

access

AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 11, 2024

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

***Webinar - Please see note below**

Time	Item	Item Description	Presenter	Disposition	Pages
	1.	Call to Order/Roll Call	Chair	Action	
	2.	Approve May 9, 2024 Minutes	Chair	Action	4-6
	3.	Approve March 14, 2024 Minutes	Chair	Action	7-10
	4.	General Public Comment	Chair/Public	Information	
	5.	Executive Director's Report	Andre Colaiace	Information	
	6.	Customer Survey Results	Eric Haack & Catherine Veschi Great Blue Research	Presentation	
	7.	Emergency Management Update	Alex Chrisman	Presentation	
	8.	Operations Report	Faustino Salvador	Presentation	
	9.	New Business Raised Subsequent to the Posting of the Agenda	Members	Possible Action	
	10.	Adjournment	Chair	Action	

Access Services does not discriminate based on disability. Accordingly, Access Services seeks to ensure that individuals with disabilities will have an equal opportunity to participate in the range of Access Services events and

programs by providing appropriate auxiliary aids and services to facilitate communication. In determining the type of auxiliary aids and services for communication that will be provided, primary consideration is given to the request of the individual with disabilities. However, the final decision belongs to Access Services. To help ensure availability of those auxiliary aids and services you require, please make every effort to notify Access Services of your request at least three (3) business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting in which you wish to utilize those aids or services. You may do so by contacting (213) 270-6000.

Note: Access Transportation Professionals Advisory Committee meetings are held pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act [Cal. Gov. Code §54950] and are open to the public. The public may view and obtain all written information supporting this agenda provided to the committee both initially and supplementary prior to the meeting at the agency's offices located at 3449 Santa Anita Avenue 3rd Floor, El Monte, California and on its website at <http://accessla.org>. Documents, including Power Point handouts distributed to the committee by staff or committee members at the meeting will simultaneously be made available to the public. Three opportunities are available for the public to address the committee during a committee meeting: (1) before a specific agenzized item is debated and voted upon regarding that item and (2) general public comment. The exercise of the right to address the committee is subject to restriction as to time and appropriate decorum. All persons wishing to make public comment must fill out a yellow Public Comment Form and submit it to Access staff. Public comment is generally limited to three (3) minutes per speaker and the total time available for public comment may be limited at the discretion of the Chair. Persons whose speech is impaired such that they are unable to address the committee at a normal rate of speed may request the accommodation of a limited amount of additional time from the Chair but only by checking the appropriate box on the Public Comment Form. Granting such an accommodation is in the discretion of the Chair. The committee will not and cannot respond during the meeting to matters raised under general public comment. Pursuant to provisions of the Brown Act governing these proceedings, no discussion or action may be taken on these matters unless they are listed on the agenda, or unless certain emergency or special circumstances exist. However, the committee may direct staff to investigate and/or schedule certain matters for consideration at a future committee meeting and the staff will respond to all public comment in writing prior to the next meeting.

***NOTE**

NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES

Pursuant to temporary revised Brown Act requirements, TPAC committee members will be participating via webinar. The public may submit written comments on any item on the agenda - 1) through email by addressing it to - tpac@accessla.org or 2) via US Postal mail by addressing it to - Access Services TPAC Comments, PO Box 5728, El Monte CA 91734. Please include your name, item number and comments in the correspondence. Comments must be submitted/received no later than 8:00 am on Thursday, July 11, 2024 so they can be read into the record as appropriate.

The public may also participate via the Zoom webinar link, or by teleconference. Please review the procedures to do so as follows -

How to Provide Public Comment in a Board Meeting via Zoom

Online

1. Click the Zoom link for the meeting you wish to join. Meeting information can be found at: https://accessla.org/news_and_events/agendas.html. Make sure to use a current, up-to-date browser: Chrome 30+, Firefox 27+, Microsoft Edge 12+, Safari 7+. Certain functionality may be disabled in older browsers including Internet Explorer. You may also use this direct link - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83535660543>
2. Enter an email address and your name. Your name will be visible online while you are speaking.

3. When the TPAC Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click on "raise hand." Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak. Mute all other audio before speaking. Using multiple devices can cause an audio feedback.
4. Please note that the "Chat" feature is not enabled during the meeting for general public attendees. If you cannot use the "raise hand" feature, the please submit a written comment as outlined above.
5. When called, please limit your remarks to three minutes. An audio signal will sound at the three-minute mark and the Chair will have the discretion to mute you at any point after that. After the comment has been given, the microphone for the speaker's Zoom profile will be muted.

