



Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

Access has taken a leading role in a national coalition of transit agencies and disability groups working together to modify federal drug and alcohol rules to make it easier to use TNCs like Uber and Lyft in various paratransit and microtransit services. The coalition has sent letters to past FTA Administrators Veronica Vanterpool and Marc Molinaro on this issue and has plans to engage with the next FTA Administrator when they are appointed.

The coalition's efforts appear to be making some impact. At the recent APTA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, Matt Cahill, Chief Counsel at the Federal Transit Administration, shared the following regarding a possible Drug and Alcohol rulemaking: "We will be modernizing our drug and alcohol testing rules to account for technological advancements, including TNCs like Uber and Lyft."

It is unclear what form this modernization effort will take but we look forward to continuing to work with the FTA and other stakeholders on this issue.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

Access kicks off the 2026 CTSA Extension Program

Access' CTSA Learning and Development Program proudly kicked off its 2026 training series with an engaging leadership and management development workshop in partnership with Dr. Monica Hunter.

With more than 30 years of motivational speaking experience, Dr. Hunter brought together professionals from across Los Angeles County to strengthen their leadership capacity in today's evolving work environments. Through practical exercises and guided discussion, attendees deepened their understanding of core leadership principles and gained strategies to apply immediately in their roles.

Participants left feeling empowered to lead with clarity and empathy, marking a strong start to the 2026 CTSA Extension Program!

To stay informed about our upcoming workshops and events, be sure to sign up for the 2026 CTSA Extension Learning & Development Program mailing list and join us for future learning opportunities!

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

Mayra Noriega
CTSA Analyst



Access attends the 19th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) hosted the 19th Annual Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference on April 14–16, 2026, in Portland, Oregon, bringing together transit professionals responsible for administering and overseeing Drug and Alcohol testing programs.

The conference offered in-depth training on maintaining compliance with federal regulations (49 CFR Part 655 and Part 40), with sessions designed for both new and experienced Drug and Alcohol Program Managers (DAPMs) and Designated Employer Representatives (DERs). Specifically, the conference breakout sessions covered core regulatory requirements, contractor coverage, service agent oversight, and distinctions between DOT and non-DOT testing.

There were also other sessions that addressed key operational areas such as pre-employment, random, post-accident, and reasonable suspicion testing; handling refusals and non-negative results; record retention requirements; and return-to-duty processes. FTA auditors and subject matter experts provided attendees with the most practical guidance based on regulatory interpretations, audit findings, and real-world compliance scenarios.

Overall, the conference strengthened my program knowledge, promoted the importance of federal requirements, and continued to support transit agencies in maintaining effective, compliant Drug and Alcohol Programs.

Onnika Payne
Transportation Planner



Commendations

Southern Region

"Driver Ricardo was a joy to ride with. He was kind, had great conversations, and was a good driver."

Denise P.
Rider since May 2025

Northern Region

"The driver was wonderful and assisted with loading and unloading. He has a really nice personality and provided wonderful service."

Gloria M.
Rider since May 2016