Allen Jefferson



Talk Back: Send your news, views, and ideas to us at TagTalk@the-allen-group.com

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Work is nearly finished on the Aviation/Century Station for the new LAX-Crenshaw LRT Extension Project in Los Angeles County.

CLIENT POINT-OF-VIEW

BART GM Shares Her Thoughts

For more than 26 years, TAG has provided program, project, and construction management services to BART. TAG’s Diann Castleberry, Community Relations Project Manager for BART capital projects, had the chance to sit down and talk with BART General Manager Grace Crunican, who is known as a “trailblazer” in transportation (see her bio on page 3 of this newsletter). Here’s what Diann has to report.

Grace is proud of her career achievements, which she asserts took a good team effort, often working on those things that may not have a big press event at the end. Her numerous accomplishments include: developing policy and system changes; generating appropriation bills, bonds, and legislation to fund projects; streamlining environmental processes while respecting native culture and ecosystems; and creating progressive transportation templates with new policies for bicycles and walking. Grace shared, “I like to climb inside the bureaucracy and do things that generally aren’t thought about.”

Grace recognizes that the San Francisco Bay Area and customers that BART serves represent a very diverse population that should be reflected at BART. She believes that opportunities for jobs and contracts should go to qualified and active contractors in the Bay Area, and says, “I think my job is to provide the opportunity and to allow all firms in. The Allen Group is an example of a firm that has been in the construction management business for a while. It has a group of folks who demonstrate that they understand our [BART’s] business and what we are trying to accomplish. From my observation, they come in and dig in with the project to meet goals that BART sets forward. They have done a good job figuring out where we are trying to go, and helping us get there.”

Crunican is hopeful for a great 2018 with everyone coming together to tackle “the homeless and cleanliness

issue, reduce fare evasion, implement Measure RR initiatives for BART system improvements, and open the BART Silicon Valley/Berryessa and Antioch extensions. . . .” And the list goes on – with no better person than this transportation trailblazer to lead the way to success!

Grace Crunican became BART’s 9th General Manager in 2011. She oversees 3,500+ employees and more than \$30 billion of transportation infrastructure.



Grace Crunican displays BART’s “Fleet of the Future”.

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welcoming the project with open arms; residents and small business owners look forward to the betterment of their community.”

P3010 Light Rail Vehicle Procurement

Approved in 2010, the P3010 Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) Procurement Project involves the design, manufacture, and delivery of 235 LRVs to serve new LACMTA transit projects, including the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor and Regional Connector projects. Rob reports that 100 of the 235 LRVs are currently in service. He notes that “LACMTA customers are pleased with the additional amount of trains available as well as with the comfortable seats, colorful interiors, and exceptional lighting.” The three-phase project is expected to be completed in August of 2020.

Rob has more than 35 years of experience managing major railway

and transit projects, including expertise in the engineering, procurement, and manufacture of vehicles. In addition to his current oversight role for the P3010 Project, he has supported delivery of system upgrades and new systems



A new P3010 LRV on the Blue Line stops at a station in Downtown L.A.

for BART, New Jersey Transit, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and London Underground, among others.

Rob has played a key role in supporting the LACMTA project team. In 2014, he became the first FTA PMOC to be asked to travel overseas to inspect vehicle manufacturer Kinkisharyo’s facilities in Osaka, Japan, and to witness the manufacturing process. He has also been instrumental in observing operations in Kinkisharyo’s facilities in Palmdale, California, where final assembly is taking place.

“When I first started work on the project, the LACMTA Project Management Team was relatively inexperienced in vehicle procurement. It has been a pleasure sharing my experience with them and contributing to the Project’s success”

WORKING CONNECTIONS

Leveraging Insight and Knowledge

Introducing TAG Mentors

On September 28, members of TAG's Career Path Program joined their assigned mentors at a mixer to kick off the formal Mentoring Program. The program pairs new hires and young professionals with seasoned industry experts, drawn from TAG senior management staff, as well as from client organizations – giving CPP participants extraordinary access to thought leadership and practical insights in their areas of interest. Read on to learn more about mentors featured in this issue.

Grace Crunican • BART General Manager



Grace Crunican understands the value that mentors have in helping shape a successful career. As a mentor to TAG Senior Vice President of Administration Bianca Mallory, Grace has shared

her thoughts and wisdom on developing leadership and management skills, among other topics.

32 years ago Grace began her career in transportation when she was hired by the Presidential Intern Program for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Prior to joining BART as GM in 2011, she served as Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation, Director of the Oregon Department of Transportation, and as a Deputy Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration.

Grace has been a recognized force in shaping public policy related to transportation issues. In 2015, she co-authored *Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom*, which details the rise of 18 pioneering women in transportation.

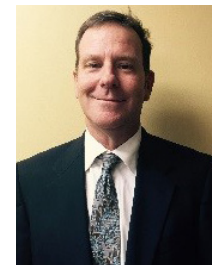
With regard to what she has learned from Grace, Bianca says, “Grace is a great mentor because she doesn’t sugar coat things, and is able to get you comfortable to discuss the tough questions you should ask yourself. In our initial meeting she shared some wisdom that was very clear and stuck with me: ‘You should be passionate about what you do in your career and don’t be afraid to ask yourself challenging questions.’ This advice has motivated me in my choices.”



Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom details the rise of women in transportation by telling their stories in their words. Want to learn more?

