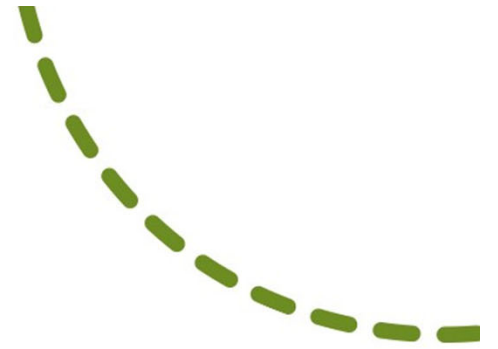
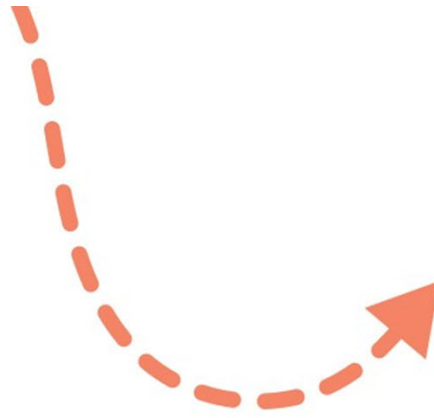
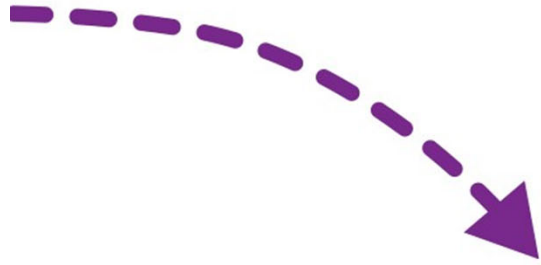
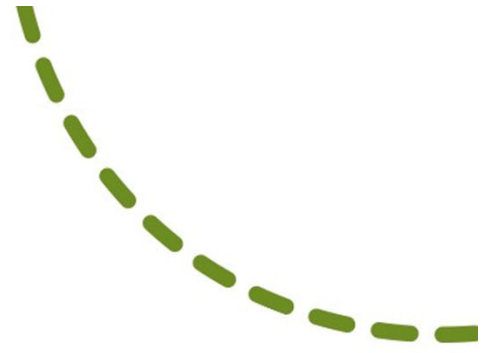
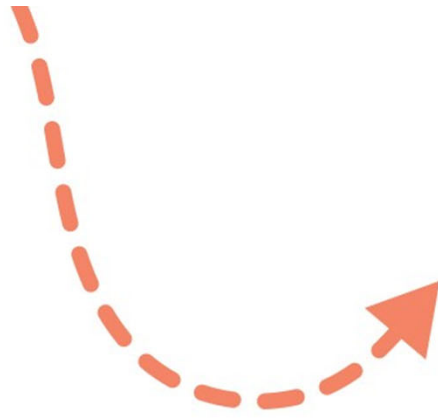
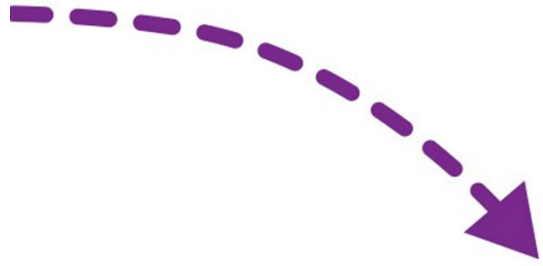


**External/Stakeholder Relations  
Committee  
March 9, 2020  
Presentations**



**access**



**Item 3**  
**Legislative Program Overview**



**access**



# Goals of the Program



- To educate stakeholders, elected officials, their staff and advocates about Access
- Advocate for policies that benefit Access Services and its customers
- Address constituent concerns as needed
- Establish and maintain a positive relationship and open line of communication with stakeholders and elected officials

