



Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

On the heels of a successful World Cup where transit played a key role in ensuring both access and accessibility to key venues, we are now planning for Access' role in the upcoming 2027 Super Bowl at SoFi Stadium as well as the massive 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Last week, Access staff met with the National Football League's transportation consultants to discuss their plans for the 2027 Super Bowl. We had a great discussion about their plans for the game as well as how Access can assist both attendees and workers with accessibility at SoFi.

At the 2026 APTA TRANSform Conference in Chicago, I attended a meeting hosted by LA Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins where different transit agencies shared their experiences providing transit for the World Cup as well as the challenges the region will experience during the upcoming Games.

Access looks forward to collaborating with our regional partners to ensure these large events are accessible to all.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

Transportation leaders gather at COMTO's 55th National Meeting & Training Conference

Washington, D.C., the birthplace of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), provided a fitting setting for the organization's 55th



National Meeting & Training Conference. Under the theme "Rooted in Legacy, Driving the Future of Transportation," transportation professionals from across North America celebrated COMTO's history and considered the industry's future.

The four-day conference drew public agency executives, private-sector partners, policymakers, innovators, students, and emerging professionals. Activities included educational sessions, leadership development, technical tours, networking, and discussions of transportation challenges.

Sessions focused on people and partnerships. Topics included leadership development, workforce succession, small-business growth, technology, customer experience, and organizational resilience. Speakers also shared practical strategies for meeting workforce needs and navigating a complex environment.

Preparing the next generation was a central theme. Through the COMTO CITY Intern Program, students and young professionals met industry executives, attended technical sessions, and built professional networks. The program showed how mentorship, hands-on experience, and leadership development create pathways to opportunity.

Innovation also took center stage. Presentations showed how agencies use data, software, and emerging technologies to improve customer experience, efficiency, and reliability. Discussions stressed that technology works best with strong leadership, effective partnerships, and a commitment to serving passengers and communities.

Attendees left Washington with fresh perspectives, stronger partnerships, and renewed commitment. The conference reaffirmed COMTO's values of leadership, opportunity, inclusion, and service. It also highlighted the collaboration and innovation needed for a more inclusive transportation future.

Alvina Prasad
Senior Manager, Training and Compliance

Empowering the next generation of women in transportation

I had the pleasure of volunteering at WTS-LA's 7th Annual Transportation YOU Girls Empowerment Day, joining an inspiring and diverse group of women professionals from across the transportation industry.

The event brought together high school girls throughout Los Angeles County for a day centered on leadership, creative thinking, collaborations, and career exploration. Through interactive activities, the students were encouraged to think beyond the task at hand, challenge themselves, and explore the many possibilities within transportation and beyond. These opportunities to connect, ask questions, and see women succeeding in transportation can have a lasting impact on how young women envision their own futures.



I am grateful to have been part of such a meaningful day and proud to support the continued efforts to inspire, empower, and connect the next generation of women in transportation. A powerful reminder that representation, mentorship, and exposure truly matter.

Onnika Payne
Transportation Planner

Commendations

Southern Region

"I would like to commend driver Maria. She was an excellent driver, arrived on time, and was very attentive to my needs. She was also very pleasant."

Noel A.
Rider since May 2018

West/Central Region

"Driver Dennis has an excellent personality, maintains a professional and calm demeanor, and has a great sense of humor. He was very caring and compassionate, safely guided me into the vehicle, and assisted with carrying my bags to the front door. He is an asset to Access Services."

Charles P.
Rider since December 2014