



**Nuria Fernandez**  
**General Manager and CEO**  
**Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority**

With more than 35 years of experience, Nuria Fernandez has made a name for herself as an inspiring leader in the transportation industry. As the General Manager and CEO of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), she is responsible for 2100 employees, delivering projects, programs, and transit services that provide mobility solutions for more than two million people who live and work in Silicon Valley.

Among the highlights of her tenure at VTA is the construction of the \$7 Billion extension of the heavy rail service, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) into Silicon Valley. When completed in 2026, the two-part project, including 16 miles of rail and 6 new stations, will provide transit alternatives for tens of thousands of commuters to Silicon Valley. The first two stations, Phase I of the project, are slated to begin passenger service at the end of 2019.

Fernandez is also responsible for the creation of VTA's "Innovation Center," an incubator to encourage collaboration, test the latest technology, and imagine new ways to keep the valley moving forward by leveraging the expertise of Silicon Valley's high-tech corporations and universities.

Prior to leading VTA, Fernandez served in leadership positions at some of the busiest transit agencies in America, including Chief Operating Officer of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and Sr. Vice President of Design and Construction for the Chicago Transit Authority and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, consecutively. She also served as Commissioner for the Chicago Department of Aviation, overseeing O'Hare and Midway Airports.

Fernandez was appointed Acting Federal Transit Administrator by President Bill Clinton, where she enabled the administration of more than a billion dollars in annual grant funding to local communities for planning, design, and construction of new and expanding rail and bus systems.

Having served as Vice Chair of the American Public Transportation Association throughout 2019, Fernandez will ascend to the position of Chair in October 2019 for the following year.

Fernandez was born and raised in Panama City, Panama, immigrating to the U.S. to pursue her bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and Master of Business Administration.