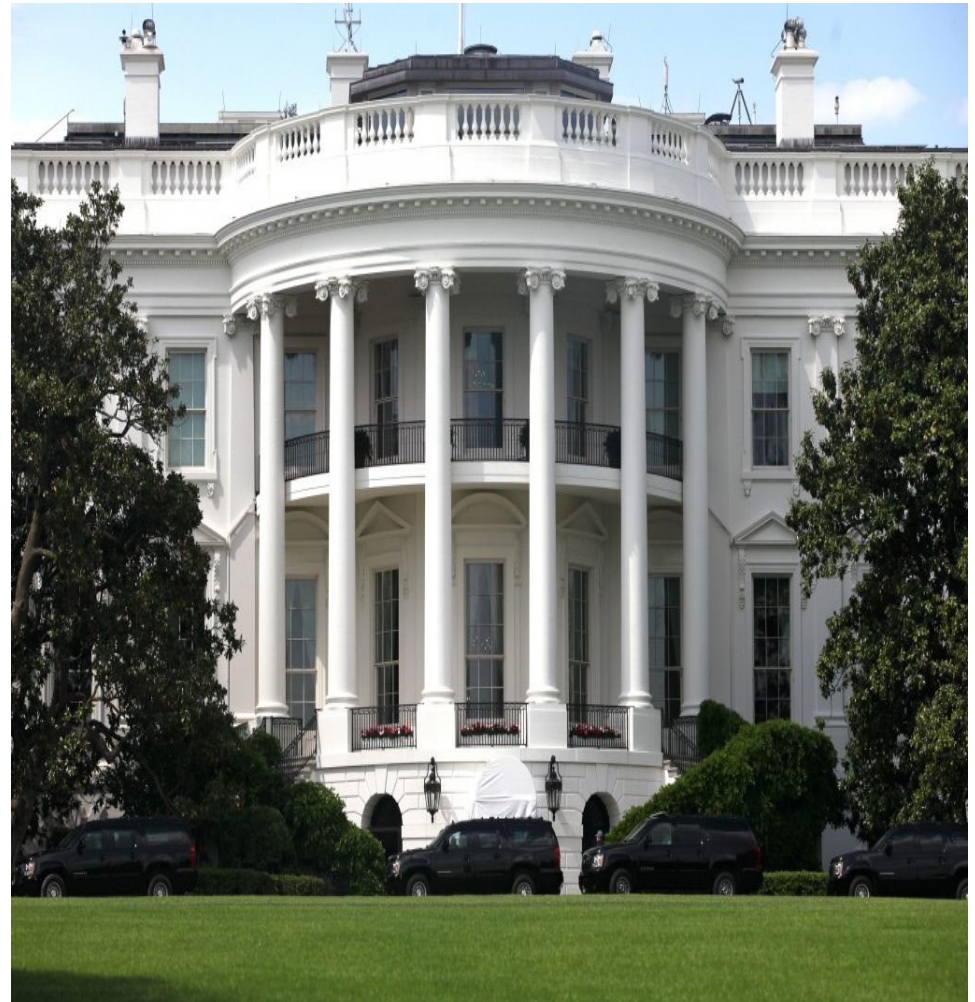
**access**



# Federal Legislative Program

Our audience includes:

- Federal elected officials
- Federal Transit Administration
- House and Senate Committee staff



access

# Federal advocate: Simon & Company



- Simon and Company is a Washington, D.C. based firm that provides federal affairs and legislative assistance to mainly public agency clients.
- Simon & Company has represented Access for more than a decade. Simon & Company has developed an expertise and understanding of the issues facing Access Services and paratransit agencies in general.
- Ms. Jen Covino is the current President and our primary contact.

**access**



# Key Issues



- Monitor and track all legislation (e.g. Reauthorization) and regulations that may affect Access' funding, administration, and/or operations.
- Proactively seek additional funding and consistency in regulations.
- Oppose legislation or regulatory proposals that would significantly expand the requirements of ADA transportation without providing necessary funding.
- Meet with elected officials and staff in Washington, DC to discuss Access initiatives, and work constructively with FTA officials.

**access**

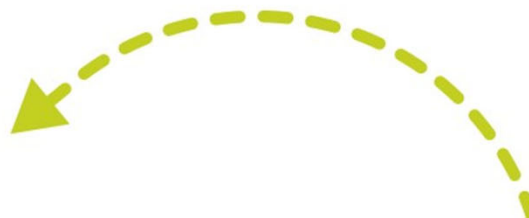


# Advocacy Efforts



- In 2007, Simon and Company was instrumental in helping Access receive its first federal earmark. The \$735,000 grant was used to help integrate Access into the regional Transit Access Pass (TAP) program.
- Simon helped Access work with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to allow Access to purchase Smartdrive cameras off the federal bid list, which saved the agency a significant amount of money and resources.
- Simon helped Access work with its legislative delegation to insert language in the 2015 FAST Act that allowed Access to keep its coordinated fare system.
- Simon and Company continues to assist staff with funding opportunities as they become available through various federal agencies.

**access**



# State Legislative Program

Our audience includes:

- State legislators, legislative staff, and state agencies
- Senators and Assembly Members representing Los Angeles County



**access**

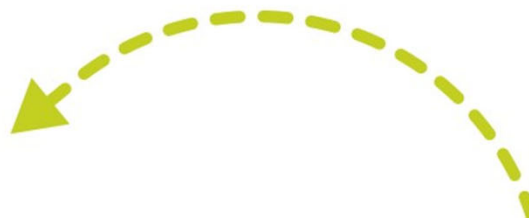


# State Advocate: Gonsalves & Son



- Gonsalves and Son is a Sacramento-based lobbying firm.
- Gonsalves & Son was founded by former Assemblyman Joe A. Gonsalves in 1975. The firm is led by Anthony Gonsalves and includes his two sons Jason Gonsalves and Paul Gonsalves.
- Gonsalves & Son has over 50 years of legislative experience and represents more cities than any other California lobbying firm.
- Access has worked with Gonsalves for over 10 years.

