



### **Executive Director's Message**

FY 21 proved to be another challenging year full of twists and turns as society continued to grapple with the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. After a summer marked by subdued cases and hospitalizations, Los Angeles County became one of the epicenters of the pandemic during the winter. This challenging and stressful time was followed by hope as safe and effective vaccines were introduced that significantly reduced the most serious consequences of the disease and helped society begin to open back up.

Access continued to run a modified paratransit system during much of the fiscal year that included no-shared rides, limited same day service and enhanced vehicle cleaning protocols. We were also instrumental in delivering food and groceries to seniors, veterans and people with disabilities in Los Angeles County. Working with partners like the City of Los Angeles, Access ended up making over 430,000 deliveries to Angelenos experiencing food insecurity!

With the introduction of the vaccines and a mass vaccination program in Los Angeles County, Access and its contractors not only transported customers to medical facilities and drug stores for vaccination but also worked with major drive through vaccination mega-sites, like Dodger Stadium and the Forum in Inglewood, to ensure our customers could quickly and efficiently access the vaccines. Captain Rick Najera of the Los Angeles Fire Department, profiled in these pages as this year's Spirit of Accessibility Award Winner, was instrumental in assisting Access' customers at Dodger Stadium.

Despite the constant operational challenges of the pandemic, the Agency continued to move forward on a number of important projects. After receiving a \$330,000 grant from United States Department of Transportation, Access began work on enhancements to our Where's My Ride (WMR) smartphone application. Access plans to convert WMR to an Accessible Traveler Mobile App (ATMA)

by expanding WMR's functions, including trip planning, trip booking, trip cancellation and integrated mobile fare payment solutions. On the operations side, in February, the Board of Directors awarded a contract to Global Paratransit to continue operating Access' Southern Region service area, successfully concluding the largest procurement in the Agency's history.

Throughout this difficult time, Access Services' frontline employees – our vehicle operators, reservationists, road supervisors, and Access Road Safety Inspectors – continued to work hard and bravely serve the Los Angeles County community. (You can read about one of these brave men and women – Larry Mize from MV Transportation – in this Annual Report.) And a special thanks to the Access employees who staffed our Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which was activated from March 2020 until June 2021. These employees clearly went the extra mile and didn't hesitate to think creatively and act quickly in response to an ever-changing situation.

As always, I would like to thank the Board of Directors, Member Agencies and our customers for their guidance and support during these difficult and unprecedented times.

Hopefully, better days lie ahead.

Sincerely,

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Andre Colaiace Executive Director



### **MISSION**

#### Mission

Access Services promotes access to all modes of transportation and provides quality and safe ADA paratransit service on behalf of public transit agencies in Los Angeles County.

Access Services serves the community as the leader in promoting accessible and innovative transportation solutions.

### **Vision**

We accomplish this vision by: Providing quality, efficient, safe and dependable ADA paratransit service.

Leading the national dialogue as an advocate for universal access to transportation.

Partnering with other entities to secure alternate funding sources and legislation that expands transportation options.

### SVALUES

#### To Lead

Develop and implement innovative ideas as part of a nationally recognized team.

### **To Respond**

Be sensitive to the needs of our customers and respond to their requests in a timely manner.

### **To Respect**

Treat all customers the way we, ourselves, would want to be treated.

#### **To Succeed**

Demonstrate a measured and expert approach to the business at hand.

#### **To Protect**

Deliver results that exceed our customers' expectations.



Chair
County of Los Angeles
Board of Supervisors



Martin Gombert
Vice Chair
Palos Verdes Peninsula
Transit Authority
Los Angeles County
Local Operators



**Doran Barnes**Treasurer
City Selection Committee
Corridor Transportation
Representatives



Theresa De Vera
Secretary
City of Los Angeles
Mayor's Office



Lee Burner
Long Beach Transit
Los Angeles County
Municipal Operators



Andrew Del Castillo
Los Angeles County
Independent Living Centers



Valerie Gibson
Pasadena Department
of Transportation
Los Angeles County
Local Operators



John B. Troost
Los Angeles
County Commission
on Disabilities



Jonaura Wisdom
Los Angeles
County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority



