

Michael A. Winter
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Currently, Michael A. Winter serves as a Senior Program Analyst in the International Research Office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). His area of expertise is international transportation accessibility issues and their role in facilitating independent living.

Michael Winter communicates with delegations and individuals from around the world and shares his breadth of knowledge regarding American transportation accessibility and seeks to gain insight from other countries and systems. He has previously worked extensively with Japan, Vietnam, South Korea, France, and the Netherlands on their systems and is forging new alliances with Europe on their surface transportation systems. He has extensively researched the European Commission's efforts to develop accessibility standards for much of Europe. Michael Winter has also attended Disabled People's International (DPI) Conferences in Japan, Mexico and South Korea and plans to remain active in DPI and in the issues of people with disabilities around the world for years to come. Currently, he is on the Steering Committee of the 13th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED 2012) which will be taking place in New Delhi, India in June 2012. This conference, hosted every three years, concentrates on accessible transportation throughout the world. Most recently, Michael served on the Obama Presidential Transition Team for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Michael has a diverse background in the fields of transportation and civil rights. He served as Director of FTA's Office of Civil Rights from November 5, 2001 to January 9, 2008. This office is responsible for the full range of Federal civil rights responsibilities as they apply to the Federal transit assistance program, including those under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Environmental Justice issues.

From June 1997 until January 2000, he served as the FTA's Associate Administrator for Budget and Policy. In addition to serving as the agency's Chief Financial Officer, he was responsible for managing the overall accounting, financial systems, budget development, policy development, and strategic planning functions of the entire agency. He also oversaw the development of new regulations governing how proposed major transit investments are evaluated and rated for purposes of Federal investment decisions.

From 1994 to June 1997, he served as Special Assistant to the Associate Deputy Secretary and Director of the Office of Intermodalism, within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. As Special Assistant, Michael was responsible for researching and advising the Associate Deputy Secretary on matters involving the operations and interconnections among the various modes of transportation and their respective agencies within the Department. These included analysis of the operations and interconnections of the various modes of transportation and their respective agencies within the Department, and the development of amendments to Departmental regulations implementing the Air Carrier Access Act.

From 1988 through 1994, Michael served as an elected member of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) Board of Directors, where he chaired the finance committee for four out of his six years of service. AC Transit, which serves the San Francisco Bay Area, is one of the 30 largest transit agencies in the country.

Michael also held the position of Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living (CIL) in Berkeley, California for approximately 12 years, for which he was presented with an award from the Non-Profit

Management Center for making the Center for Independent Living the best non-profit organization within the nine-county San Francisco Bay area. He has also directed the CIL in Honolulu.

Born and raised in Chicago, Michael earned his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University. He also pursued postgraduate study at the University of San Francisco's McLaren Business School. He lives in Arlington, VA, with his wife, Atsuko Kuwana, and their son.