



**Press Release**

***RTA Receives “Special Recognition for Extraordinary Recovery” Award  
Public Private Partnership with Veolia Transportation Helped Garner Recognition***

**New Orleans – October 2, 2011.** The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) will honor the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in New Orleans during the **APTA Annual Conference and EXPO 2011**, being held in the city from October 2–5. The agency will receive the **“Special Recognition for Extraordinary Recovery” Award**. This award recognizes the agency for its extraordinary efforts following the great adversity it faced in the years following Hurricane Katrina. The RTA is the first public transportation agency to receive this award in APTA history.

Specific to the award, APTA is recognizing the city’s amazing recovery and transformation of the transportation system achieved by the RTA, and its contribution to the economic renewal of New Orleans. The RTA has spent the time since Katrina rebuilding the system and the city.

In 2008, the RTA Board of Commissioners contracted with Veolia Transportation Services, Inc., under a public private partnership to operate the agency, bringing managerial expertise, technology, processes, and help in securing new funds for the system. Since the rebuilding effort began the RTA has been a trailblazer deploying a completely new fleet, revising bus routes, improving passenger information, installing automated ticket vending machines, adding GPS technology, and launching a new state-of-the-art passenger website. RTA has also achieved a dramatic 53% decrease in accidents from 2008 to 2010, and improved miles between vehicle failures by over 300%. Customer satisfaction is up dramatically, while complaints are down 66%.

RTA has also been critical to stimulating economic recovery in the city. The agency secured a \$45 million TIGER Grant, and a successful \$75 million bond issuance for streetcar expansion. The Loyola Avenue expansion is currently underway and has already attracted \$1.1 billion in transit-oriented development to this business corridor. The highly anticipated French Quarter expansion is in the development phases and is expected to revitalize this primarily residential corridor of the city.

The selection committee for the award included the APTA Board and members of the transit community following a complex application process. The award will be presented on October 2, 2011 at the APTA Conference and EXPO 2011 that is expected to draw more than 15,000 transit professionals from around the world to the City of New Orleans during the first week of October.

The RTA acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of Veolia Transportation Services, Inc. whose management of the day-to-day operations of the agency under contract to the RTA Board of Commissioners has contributed significantly to the progress that has been achieved.

For more information contact the RTA visiting [www.norta.com](http://www.norta.com).

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### **About Veolia Transportation**

Based in Lombard, IL, Veolia Transportation is the largest private-sector operator of multiple modes of transit in North America, including bus, rail, paratransit, shuttle, and sedan and taxi services, via its Transit, Rail and On-Demand Divisions. Veolia Transportation is committed to setting the standard in safe and sustainable mobility solutions through partnerships with cities and transit authorities.

The company is part of the Veolia Environnement companies in North America, with 30,000 North American employees, providing sustainable environmental solutions in water management, waste services, energy management, and passenger transportation.

### **About Veolia Transdev**

Born out of the merger of Veolia Transport and Transdev, subsidiary of Veolia Environment and Caisse des Dépôts, Veolia Transdev is the leading global privately-owned company in sustainable multi-modal mobility. Veolia Transdev works with regional and local authorities in the provision of public transport networks from pre-planning stages through to daily operation – including project management and design. With 119,000 staff across 27 countries, the group operates 60,000 vehicles and 26 light rail networks.

In 2010 combined turnover was 6.4 billion dollars - Veolia Transport with 3.4 billion dollars and Transdev with 1.75 billion dollars.

[www.veoliatransdev.com](http://www.veoliatransdev.com)

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