Rachele Goeman
Chair
Community Advisory
Committee (CAC)



Gracie Davis

Chair

Transportation

Professionals Advisory

Committee (TPAC)



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## TPAC

Transportation
Professionals Advisory
Committee

**Gracie Davis** 

Chair
Orange County
Transportation Authority

**Diane Amaya** 

Vice Chair
City of Redondo Beach,
Beach Cities Transit

Martha D'Andrea

City of Glendale, Glendale Beeline

**Nicole Carranza** 

Pomona Valley Transportation Authority

**Eric Hoch** 

City of Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus

Kellie S. Irving

City of Long Beach, Long Beach Transit Fayma Ishaq

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Adrianna Kendricks** 

City of Montebello, Montebello Bus Lines

**James Lee** 

City of Torrance, Torrance Transit

**Kevin Parks McDonald** 

Foothill Transit

**Ariel Bianca Moreno** 

Los Angeles Department of Transportation

**Trini Ramirez** 

City of Pasadena,
Department of Transportation

**Martin Tompkins** 

Antelope Valley
Transit Authority

**Jesse Valdez** 

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center

**Frazier Watts** 

City of Gardena, GTrans Rachele Goeman
Chair

Gordon Cardona Vice Chair

**Olivia Almalel** 

**Maria Aroch** 

**Michael Anthony Arrigo** 

**Scott Barron** 

**Wendy Cabil** 

**Michael Conrad** 

**Tina Foafoa** 

Yael Hagen

Kim Hudson

Terri Lantz

Jesse Padilla

**Bhumit Shah** 





### SUPERIOR SERVICEAWARD RECIPIENTS

# CONTRACT SERVICE PROVIDERS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Maria Romo

Mobility Assessment Evaluator, MTM, Inc.

**OCTOBER 2020** 

Jorge Orozco

Driver, California Transit, Inc.

**2020** 

Michel Gonzales

Call Center Supervisor, San Gabriel Transit **FEBRUARY 2021** 

Leticia Underwood

Customer Service Representative, Santa Clarita Transit

**MARCH 2021** 

Reina Espinosa

Voice Dispatcher, Global Paratransit, Inc.

**APRIL 2021** 

**Albert Gastine** 

Driver,

MV Transportation, Inc.

**MAY 2021** 

**Daisy Lojero** 

Senior Representative, ALTA

**JUNE 2021** 

Carmen Marquez

Driver, Keolis Transit America ANTELOPE VALLEY REGION

**Kimberly Gianos**Keolis Transit America

**EASTERN REGION** 

**Dawn Boulden**San Gabriel Transit

WEST/ CENTRAL REGION

Michael Fricke
California Transit, Inc.

SANTA CLARITA REGION

Adrian Aguilar Santa Clarita Transit **SOUTHERN REGION** 

**Luis Garcia**Global Paratransit, Inc.

NORTHERN REGION

**Tom Irvin**MV Transportation, Inc.

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### MEMBER AGENCIES

- 1. Antelope Valley Transit Authority
- 2. Beach Cities Transit
- 3. City of Alhambra
- 4. City of Arcadia
- 5. City of Artesia
- 6. City of Baldwin Park
- 7. City of Bell
- 8. City of Bell Gardens
- 9. City of Bellflower
- 10. City of Burbank
- 11. City of Calabasas
- 12. City of Carson
- 13. City of Cerritos
- 14. City of Commerce
- 15. City of Compton
- 16. City of Cudahy

- 17. City of Downey
- 18. City of Duarte
- 19. City of El Monte
- 20. City of Glendale
- **21.** City of Huntington Park
- 22. City of Inglewood
- 23. City of La Cañada Flintridge
- 24. City of Lawndale
- 25. City of Lynwood
- **26.** City of Monterey Park
- 27. City of Paramount
- 28. City of Pasadena
- 29. City of Rosemead
- **30.** City of Sierra Madre
- 31. City of West Covina
- 32. City of West Hollywood
- 33. City of Westlake Village

- 34. Culver CityBus
- 35. Foothill Transit
- 36. Gardena Municipal Bus Lines
- 37. Long Beach Transit
- 38. Los Angeles Department of Transportation
- 39. Los Angeles County
  Department
  of Public Works
- 40. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- 41. Montebello Bus Lines
- 42. Norwalk Transit
- 43. Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority
- 44. Santa Clarita Transit
- 45. Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus
- 46. Torrance Transit



# COVID RESPONSE & RECOVERY REPORT



Access' commitment to safety remained at the forefront of the agency's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in FY21. Many of Access' pandemic programs continued to operate along with new innovative initiatives implemented over the last year to support our riders and communities.

