



Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

The Access Services Board of Directors met on January 26, 2026.

- > The Board authorized staff to submit a draft preliminary FY27 budget request of \$389,325,934 for planning purposes to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro).
- > The Board also heard an update on the upcoming Customer Survey questions along with a presentation on a proposed pilot project for grocery delivery services with Instacart.

The next full meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for February 23, 2026.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

CTSA Extension presents the 2026 Learning & Development Program eBook

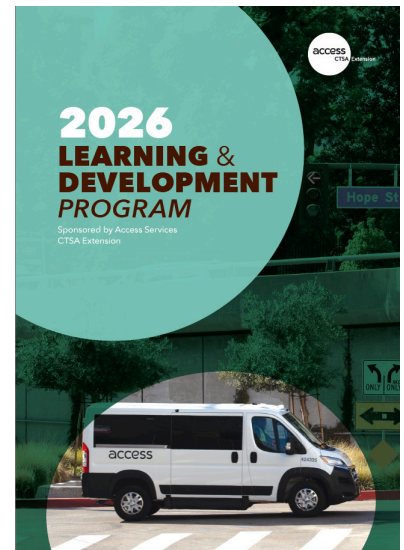
Access' CTSA Extension is thrilled to announce the release of the 2026 Learning & Development Program. This year's eBook highlights the upcoming professional development opportunities available throughout the year.

Access Services aims to enhance transit professionals' skills and improve transportation services across Los Angeles County. The CTSA Learning and Development Program welcomes professionals from a diverse range of sectors in Los Angeles County, including public and non-profit agencies, specialized transportation, and their contractors.

We invite you to explore the [2026 Learning & Development Program](#) and encourage you to register for one or all our classes!

If you have any questions about upcoming trainings or registrations, please contact us at ctsa@accessla.org.

Mayra Noriega
CTSA Analyst



The Legislature Has Spoken: 2026 legal updates employers need to know

Staying ahead of California's evolving legal landscape is no small task, especially for HR leaders and employers preparing for changes taking effect in 2026. This month, I attended "The Legislature Has Spoken: Updates You Need to Know," an informational session hosted by SullivanCurtisMonroe and led by James Rumm, Esq., founding partner at Kennedy McCarthy & Rumm, LLP. The session offered timely insights into the Legislature's actions and what these changes mean for employers as they plan for the year ahead.

Rumm provided an overview of the most impactful new laws, focusing on areas that will require immediate attention. Wage and hour compliance was a central theme, with updates that will influence timekeeping practices, exemption thresholds, and internal audit procedures. He emphasized the importance of reviewing existing processes now to avoid compliance gaps once the new standards take effect.

The session also highlighted additional employer obligations tied to workplace protections, training mandates, and policy updates. Rumm encouraged organizations to begin assessing their employee handbooks, job descriptions, and operational procedures so they can make informed adjustments before the new laws are implemented. His explanations offered clarity on how the legislative decisions translate into everyday HR practice, helping attendees understand where risks may arise and how to prepare effectively.

I left the session with a clearer understanding of the upcoming 2026 requirements and practical steps to support our organization's readiness. As California continues to introduce new regulations, opportunities like this help ensure that HR teams remain informed, proactive, and aligned with best practices.

Melissa Lucero, PSHR-CP
Human Resources Administrator



Commendations

ALTA

"Customer service agent Kisha's personality is always so bubbly. She is really patient and always willing to assist."

Kathryn Palewicz
Rider since August 2014

West/Central Region

"Driver Randy was super-professional and very kind."

Charmaine Johansen
Rider since May 2019