**access**



# Key Issues

- Represent Access in Sacramento with elected representatives, key staff members, state agencies.
- Execute Access' advocacy efforts, including communication with legislative and other governmental officials for the purpose of influencing legislation or administrative action.
- Obtain support from elected officials for Access grant applications.
- Attend and provide testimony on behalf of Access in legislative committee hearings.
- Monitor and track all legislation and regulations that may affect Access' funding and/or operations.

**access**



# Advocacy Efforts



- In 2019, Gonsalves worked with staff to draft and distribute a letter outlining the effects of Assembly Bill 5 on its taxi subcontractors and asking that the taxi industry be exempted from the legislation.
- In 2018, Gonsalves coordinated a meeting with Department of Health Care Services to seek clarification on regulations governing the reimbursement of Medi-Cal transportation. The meeting helped Access staff develop a strategy to pursue reimbursement, which could generate significant monies for the agency.
- Gonsalves has passed several bills related to Access, including legislation clarifying that Access is a public entity.

**access**

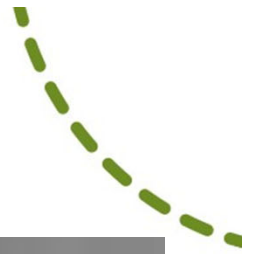


# Local Legislative Program

Our audience includes:

- City/County of Los Angeles
  - Mayor's Office
  - Councilmembers
  - L.A. County Board of Supervisors
- Metro Board and staff
- City & County Commission on Disability
- Member Agency Cities
- ILCs and regional centers

**access**

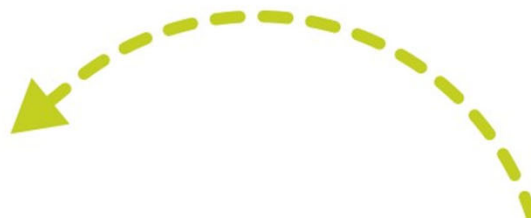


# Local Advocate: David Gershwin Consulting



- David Gershwin has two decades of experience working in L.A. city politics and local government.
- He served as Chief of Staff to current Mayor Eric Garcetti when the Mayor served as the President of the Los Angeles City Council.
- Before working with Mayor Garcetti, Mr. Gershwin served as Communications Director for then Council President Alex Padilla.

**access**



# Key Issues

- Ensure adequate regional funding for paratransit service
- Inform elected officials and stakeholders about the provision of ADA paratransit in L.A. County
- Address constituents concerns as needed
- Inform stakeholders about Access projects and initiatives, including autonomous vehicles
- Assist with Access' internal and external communications, including media relations

**access**



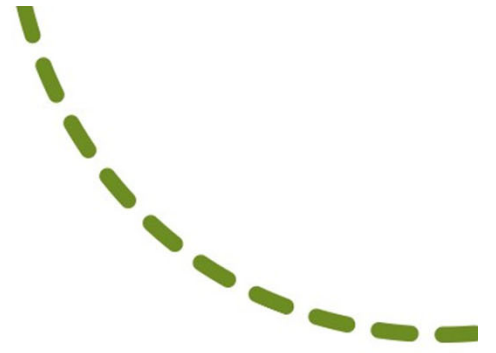
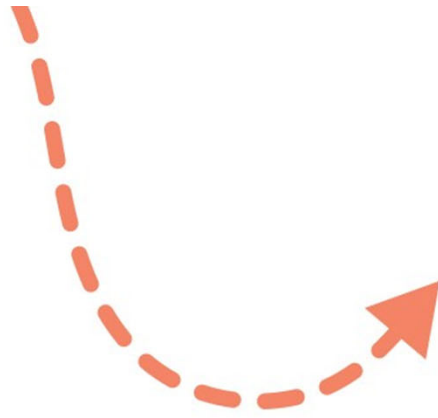
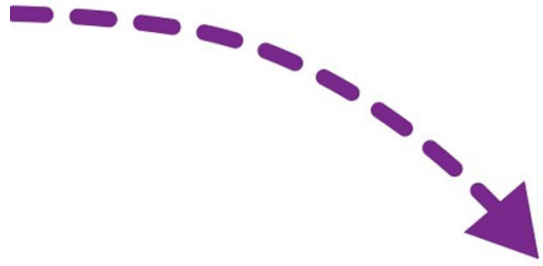
# Advocacy Efforts



- There are numerous occasions where Mr. Gershwin has helped Access staff work with local political offices and other entities on issues related to Access' operations.
- Mr. Gershwin has helped raise Access' profile and established a positive dialogue with Mayor Garcetti's office and the offices of Los Angeles Councilmembers and other elected officials.
- He is on call in the event of emergencies and has assisted staff with media relations.