For nearly the entire fiscal year, the Access Services Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at the highest level of staffing to continue the agency-wide response. The EOC team coordinated daily with partner agencies and all contract service providers to ensure a unified pandemic response and continuity of operations during some of the most difficult periods of the pandemic including the nationwide surge in cases impacting Los Angeles County between November 2020 and January 2021.

Much of the EOC's coordination included continuing the response initiatives that began in FY20. Access' meal and grocery delivery programs continued during much of FY21 resulting in a final total of over 438,000 deliveries completed between April 2020 and April 2021. Safety initiatives such as enhanced vehicle disinfection and a mask requirement onboard vehicles remained throughout FY21. Non-shared rides, same-day service, and curbside pickup service also continued to operate for much of the year until May 2021 when Access implemented its Service Restoration Plan amid rising ridership and an improving situation in Los Angeles County.

Starting in January 2021, Access worked with a myriad of partner agencies to support equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine by implementing ADA paratransit service to vaccination sites across Los Angeles County.

These partners included the City of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach, Foothill Transit, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Access' close coordination with these partners resulted in both service to drop-off sites, such as pharmacies and clinics, and drive-through service to eight mega sites. Staff worked with partners to design designated lanes at each of the eight drivethrough sites for paratransit vehicles. The same driver performed the pickup and the return trips to drive-through sites with the rider receiving the vaccination onboard and never needing to exit the vehicle. Overall, Access completed over 400 drive-through trips and 3,467 drop-off trips to vaccinations sites over the last year.



# OPER REPORT ATIONS

Fiscal Year 21 was a year of innovation for Access' operations and a year of change for Access riders. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of modifications to service carried over from FY20, as ridership slowly recovered.

For the first time in years, vehicle trips failed to exceed two million in FY21 as riders took fewer trips due to a reluctance to travel on public transit, public health orders restricting travel for essential purposes, and the closure of many activity centers that serve the disabled community. After a collapse in ridership and shutdown of much of society in March 2020, trip demand has been slow to return. By June 2021, it had returned to only 50% of pre-pandemic levels.

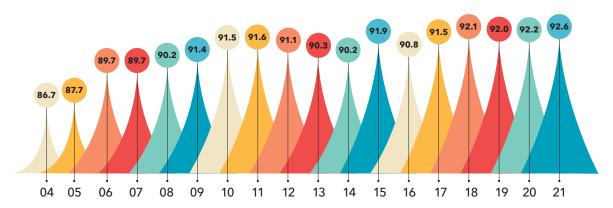
Final FY21 system-wide ridership totaled 1.7 million vehicle trips and 2.2 million passenger trips.

On the call center side, reservation calls totaled 1.5 million, and calls for an estimated time of arrival (ETA) totaled over 350,000. Usage of the Where's My Ride app for ETAs continued to grow as an alternative to calling for an ETA and was used more than 1.7 million times for that purpose.

As for performance, contractors achieved high quality service in many areas, meeting 12 of 13 key performance indicators. On-time performance exceeded 92% for the fourth straight year, finishing at 92.6%. And for the first time since tracking

#### On Time Performance by Fiscal Year

Results shown in percentages by year



started, Access met its challenging preventable collision rate target, finishing at 0.50 preventable collisions per 100,000 miles, which is half the industry standard.

