



Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

I just came back from the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) TRANSform Conference, which was held this weekend in Seattle. Thousands of transit professionals and hundreds of transit suppliers from around North America attended APTA's flagship event.

While there were many fascinating committee meetings and educational sessions about various hot topics in transit – from free fare policies to electrification – the best part was seeing old colleagues for the first time since the pandemic began in 2020. We were also able to meet with current and potential partners, such as various Transportation Network Companies, to see if they could be a fit for our ADA paratransit services.

And finally I would like to congratulate Senior Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis Bruce Frink on his graduation from Leadership APTA! Bruce and the rest of his class were honored onstage at the APTA Awards luncheon on Tuesday.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

Staying the course: Access maintains mask requirement

Covid-19 will be here forever: those hard words are the consensus of the scientific community. Fortunately, there are treatments and tools to cope with the virus that have already, over time, lessened its impact on our daily lives. It is the core mission of Access to provide quality and safe transportation for our riders. Those words are taken seriously by those who serve the community working here at Access.

On September 23, 2022, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health modified its long-standing public transit mask mandate to strongly recommend that masks be worn on public transit. In light of the community that we serve, including those who are more susceptible to the effects of the virus, Access has made the decision to maintain the mask requirement until further notice aboard its vehicles. The Agency will continue to monitor the impact of the virus and any new variants that may appear for any future adjustments to this policy. All of us here at Access appreciate the hard work of our contractors' drivers and the ongoing support of the community and want to do what we can to maintain a safe environment aboard vehicles providing Access paratransit service.



The Los Angeles County Public Health Department continues to encourage all residents of Los Angeles County who are eligible to get the latest Covid-19 vaccine booster, which is specific to the Omicron variant and may help avoid another viral winter surge. Consult your healthcare provider or local pharmacy for more information.

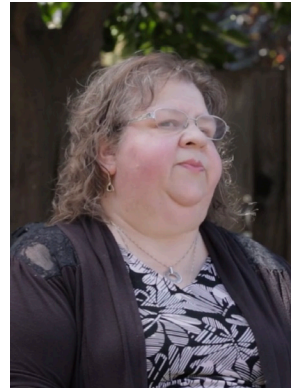
Alex Chrisman
Emergency Management Coordinator

CAC and TPAC Officer Elections

As required by the bylaws, the Community Advisory Committee and Transportation Professionals Advisory Committee recently held elections to elect new officers for fiscal year 2022-2023. The CAC elected Yael Hagen as chair and Liam Matthews as vice-chair. TPAC re-elected Diane Amaya as chair and Fayma Ishaq as vice-chair.

CAC chair Yael Hagen is a lifelong disability rights activist and a passionate transportation advocate. As a founding member of the Paratransit Riders Coalition, Yael has been at the forefront of advancing transportation equality and ensuring Access customers receive safe and reliable service. Yael was instrumental in working with staff to establish the Parents with Disabilities program.

CAC vice chair Liam Matthews works as an independent living specialist for SCRS with a focus on transportation issues within L.A. County. He provides one-to-one mentoring on the fundamentals of Access Services and digital technologies. He also provides guidance to individuals and youth helping them utilize the service effectively and efficiently.



CAC CHAIR YAEL HAGEN (LEFT); TPAC CHAIR DIANE AMAYA (RIGHT).

TPAC chair Diane Amaya was first elected to serve as the chair in the fall of 2021. Diane is a Sr. Management Analyst for the City of Redondo Beach, Transit Division which manages Beach Cities Transit, WAVE Dial-A-Ride and other city transportation programs. Diane has served in the transit industry for 12 years, and overall, 32 years with the City of Redondo Beach. She holds the designation of Certified Community Transit Manager (CCTM) from the Community Transportation Association of America.

TPAC vice chair Fayma Ishaq is an Accessibility Program Manager with L.A. Metro's Office of Civil Rights and Inclusion and has been a member of TPAC since 2018. In her role, she advocates for seniors and people with disabilities in the County and works with Access Services to provide program oversight

Please join me in congratulating the new committee officers!

Matthew Avancena
Director, Planning and Coordination

Commendations

"I am filing a smile for my driver, Nelson. Although he is young, he provides extraordinary service and exhibits good common sense. Overall Nelson is a very courteous and respectful driver."

Sharon Marable
Rider since Aug 2014

"I am filing a smile for my Driver from last night. I woke up this morning and was still thinking about how nice he was. I am very happy with the service that he provided me. I want to thank Access Services for vetting all their staff."

Belisaria Garcia
Rider since June 2010