



# Behind the Scenes

## Executive Director's Report

The Access Services Board of Directors met on June 30, 2025.

- > The Board approved the FY26 budget at a total funding amount of \$368.1 million, which includes a capital component of \$52.2 million for revenue vehicle replacements and facility construction. The budget forecasts a 3.1% increase in vehicle trips compared to FY25.
- > The Board also approved a change to its meeting calendar for CY25, an extension to the Rider ID/TAP card production contract with Metro and a contract award for insurance third party administrator services.
- > The Board also received updates from the agency's local, state, and federal advocates.

The next full meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for August 4, 2025.

**Andre Colaiace**  
**Executive Director**

## Access attends joint CTAA and CalACT Conference

The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT) partnered together to host a conference in San Diego, California in June 2025.



The conference started with an award going to the frontline heroes that made an impact during the Eaton fire in Pasadena. The purpose of the award was to demonstrate that public transportation impacts the community in many ways, including taking riders to and from important appointments, the grocery store, and visiting their loved ones. Without public transportation, many people around the country do not have the means to live their daily lives.

The training sessions highlighted the importance of keeping drivers safe while they transport our community; how other curb-to-curb operations are functioning across the nation; and successful communication skills with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

In addition, it was very gratifying to observe the industry growing and adopting newer technologies that will enable Access to continue providing riders with superior paratransit services. For example, I was able to review new developments in passenger seat occupancy detection technology and discuss vehicle design with other agencies that perform paratransit services.

**Peter Stawniczy**  
**Fleet Administrator**

## CTSA Extension hosts Drug and Alcohol Program Manager (DAPM) Training

Every year, Access' CTSA Learning and Development Program hosts a variety of trainings for professionals throughout Los Angeles County. Last week, CTSA had the pleasure of welcoming 30 transit professionals to the beginner Drug and Alcohol Program Manager (DAPM) training. The training was led by transit-industry expert, Leila Procopio-Makuh.

The beginner DAPM training is an all-day class comprised of thirteen (13) modules. The training encompasses the knowledge and skills necessary to better develop, implement, and manage a successful DOT-FTA compliant drug and alcohol testing program. At the end of the training, attendees leave with valuable resources and compliance tips such as monitoring, testing, and rates of random testing, documenting and record keeping, safety meetings, and conducting periodic onsite audits of covered contractors. Additionally, attendees receive a certificate to acknowledge their participation.



Access looks forward to hosting more Drug and Alcohol trainings. This gives us an opportunity to connect, lead, and partner with other transit professionals across the county.

**Onnika Payne**  
*Transportation Planner*

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## Commendations

### Southern Region

"My driver was so nice and polite. I really appreciate him opening the doors and assisting me in a professional way. He truly deserves this compliment."

**Janice Smith**  
*Rider since February 2015*

### West/Central Region

"My driver was so careful, and I have never felt so safe in the rain."

**Sylvia Mendoza**  
*Rider since January 2014*