

Behind the Scenes



Executive Director's Report

The Board committees met on September 20 and addressed the following:

The External/Stakeholder Relations committee approved a contract extension for travel training services along with reappointments to the Transportation Professional Advisory Committee. The committee also heard legislative updates from Access' federal, state and local lobbyists.

The Performance Monitoring committee took action and approved the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan. The committee forwarded the Antelope Valley service region provider contract award to the full Board.

The Planning and Development committee took action and approved the extension and increase of funds to the agency's financial software contract along with the renewal of various insurance policies. The committee also approved the FY2022-26 Short Range Strategic Plan.

The next full meeting of the Board of Directors will be on October 18, 2021.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

access

Join Access' Community Advisory Committee (CAC)!

The CAC is a group of 15 individuals appointed by the Board of Directors for a two-year term.

Made up of customers and those representing community organizations serving persons with disabilities, the CAC,

during its monthly meeting, provides community input and advice to Access staff on operational and policy issues. When directed, the CAC also makes recommendations on certain topics to the Access Board for consideration.



Two vacancies currently exist and need to be filled. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please do the following:

- > Click on https://accessla.org/about_us/cac.html to obtain an application in either English or Spanish; or,
- > Call 213-270-6000 if you would like the application in an alternative format.

After completing the application, mail, fax, or email in the completed application to:

Access Services
Attn: Community Advisory Committee
PO Box 5728
El Monte, CA 91734

Once the application is received, they will be screened and the most qualified candidates will be asked to participate in an interview. Ideally, candidates who are invited will reflect the diversity across various types of disabilities and regional diversity across the geographic area being served by the agency.

Rycharde P Martindale-Essington
ADA Coordinator

Global hosts Behind-The-Wheel Trainer Skills Course



Global Paratransit Inc. (GPI) recently hosted a five day Behind-The-Wheel Course for their Road Supervisors and Behind the Wheel Trainers.

Access Services' Operations Service Monitors Garrett Rodriguez and Jimmy Flores had an opportunity to take part in the class. Safety and Compliance consultant Frank Ciccarella and GPI's Safety Manager Cyndy Lancy conducted the event by teaching participants how to perform the fundamentals of safe driving and provide customer service etiquette.

A blend of classroom instruction and hands-on training was utilized to review the concepts of defensive driving and emergency equipment use, as participants would eventually demonstrate what they learned by navigating throughout the Los Angeles area. With assistance of the instructors, the course proved to be mentally engaging, as participants

were challenged to display ideal practices such as frequent mirror and lane scanning, proper mobility device securement, and the ability to analyze and motivate others in operator safety.

While the course was a valuable tool to develop one's skill set, it also focused on making sure that attendees would be able to communicate and teach others. Overall, the program served as an essential reminder of the role safety plays in the transit industry and the standards that future professionals should aspire to.

Jimmy Flores
Operators Service Monitor

Access implements Program to assist Small Businesses

Small businesses face many challenges today. A few of these challenges include competing head-to-head with larger businesses and the cash flow requirements needed to successfully compete for larger contracts.

Access understands this and has implemented a small business preference program that helps level the playing field for small businesses by providing eligible small businesses with a five percent preference when the bid on Access contracts.

A five percent preference allows Access to reduce the amount bid by a small business for evaluation purposes, but still pay the full amount bid by the small business. Many times, the five percent preference is the difference between winning and losing a bid. The Small Business Preference Program or SBPP applies to most purchases less than \$75,000. This program is intended to stimulate economic development in the local marketplace by increasing participation of small businesses in Access contracts. The SBPP also encourages large businesses to subcontract with small businesses by applying the five percent preference to large businesses that subcontract at least 25 percent of their bid to eligible small businesses.

We are confident that the SBPP will boost Access contracting opportunities for small business owners.

Alvina Narayan
Manager, Training and Compliance