



Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

The Access Services Board of Directors met on September 28, 2026.

- > The Board approved amendments to a cloud communications platform contract and on-board vehicle camera recording contract along with the renewal of the Agency's insurance policies.
- > The Board also approved its meeting calendar for 2027, an extension to the agency's administrative office lease, and the reappointment of members of the Transportation Professionals Advisory Committee.
- > The Board approved the purchase of 50 ADA paratransit vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$8,460,959.
- > The Board received a presentation from its local, state and federal lobbyists.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for October 26, 2026.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

The road ahead: Access staff and CAC members team up to evaluate the Ford Transit van for service

Few topics generate as much discussion in the paratransit community as the vehicles used to provide service. Ask any rider, driver, or technician, and they will have an opinion on which vehicle is the most comfortable, which one has the most storage space for packages, which one has the best acceleration onto the freeway, or which one is the easiest to maintain. Recognizing the importance of these perspectives, Access recently invited members of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Vehicle Subcommittee to preview and evaluate the newest addition to its fleet, the Ford Transit van.



During the demonstration, seven CAC members had the opportunity to tour the vehicle, experience its accessibility features, and provide feedback on its design. The Ford Transit features a 148-inch wheelbase and is powered by a twin-turbo 6-cylinder engine producing 310 horsepower and 400-foot pounds of torque. Inside, the vehicle features space for two mobility devices and up to three ambulatory riders. Access to the vehicle is provided by traditional entry steps for ambulatory riders and a newly designed wheelchair lift from M-Power. Both the lift and vehicle provide a ride that is smoother than previous models, which can make a difference for rider comfort. Riders inside the vehicle will have a better view of the outside world thanks to large panoramic windows. The latest safety features are included, as well as an improved air conditioning system that distributes cool air from multiple vents throughout the van. Finally, another feature requested by CAC members is the additional storage compartment, which is big enough to hold a carry-on suitcase and a backpack.

Continued

With input from seven different CAC members included, final design orders have been sent to Sunset Vans in Riverside, and 18 of these vehicles will be delivered to Access by the end of the year.

Feedback gathered during the demonstration helped finalize the vehicle's design specifications. We are grateful for the assistance of the CAC members who provided input in the decision to add this vehicle to our fleet.

Peter Stawniczy, Fleet Administrator
Mike Greenwood, Chief Operations Officer

Access attends wheelchair basketball commemoration



Last month, at the invitation of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, I attended a commemoration at Birmingham Community Charter High School in Van Nuys, which is recognized as the birthplace of wheelchair basketball. The first organized game was played at the site in November 1946.

The commemoration marked the formal recognition of the 1946 game and the two-year countdown to the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games. The ceremony included the unveiling of Wheelchair Basketball Square and a plaque in the historic gym, an announcement of plans for a commemorative mural, and an

exhibition game featuring local adaptive athletes.

The event honored the veterans whose advocacy helped establish wheelchair basketball, recognized the sport's enduring impact on people with disabilities, and highlighted Los Angeles' accessibility preparations for the 2028 Paralympic Games.

Randy Johnson
Director, Government Affairs & Outreach

Commendations

Eligibility Services Contractor

"I want to file a smile for Christina J. at the Eligibility Center. She greeted me and made me feel comfortable. She was knowledgeable, pleasant, professional, and patient. I want to commend her for her impeccable customer service and would like to see her recognized."

Gloria H.
Rider since June 2020

Northern Region

"I am always happy when I get Dennis as my driver. He is polite and considerate, does a good job ensuring safety devices are secure, and is an excellent driver."

Marcia N.
Rider since October 2006