Due to timing, FY21 was also a year of preparing for the future. Within a brief span of time, two of Access' six regional contracts were due to expire. With no option years remaining, staff worked diligently to prepare updated requirements and released Request For Proposals (RFPs) for the Southern Region (Access' largest region) and the Antelope Valley Region. By the end of FY21, a new contract was approved by the Board of Directors for the Southern Region that included a number of service improvements that will benefit riders. At the same time, staff was reviewing proposals from prospective operators for a new contract in the Antelope Valley that will see the implementation of online reservations and the Where's My Ride app in that area of the county, the final remaining piece in system-wide implementation.

In terms of the Access fleet, pandemic-related delays in acquiring new vehicles meant that older vehicles continue to accumulate miles beyond what Access planned for. Contractors continue to meet this challenge by replacing major components on the vehicles including engines, transmissions and suspension systems. And while new vehicle builds continue to be in a holding pattern, Access has continued work on several test vehicles, including the first all-electric, low-floor paratransit vehicle.

Final FY21 systemwide ridership totaled 1.7 million vehicle trips and 2.2 million passenger trips.



## SAFETY REPORT

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Access' Safety Steering Committee (SSC) continued to meet virtually once a month throughout the year. With representatives from each operating contractor and Access staff, the team continues to collaborate on safety campaigns, review recent collision and incident

data, and brainstorm on challenging issues, such as design changes for the next order of Dodge ProMaster vans. One of the milestones of the SSC in Fiscal Year 21 (FY21) was the completion of a driver training video on the new ProMaster van, which was put into service last year. The group also regularly discussed methods to alleviate curb strikes, the most common type of vehicle collision involving Access vehicles, as well as inattention, the most common root cause for collisions. Finally, the committee helped Access finalize the development of a kneeling pad for use by drivers when securing wheelchairs and other mobility devices. Besides providing some cushion to the driver's knees, the pad includes several key reminders to optimize correct wheelchair securement and a smooth ride.

#### Says MV General Manager Tom Irvin, who regularly participates in SSC Meetings:

"We appreciate Access including all service providers in the Safety Steering Committee to reinforce the paramount importance of safety throughout the system. While each service provider has its own safety and training practices, it allows the Access team to reinforce common policies and expectations, thereby keeping the

driver observations, focus on providing inspected more than our riders with the 1,700 Access vehicles, safest transportation and conducted possible. The 138 location monthly committee meetings really help our management team to hear observations and identify trends, as well as to share best practices and ideas for upcoming safety events and campaigns with the group."

While much of the safety focus in FY21 was on the pandemic, Access' frontline team of Road Safety Inspectors continued to come to work daily to monitor service on the street. RSI duties vary widely from day-to-day including driver observations, vehicle inspections, response to collisions, and investigating safe pick-up and drop-off locations. During the fiscal year, the team completed more than 1,800 driver observations, inspected more than 1,700 Access vehicles, and conducted 138 location evaluations. They also played a key role in the success of the grocery and meal delivery programs that Access operated during the height of the pandemic.

We completed more than 1,800

evaluations.

### SPIRITOF ACCESSIBILITY AWARD

### **Captain Rick Najera**

When the COVID-19 vaccine became widely available, Access staff immediately mobilized efforts to coordinate vaccine transportation with Access contractors to transport customers to and from vaccination sites. Staff had discussions with both the City of Los Angeles and the County about taking customers to drive through vaccination sites, like Dodger Stadium. These discussions were necessary because of concerns about the potentially long wait times that Access drivers and customers could encounter at some of the vaccination sites and Access asked if priority lanes could be established for our vehicles.

L.A. Fire Department Captain Rick Najera made transportation for the disability community a priority, not an afterthought. He was instrumental in coordinating the Dodger Stadium COVID-19 drive-through vaccination program for Access Services. While the public had to wait in long serpentine lines, Captain Najera met the van at the security guard shack on Vin Scully Avenue at the stadium's main entrance. From there he would lead the Access van directly to a special lane at the front of the vaccination line.

The program was efficient for Access riders and drivers as it bypassed much of the traffic and waiting time experienced by the public. Besides coordinating access to Dodger Stadium for Access vehicles, Captain Najera was hands-on, administering many of the vaccination shots received by Access riders. In total, Access made 126 vaccination trips to Dodger Stadium. This high-end, drive-through service turned out to be a one-of-a-kind experience for the community and, for that, we thank the Los Angeles Fire Department and Captain Rick Najera for their invaluable assistance.

