



Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

A few weeks ago I had the honor of attending a celebration in honor of retiring Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-Norwalk). A number of Access staff also attended and we were honored to also be joined by two contractor employees.

Access Board Vice Chair and Foothill Transit CEO Doran Barnes did a fantastic job moderating a moving conversation with the Congresswoman that focused on her storied political career and tireless advocacy on behalf of her district and constituents.

Access Services and our customers also owe the Congresswoman a debt of gratitude because, in 2015, she was instrumental in allowing the Agency to keep its simple, two-tiered fare system by working to change federal law. She and her staff were also incredibly generous with their time when we visited their offices in Washington, D.C. every year.

On behalf of Access Services, I would like to again thank the Congresswoman for her advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities and wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

Access staff attends Sunset Vans open house

Sunset Vans, which manufactures the accessible ProMaster van for Access Services and other paratransit agencies, recently held an Open House at its production plant in Riverside. Attendees, including many Access staff members, had the opportunity to witness firsthand the exciting collaboration between R.O. Bus Sales' team and this innovative vehicle production company.



The event included a comprehensive tour of the production plant, where we got an up-close look at the manufacturing processes and the advanced technology used in creating the vehicles, which include electric and autonomous

models. We were also introduced to several key vendors who supply essential parts and services, demonstrating the robust supply network that underpins the ProMaster manufacturing process.

In the past, purchasing vehicles from out of state limited our ability to make significant customizations and monitor the manufacturing process. Now, with Sunset Vans being local, we can be much more involved in the production process, ensuring that our vehicles meet our exact specifications and standards. This local partnership is a game-changer, allowing us to innovate and adapt more efficiently than ever before.

Peter Stawniczy, Fleet Administrator
Tamika Arana, Fleet Maintenance Analyst

Access' Mobility Management Department continues its extensive outreach in L.A. County

The role of the Mobility Management department is to share general information about Access Services and how to apply for eligibility. From March through October 2024, I attended 40 outreach events throughout the County. During these events, I interacted with the public and staff from social service agencies to answer questions about the service, our policies and other concerns they may have.

The most recent events I attended include:

1. Pioneer High School – Disability Resource and Transition Fair
2. Valley Oaks Village 55+ Resident Club House - Community Outreach
3. Pace School Training Center – 14th Annual Building A Foundation for the Future Parent Conference
4. Schurr High School – Parent and Student Access presentation
5. Harbor Regional Center - "Your Family Our Focus" Virtual Access presentation
6. Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center - Virtual Resource Fair
7. East Los Angeles Service Center – Older Adults Resource Fair
8. Department of Veterans Affairs Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center – Access presentation
9. City of LA Department on Disability, Fiesta Educative and California Resource Services for Independent Living – Re-Launch on the Disabilities and Aging Collaborative
10. Whittier Uptown Senior Center – Transportation Resource Fair

If your city or organization would like a presentation, please e-mail me at cserv@accessla.org.

Steve Wrenn
Mobility Management Administrator



Commendations

"Tanisha from GPI assisted me with my standing order reservation. She did a wonderful job and went above and beyond. She was kind, patient and understanding."

Benhan Tafla
Rider since February 2023

"My driver was very polite and helpful. He provided excellent service."

Nimfa Beltran
Rider since May 2005