**access**





**Item 4  
Assembly Bill 5 (AB 5)  
Update**



**access**





# Background

- New state law modifies who should be considered an employee versus an independent contractor
- Could require many taxi drivers to be classified as employees
- This would significantly impact Access as roughly 50% of Agency trips are performed by taxis
  - Potentially reduce the availability of taxis
  - Significantly increase the cost of delivering service for the region

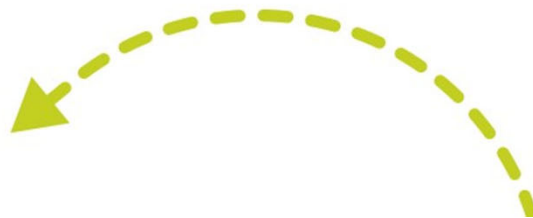
access

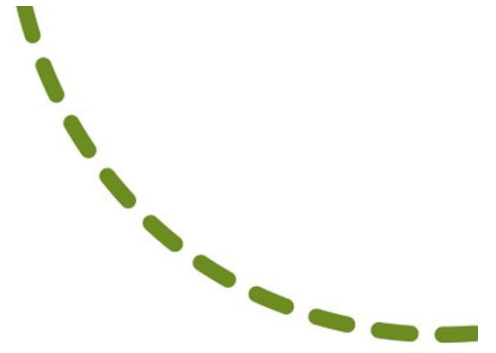
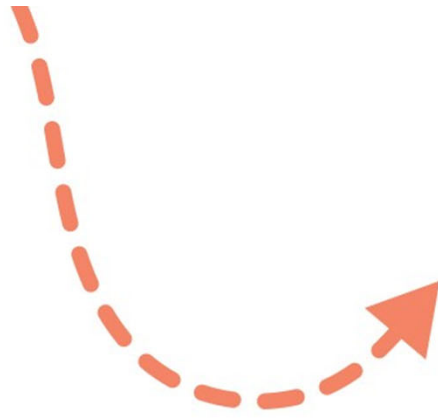
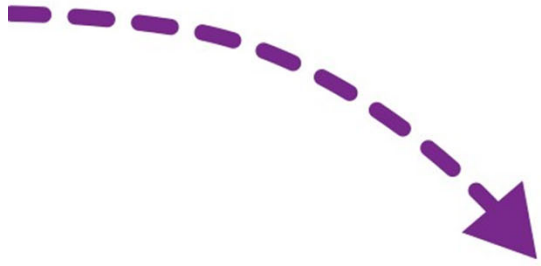


# AB 5 Status

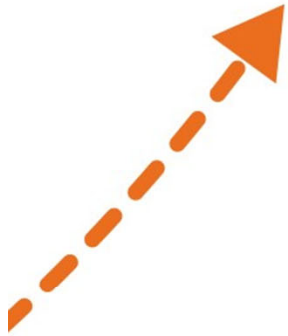
- Taxi operators are seeking an exemption from the law
- Access is working in coordination with Metro's government affairs staff to support this effort and has submitted a letter of support
- Access has commissioned a study to determine the cost impacts on its operations from AB 5
- There are no immediate impacts to Access' operations or budget

**access**





**Item 5  
Grants Update**



**access**



# Current



## Allocated

- FHWA Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) (\$70.9M)
- FTA Section 5310 - Capital (\$10.1M)

## Competitive

- FTA Section 5316 - Access to Work Program (\$4.5M)
- FTA Section 5317 - Out of Service Area (\$958k)

**access**



# Recently Awarded



## Allocated

- Metro Transfer Trip Expansion (\$238k)

## Competitive

- Metro Expresslanes Net Toll Revenue Grant (\$1.13M)
- FTA Transit Bus Automation Strategic Partnership (\$120k)

**access**



# Applied



- FHWA Automated Driving System Demonstration - requested \$10M (AV pilot program)
- FTA Integrated Mobility Innovation - requested \$3.5M (AV pilot program)
- FTA Mobility for All - requested \$350k (Where's My Ride App)

access



# Pending



- USDOT BUILD - request \$10M for AV pilot project
- CA Volkswagen Mitigation Trust - request \$750k to \$1M for electric vehicles
- CA Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program - \$3M to \$4M for AV pilot
- FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Program - amount TBD for hybrid/electric ADA accessible vans

**access**

