



Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

The Access Services Board of Directors met on June 24, 2024.

The Board approved the proposed FY 2025 budget, which is based on trip demand projections conducted by Access' service demand consultant, Hollingsworth Consulting LLC.

Overall, the operating budget is based on a funding level of \$291.1 million of which Contract Operations represents over 90.2% of the total. The budget will provide for delivery of 3.9 million passenger trips and 34 million contract revenue miles. The capital budget will fund the purchase of replacement accessible vehicles and the continued development of a paratransit operations and maintenance facility in the Antelope Valley service area.

The Board also heard presentations from Access' local, state and federal advocates.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for July 22, 2024.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

Access' FY '25 budget heard by Metro Committee

As part of L.A. Metro's annual approval of Access' funding request, the Metro Finance, Budget and Audit Committee heard a presentation from Giovanna



Metro[®]

Gogreve, Budget Director and Access Board member, on Access' proposed budget and proposed funding request for Fiscal Year 2025. Access Executive Director Andre Colaiace joined Director Gogreve for the presentation.

Director Gogreve started the presentation by presenting a high-level overview of the various components that make-up the Access budget such as purchased transportation, administration, vehicle purchases, and facilities development. She presented a comparison of Key Performance Indicators from FY 2023 to FY 2024 and shared the agency's major accomplishments and next year's initiatives.

After asking a number of questions about the budget, the committee approved Access' funding request. The entire Metro Board of Directors will vote on Access' FY '25 budget at its regular Board meeting on June 27.

Matt Avancena
Director, Planning and Coordination

Access staff attend Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training



Access Services hosted Dr. Sacha Joseph-Mathews for a series of transformative Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) trainings for Access staff. Following our DEI policy, all staff, including both supervisors and non-supervisory employees, attended this event. This initiative aimed to equip staff members with the tools and knowledge needed to advocate for diversity in their roles.

Dr. Joseph-Mathews brought awareness of biases, a deeper understanding of the importance of diversity, and a renewed commitment to fostering inclusivity in the workplace. The trainings broke down barriers and challenged biases, which helped provoke thought and spark discussion about the goal of fostering an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and included regardless of one's background or identity.

Feedback from participants highlighted the profound impact of the trainings and our commitment to creating a supportive and respectful environment for all staff. As Access Services continues to prioritize DEI initiatives, we will continue to create a workplace where every voice is heard, every perspective is valued, and every individual is celebrated.

CTSA's Extension Program is thrilled to announce that Dr. Joseph-Mathews will be returning to Access Services for another DEI training on July 15, 2024. For those interested in enhancing their understanding and engagement in this crucial area, make sure you secure your spot! Please visit [Professional Development - Access Services : ASI \(accessla.org\)](https://accessla.org) to register.

Mayra Noriega
CTSA Analyst

Access attends the RSA 2024 Conference



I recently attended the RSA Conference in San Francisco, a gathering for cybersecurity professionals, industry leaders, and experts worldwide. Its primary purpose is to foster collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing in the realm of digital security. With over 40,000 attendees from over 130 countries, this massive annual event stands as a cornerstone in addressing emerging threats and highlighting cutting-edge solutions in an increasingly interconnected digital landscape.

The major discussion topics included the intersection of cybersecurity with artificial intelligence (AI). Sessions and panels delve into AI's role in threat detection, vulnerability management, and automated response mechanisms. Additionally, discussions covered ethical considerations, regulatory frameworks, and the evolving landscape of AI-powered cyberattacks, providing attendees with crucial insights into navigating this complex domain.

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The RSA expo, a vibrant hub of cyber solutions from leading providers, offered attendees a unique opportunity to explore the latest innovations in network and cloud security. Interactive demonstrations and hands-on labs allowed participants to engage directly with new technologies and gain practical knowledge of their applications.

The conference provided a unique experience, allowing me to learn from experts in the field and stay up to date with the latest trends and innovations in cybersecurity. It also allowed me to explore innovative product demos and arrange meetings with technology vendors, opening doors to potential solutions that could significantly benefit the organization.

Ruben Prieto
Cybersecurity Specialist

Commendations

"My driver was polite and helped me by approaching and offering to help carry my bag. Thanks Access for providing good customer service from your drivers."

Zabel Pinedjian
Rider since September 2014

"This commendation is for my driver Jay. Another passenger called the driver a bad name and was carping constantly at him, but the driver handled this with tact and extreme professionalism."

Jessica Diaz
Rider since April 2015