Gary C. Thomas
President/Executive Director

Gary C. Thomas is president/executive director of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). DART's Board of Directors named him to that position August 3, 2001. As president/executive director, Thomas is responsible for a 13-city transit system over a 700-square mile area with bus, light rail, commuter rail, paratransit and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane services. He administers the goals and policies of the DART Board of Directors, including the largest public transit expansion in North America. He also directs the agency's top managers and approximately 3,300 employees, emphasizing a strong customer focus to ensure that transit riders and taxpayers receive the best transit service available. He works closely with member city governments and the public in developing short- and long-term transportation and mobility goals.

Prior to his selection as president/executive director, Thomas was senior vice president of Project Management for DART, overseeing the design and construction of all of DART's major capital projects, including DART's light rail system. His responsibilities in that position included real estate right-of-way acquisition; oversight of the design and construction management performed by DART's General Engineering Consultant; design and installation of systems for communication and signals for the light rail; construction of the light rail system and bus facilities; and manufacture of the light rail cars.

Thomas joined DART in November 1998. Previously, he had led DART's General Engineering Consultant's design of the original light rail system as LAN Program Manager from 1996 until 1998. He was a consulting engineer for 19 years prior to joining DART. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor of Architecture from Texas Tech University.

Victor H. Burke
Executive Vice President, Operations

As the leader of the largest unit within Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Victor Burke has been a key force in DART's rapid expansion into one of the nation's top transit agencies. Burke has spent a decade with DART, more than half of that with the responsibility for all bus, paratransit and light rail operations, the maintenance of all facilities to support these services, the security of all passengers and employees, procurement and inventory control and administrative services.

Burke reports directly to the President/Executive Director and serves as a chief liaison with the DART Board, member cities and the public. A U.S. Marine and Air Force veteran, Burke has major experience in military procurement and contracts. As a member of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), he is responsible for the Maintenance, Paratransit Services, Transportation, Materials Management, Operations Technology, and Transit Police Departments.

Ben Gomez
Executive Vice President, Administration

Ben Gomez oversees DART's human resource and risk management functions, which includes employment, compensation, benefits, employee relations, professional training, and commercial insurance, claims and safety programs. He also oversees employment outreach programs working with area chambers and educational institutions. As the chief management official, he is responsible for ‘meet and confer’ sessions with employee unions and association. As a member of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), he is responsible for the Administrative Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Marketing and Communications Departments.
Wayne Friesner  
Vice President of Commuter Rail and Railroad Management

As Vice President, Commuter Rail and Railroad Management, Friesner functions as the Director of the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) - a joint commuter rail service of DART and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority - and is responsible for DART’s railroad right of way that is not part of the DART light rail network. DART owns more than 250 miles of railroad right of way throughout the north Texas region.

Friesner has been involved with the TRE since 2000, starting as a Contract Administrator. An attorney by training, he previously worked in the Office of the General Counsel at DART. He has also worked at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), and in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U. S. Army.

James Spiller named Chief of DART Police

DART has named James Spiller Chief of the DART Police Department. He succeeds Chief Juan Rodriquez, who retired June 30 after joining the DART Police Department as its first officer in 1989.

Spiller served as Deputy Chief since 2001 when he joined the transit agency following a 27-year career in the U.S. Air Force. In his final Air Force posting, he served as director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

His training and education includes graduation from the prestigious Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, as well as a Master of Science degree in criminal justice administration from Central Missouri State University. As Chief of Police, Spiller will direct the overall functioning and operation of transit police activities, and develop and administer implementation of transit police programs including law enforcement, security, crime prevention and training.

DART Police officers are licensed peace officers of the State of Texas with all the rights, privileges, obligations, and duties of peace
officers in the state, which means that DART Police officers have the power of arrest, serving arrest warrants, issuing citations, search and seizure, and filing criminal charges. DART Police officers are special-purpose peace officers created by the Texas Legislature whose purpose is to safeguard DART, its customers, and employees by providing police services on the transit system.

Jerry Franklin
Vice President, Economic Opportunity and Government Relations

As Vice President, Economic Opportunity and Government Relations, Franklin serves in a variety of roles as representative and extension for the President/Executive Director in areas and activities where his presence is needed including the Agency’s strategic initiatives. Franklin directs and oversees the investigation of issues submitted to the Executive Office while serving as DART’s Ethics Officer.

He previously served as the Interim Vice President for Procurement for DART where he directed and oversaw the contract award, management, and associated administration processes. Supervised the management of all construction contracts; the procurement of supplies, services, and professional services; ensured contracts and purchases were conducted and administered in accordance with the DART Procurement Regulations.

Sharon Leary
Vice President, Finance

Leary joined DART as director of internal audit in May 1998. A certified public accountant and certified internal auditor, Leary previously served as head of the audit department at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas for more than nine years. She holds an accounting degree from Southwest Texas State University.

Hyattye O. Simmons
General Counsel

DART attorney Hyattye O. Simmons has been named General Counsel by the Board of Directors. In his 19 years at DART, Simmons has been involved in a wide variety of legal matters with an emphasis on defense of litigation against DART. Before joining DART in 1998, he was a Dallas Assistant City Attorney and served as General Counsel to the Texas Secretary of State. He is a graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont and The University of Texas School of Law.
Lynda Jackson Named DART Vice President of Human Resources

Dallas Area Rapid Transit has promoted Lynda Jackson to Vice President of Human Resources.