Captain Rick
Najera made
transportation for the
disability community
a priority, not an
afterthought.





# SPOT LIGHTAWARD

### **Larry Mize**

routes on time.

Larry Mize has served Access customers since 2015
as the Operations Supervisor for MV Transportation, the
contractor for the Northern Region. In this role, he is the
primary contact for over 200 drivers, reporting to work
at 4:00 am every day to oversee the morning pullout.
He begins his day by ensuring that all drivers are ready
for duty, perform comprehensive pre-trip vehicle inspections, and
leave the facility at their prescribed departure times to begin their

During the day, Larry handles a multitude of challenges including handling on-route issues and sending out spare drivers and vehicles to make sure the contractor is able to continue providing top-notch service to Access riders. He coordinates with the dispatchers and the road supervisors to handle incidents, accidents, traffic tie-ups, routes running behind, inclement weather, or whatever else comes up.

When the Coronavirus pandemic hit in early 2020, Larry (as usual) was a steadying force disseminating information to the team and helping to keep everyone calm and safe in the midst of a very trying time. When Access began to partner with the Mayor's Office, LA County, and a variety of other organizations to begin delivering meals and groceries, Larry was naturally at the forefront of the response. As each new program was about to begin, Larry went out personally to investigate the pick-up points, to make sure they were safe, and to meet with the provider's staff at the site. He would then figure out how

many routes and drivers were necessary to carry all the meals within the expected timelines, and then would spend hours calling drivers to round up enough personnel to do the job. In truth, Larry took this on and rapidly became the "go to" person for all of the meal and grocery delivery programs, which, at their peak, were running over 75 routes and delivering over 1,000 meals a day So much of what from multiple sites. Larry does is Along the way, he "behind the scenes" coordinated closely with and he is truly the Access team to share

insights and techniques

more efficiently.

to help the other regional contractors deliver meals

So much of what Larry does is "behind the scenes" and he is truly an unsung hero. He is a great leader who always promotes a positive image of the Access paratransit service and has an immense positive impact on riders and the community.

an unsung hero.

## OVERALL SYSTEM STATS

#### 20 47,991 36,181 Eligibility Determinations 3,751,762 2,156,279 Passengers Contract Revenue Miles 26,779,140 17,921,951 Number of Trips 2,940,271 1,728,707 Average Trip Distance 9.11 10.37 Purchased Transportation Cost Cost per Trip \$48.20 \$75.96 \$37.77 \$60.90 Cost per Passenger \$5.29 \$7.33 Cost per Contract Revenue Mile

# OPER REPORT ATIONS

			_ 20 _	21
		Standard	20	
0	On Time Performance	≥ 91%	92.2%	92.6%
Operations & Safety	Excessively Late Trips	≤ 0.10%	0.10%	0.07%
	Excessively Long Trips	≤ 5%	2.9%	0.5%
0	Missed Trips	≤ 0.75%	0.46%	0.36%
S	Denials	0	18	4
	Access to Work On Time Performance	≥ 94%	95.9%	97.8%
	Average Hold Time (Reservations)	≤ 120	71	52
	Calls On Hold > 5 Min (Reservations)	≤ 5%	3.3%	2.2%
	Calls On Hold > 5 Min (ETA)	≤ 10%	4.1%	1.5%
	Complaints Per 1,000 Trips	≤ 4.0	2.5	2.5
	Preventable Incident Rate (per 100,000 miles)	≤ 0.25	0.19	0.15
	Preventable Collision Rate (per 100,000 miles)	≤ 0.50	0.67	0.50
	Miles Between Road Calls	≥ 25,000	60,999	64,040
Ω	Average Initial Hold Time	≤ 180 sec	45	134
tst	Calls on Hold > 5 Min	≤ 10%	4.1%	15.1%
3	Abandoned Calls	≤ 10%	1.9%	4.5%
<b>Customer</b> <b>Service</b>	Average Call Duration	≤ 300 sec	258	286
Operations Monitoring	Average Initial Hold Time	≤ 180 sec	52	57
	Calls on Hold > 5 Min	≤ 10%	4.8%	5.1%
	Abandoned Calls	≤ 10%	4.3%	4.8%
	Average Call Duration	≤ 300 sec	357	351