Get a copy at:
<http://amzn.to/2ev9imD>

Steve Kappler • TAG Senior PM



Steve Kappler is a TAG Senior Project Manager assigned as a Task Order Manager on the LAX-Crenshaw LRT Extension project (see Project Spotlight on p. 1). As a mentor,

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SUCCESS FACTORS

Where Are They Now?

An Update on TAG Interns

In 2016, Amir Hashemi joined TAG as an engineering intern on the Hayward Maintenance Complex (HMC) project. He subsequently graduated and is now Office Engineer on HMC. Amir shares his thoughts about how the TAG internship program prepared him for his career.

“I first learned about TAG through the Donald R. Watson Seminar in Construction Engineering and Management at Stanford. I was intrigued by the people and the story behind the company, and I wanted to intern at TAG.

The skills that I learned as an intern couldn’t be gained without first-hand experience, as you don’t learn them at school. The ability to work



Amir Hashemi went from Intern to OE

closely with a professional team of engineers on a complex project was

invaluable. In particular, Project Manager Benga Olayomi helped me understand the dynamics of a large construction project, whether inside the office, on the job site, or within the owner’s organization. I was also able to improve my communication skills on the HMC project, where there are multiple participants, and a common understanding of project objectives is imperative to achieving success.

The internship experience made my transition to full-time employee and Office Engineer on the HMC project surprisingly easy. A few weeks into my employment I started working on critical tasks that as an intern I had just observed. One of the other unexpected highlights of the internship was TAG’s Career Path Program, which offered a variety of fun, social, and networking activities with other TAG interns and young professionals.”

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He brings a wealth of knowledge to share with Nick Houchin, Resident Engineer on the BART Pleasant Hill Station Parking Structure Elevator Modernization Project.

Steve has 35 years of experience in the engineering-construction industry, with a primary focus on project management of rail transit projects. After attaining a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an M.S. in Construction Engineering and Management, he cut his teeth as a civil engineer on what was then the biggest project the City of Oakland had ever undertaken: the Oakland Convention Center.

Prior to joining TAG 4 years ago, Steve spent 22 years at BART, where he served as a Group Manager overseeing capital expansion and improvement projects ranging from \$1 million to \$1.5 billion. With a solid combination of planning, engineering, procurement, and project management experience under his belt, Steve enjoys supporting Nick in navigating through the demands and challenges of project management. “What makes Steve a great mentor is his willingness to get to know you as a person and what your ambitions are in life outside of work,” Nick shares. “Obviously, having a vast background in engineering projects like Steve does is very valuable, but what’s going on outside of work can often be the biggest factor in what your 5 and 10-year plans look like.”

LGBTQ Business Group Honors TAG Founder

On October 5, the Golden Gate Business Association (GGBA) – an LGBTQ business advocate organization – in collaboration with the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and the Sacramento and Silicon Valley Rainbow Chambers of Commerce, held a reception to honor BART Directors for a change they made to BART’s Small Business Program. They revised a procurement policy to add LGBTQ small businesses into the existing program, which gives a 5 percent bid preference to minority small businesses.

BART District 9 Director Bevan Dufty and GGBA Vice President Paul Pendergast were also on hand to recognize TAG CEO and Founder LaVerda O. Allen “for her tireless advocacy of small, woman-owned, and LGBTQ businesses.” In accepting the honor, LaVerda encouraged small and minority businesses to build bridges and work collaboratively.



BART Director Bevan Dufty poses with TAG Founder LaVerda Allen and GGBA Vice President Paul Pendergast.

NEWS & NOTES

TAG NEW HIRES

- Jean Carlos Moreno**
Field Engineer
SFO LTPG No. 2
Jean Carlos graduated with a B.S. in Landscape Architecture from UC Davis. He currently serves as a Field Engineer on the SFO Long Term Parking Garage No. 2 Project.
- Leamon Abrams**
Director of Community Relations
TAG SF Office
Leamon graduated with a B.S. in Political Science from UC Berkeley and an M.A. in City & Regional Planning from Harvard University. After serving in senior-level public and private sector positions, he rejoins The Allen Group as Director of Community Relations.

TAG BIRTHDAYS THIS QUARTER



- AUGUST**
 - Wesley White**, BART Hayward Maintenance Complex, Phase 1
 - Rahul Joshi**, SFO CALM Program
 - Thomas Aguilar**, BART Escalator Rehabilitation
 - Steve Kappler**, FTA PMOC, LAX-Crenshaw LRT Extension
 - Phil Adams**, FTA PMOC, Milwaukee Streetcar
 - Anthony Bernheim**, SFO Terminal 1 Redevelopment
- SEPTEMBER**
 - Kenny Smith**, SFO Long Term Parking Garage No. 2
- OCTOBER**
 - Schatzie Allen-Jefferson**, TAG San Francisco Office
 - Diann Castleberry**, BART On-Call Community Relations
 - Carl Lewis**, SFO REACH Program
 - Nivya Sannareddy**, SFO ATCT Demolition
- NOVEMBER**
 - Nikiya Crisostomo**, BART Measure RR
 - Peter Ross**, SFO Long Term Parking Garage No. 2
 - Jonathan Lockwood**, SFO ATCT Demolition
 - Luis Paez**, BART Escalator Rehabilitation

Join us for
The Allen Group, LLC
Post-Holiday Party

Friday, January 26, 2017
5:30 pm
W San Francisco
181 3rd Street, SF, CA 94103

Please RSVP through the Save the Date email or directly with Bianca Grogan at biancag@the-allen-group.com