Previously, she served as Assistant Vice President, managing the department’s recruiting and compensation sections. A professional in human relations since her graduation from Lamar University in 1987, Jackson started her transit career in 1993 with Capital Metro in Austin, heading the Risk Management Department.

She joined DART in 1995, serving as Manager for Employee Labor Relations and Training and Development and later assuming management responsibilities for recruiting and compensation. She is in her second year at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law.

Albert J. Bazis
Director Of Internal Audit

Al Bazis reports directly to the Audit Committee of the Board Of Directors. He is responsible for developing a risk based audit plan and the execution of the plan through a staff of professional auditors. The audits analyze business objectives, risks to the achievement of the objectives, and control processes in place to mitigate those risks. Audits are also done to determine the reasonableness of incurred costs allocated to DART by contractors. The objective of the work of the Internal Audit Department is to assist in the monitoring process and to provide management and the Audit Committee with reasonable assurance that business objectives can be met and that steps are taken to enhance the control process when needed.

Michael C. Hubbell
Vice President, Maintenance

Mike Hubbell directs DART’s second largest and most diverse department, employing some 640 skilled, non-skilled, professional, management and support staff. His department is responsible for maintenance of all DART-operated vehicles, operating facilities, transit centers, passenger shelters and stops, and light rail systems, stations and right-of-way. Hubbell’s team is also responsible for providing technical training to maintenance employees, managing facility reconstruction and rehabilitation and developing specifications for vehicles, components and consumable products. He reports to the Executive Vice President, Operations.

Sue Bauman
Vice President of Marketing and Communications

Sue Bauman directs DART’s Government/Community Relations, Marketing and Communications areas, which together are responsible for customer assistance operations, advertising, sales, publications and community and educational outreach programs. She also oversees DART’s ridesharing services to major employers and institutions throughout the agency’s 13-member service area. As the agency’s chief communicator, she is responsible for the development of an annual communications plan and key strategic messages for the agency.
Nancy K. Johnson  
Director of the Office of Board Support

Nancy Johnson is the primary liaison and coordinator between staff and the DART Board of Directors, responsible for coordination of committee and Board meetings, special projects, workshops and retreats, accumulation and preparation of Board mail-out materials, coordination of the Board agenda process and maintenance of official Board records. She also serves as secretary to the Trial Board and as the administrative law judge.

Doug Douglas  
Vice President of Paratransit Services

Doug Douglas, a veteran of over 16 years, directs the provision of accessible public transportation services for persons with disabilities who are unable in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Public transportation is provided by full-size lift-equipped vans and sedans for persons who are eligible based on ADA criteria. Transportation is provided by ATC/Vancom. The vice president also directs the activities of DART’s Travel Training Program, which provides one-on-one instruction to persons with disabilities on the use of fixed route services; the Reduced Bus Fare Program for persons with disabilities; and a segment of the DART On Call Service.

John Adler  
Vice President, Procurement

John Adler joined DART in November 2006 following 30 years of service with the State of Arizona as a contract administrator, procurement officer and buyer for various agencies. He is a Certified Public Procurement Officer and a Certified Instructor for the National Institute of Governmental Procurement. He has served as Vice President, Universal Public Procurement Certification Council and as President of the National Association of State Procurement Officials and the Arizona Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Procurement. He is the author of a procurement textbook, “Capital Acquisitions,” along with numerous articles on government contracting and procurement and is a speaker at public procurement workshops.

DART’s Procurement Department oversees the award and management of DART construction, services and commodity contracts. With responsibility for four divisions -- Contracting Cost/Pricing and Policy, Purchasing Administration and Support, Commodities and Services, and Project Contracts and Miscellaneous Construction -- Adler not only oversees the contract award process, but also ensures all contracts and purchases are
conducted and administered in accordance with DART’s procurement regulations and in compliance with all applicable statutes.

Timothy H. McKay, P.E.
Senior Vice President, Rail Program Development

Timothy H. McKay, a professional engineer who began serving DART as a consultant in 1987, directs the Rail Program Development department and reports to the President/Executive Director. As DART continues one of America’s largest light rail expansions, his department is responsible for more than 150 projects encompassing all major capital projects design and construction efforts, including light rail, bus facilities and rail vehicles. He is also the management liaison for the Board’s Project Management Committee for departmental matters.

The Commuter Rail and Railroad Management Department is also part of Rail Program Development. Divisions reporting to Rail Program Development include Facilities Engineering, Construction Management, Systems Engineering, Technical Services and Real Estate. In addition to these five divisions, the DART Manager for Quality Assurance also reports to the Senior Vice President. McKay's involvement with DART began when he was with Professional Service Industries, Inc. and continued when he joined Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.

Frank E. Jennings
Vice President of Transportation

Responsibilities
Frank Jennings directs DART’s largest single department, which employs more than 1,300 bus and rail operators, supervisors and support staff. A veteran transit executive whose industry experience began as a bus operator in 1968, he is responsible for the operations and administration of the agency's bus, light rail and special events services and reports to the Executive Vice President, Operations.