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Total Revenues	\$169,942,029
Interest Revenue	\$4,192
Other Revenue	\$78,177
Gain on Disposal of Assets	\$271,049
Section 5316 & 5317 Funds	\$812,043
Passenger Fare Revenues	\$5,234,468
Measure M Funds	\$11,496,428
Section 5310 STP & other FTA Funds	\$69,646,273
Prop C Discretionary Funds	\$82,399,399
	•

Revenues and Expenses (year ended June 30, 2021)

### perating xpenses

\$169,942,029	
\$131,326,873	
\$8,508,160	
\$8,156,791	
\$6,986,717	
\$4,060,768	
\$1,839,790	
\$1,342,982	
\$1,010,235	
\$932,179	
\$578,911	
\$317,770	
\$229,163	
	\$8,508,160 \$8,156,791 \$6,986,717 \$4,060,768 \$1,839,790 \$1,342,982 \$1,010,235 \$932,179 \$578,911 \$317,770

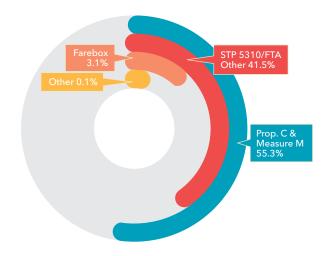
# Operating Expenses contd.

Security	\$200,000	
Promotions/Events	\$186,601	
Postage/Mailing	\$183,839	
Other Expense	\$140,902	
Other Related Employee Expense	\$89,794	
Temporary Personnel	\$26,250	
Office/Kitchen Supplies	\$16,558	
Board Compensation	\$9,275	
Business Meetings & Meals	\$7,818	
Repair & Maintenance	\$6,820	
Total Expenses – Before Depreciation	\$166,158,195	
Increase in unfunded defined benefit plan	\$605,344	
Depreciation	\$5,414,043	
Total Expenses – After Depreciation	\$172,177,582	
Change In Net Assets	(\$2,378,903)	
Net Assets Beginning of Year, as Adjusted	\$17,169,357	
Net Assets, End of Year	\$14,790,454	

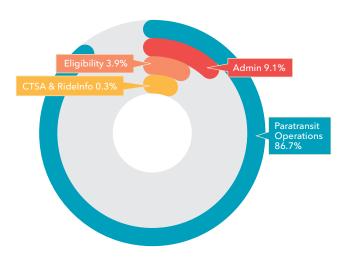
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Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$20,140,243
Accounts Receivable	\$56,707
Grants Receivable	\$3,255,995
Due from LACMTA	\$2,313,950
Prepaid Expenses	\$7,578,898
Total Current Assets	\$33,345,793
Property & Equipment	
Fixed Assets	\$49,237,723
Accumulated Depreciation – Fixed Assets	(\$36,939,679)
Total Property & Equipment	\$12,298,044
Other Long Term Assets	\$10,558,575
Total Assets	\$56,202,412
Liabilities & Net Assets (Current Liabilities)	
Accounts Payable – Trade	\$1,465,401
Contractors Payable	\$11,921,190
Self Insurance Accruals	\$4,994,495
Unfunded Pension Liability	\$4,460,482
Accrued Salaries & Expenses	\$8,791,064
Deferred Support	\$9,485,344
Deferred Revenue	\$113,844
Deferred Rent	\$180,138
Total Current Liabilities	\$41,411,958
Total Net Assets	\$14,790,454
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$56,202,412

## **FUNDING SOURCES**



## EXPENSE BY PROGRAM



**438,292**\*

Total **meal** deliveries.

**402** 

Total **drive-thru** vaccination trips in FY21.

3,467\*\*

Total **drop-off** vaccination trips in FY21.

- \* **Note:** Includes deliveries in FY20; meal deliveries began in FY20 and continued through 10 months of FY21.
- \*\* **Note:** Trips to drop-off vaccination sites have continued in FY22.