Note: Members of the public will not be shown on video.

By phone

1. Call the Zoom phone number and enter the webinar ID for the meeting you wish to join. Meeting information can be found at:
https://accessla.org/news_and_events/agendas.html
2. You can also call in using the following information -
3. Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free)
Webinar ID: 835 3566 0543
4. When the TPAC Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, press *9 to raise a hand. Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak. Speakers will be called by the last four digits of their phone number. Please note that phone numbers in their entirety will be visible online while speakers are speaking.
5. If you cannot use the "raise hand" feature, the please submit a written comment as outlined above.
6. When called, please state your name and limit your remarks to three minutes. An audio signal will sound at the three-minute mark and the Chair will have the discretion to mute you at any point after that. After the comment has been given, the microphone for the speaker's Zoom profile.

ITEM 2
TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES FOR THURSDAY MAY 9, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

TPAC Chair Fayma Ishaq called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

TPAC members and alternates in attendance: Fayman Ishaq (METRO), Diane Amaya (City of Redondo Beach Cities Transit), Silva Baghdanian (City of Glendale), Gracie Davis (Orange County Transportation Authority), Chaka Garbutt (Long Beach Transit), Erica Jacques (Pomona Valley Transportation Authority), Robin Quintanilla (LADOT), Trini Ramirez (City of Pasadena, DOT).

TPAC Members absent: Adrianna Kendricks (Montebello Bus Lines), James Lee (Torrance Transit), Liliana Huerta (East Los Angeles Regional Center), Sebastian Hernandez, Esteban Rodriguez (Antelope Valley Transit Authority).

Access staff in attendance: Matthew Avancena, Garrett Rodriguez, Hector Rodriguez, Andre Colaiace, Veronica Guzman-Vanmarcke

APPROVE MARCH 14, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Fayma Ishaq entertained a motion to approve the March 14, 2024 minutes.

The approval of the minutes was postponed until the July meeting because it had not been posted within the required 72-hour limit.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Andre Colaiace stated that the Board approved the zero-emission bus rollout plan submitted to the California Air Resources Board as required by the Innovative Clean Transit regulation. CARB staff has reviewed the rollout plan and concluded that it met the requirements. Staff are continuously looking for accessible paratransit vehicles that are both electric and hydrogen. Their electric vehicles are undergoing federal safety testing in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and they are working on a hydrogen vehicle concept as well. He stated that currently there were no vehicles that

meet the ZEB requirements that will work for Access, but they are working on that. The Federal Access Board, not to be confused with Access Services, is an independent agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership and accessible design, and the development of accessible guidelines and standards. From April 15 to April 19, the Federal Access Board held its quarterly meeting in Los Angeles to understand the state of accessibility in the city. On Thursday, April 18th, they spent the whole day looking at accessibility in the city of Los Angeles as it prepares for the Olympic Games, and he participated on the panel and discussed transportation accessibility and facilities. He discussed the role that Access Services plays in making Los Angeles accessible, and how new infrastructure like bike lanes need to consider paratransit in their design. He mentioned that current Federal Buy America laws are making it increasingly difficult to develop accessible paratransit vehicles. They are also requesting \$20 million for the Antelope Valley paratransit operations and maintenance facility in Lancaster through the Federal Buses and Bus Facilities Program. This request is in addition to our submission to the Federal RAISE Grant for the same amount of money.

FY '25 DRAFT BUDGET

Hector Rodriguez presented the proposed FY 2025 budget. He went through the forecasted percentages on the proposed budget. He explained that the current trend is increasing demand, and it will continue to rise through the end of the year. In terms of capital construction for the Antelope Valley, they have budgeted about \$8 million because they expect some costs to come in FY25 but most of the construction costs will come in FY26. By the end of the month, they'll try to finalize the budget and then present the final draft budget to the Board in May 2024. They won't finalize everything until they take the final budget for approval to the Board in June 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Yael Hagen made a public comment by stating that people with disabilities and seniors who were able to use a mix of fixed route and paratransit are using fixed route less. Primarily for safety reasons and that does make an impact. She stated there were many bus stops that were still not ADA-compliant, and that also makes a difference. There are not a lot of viable transportation options for people with disabilities, and Access is the largest of them. Quality of service should be good because when they have an obligation to provide something to the public, it should be quality.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Garrett Rodriguez presented the statistics for the operations report. In early April, the Antelope Valley region hired a new general manager, Victor Garate. Victor has worked in the Southern region for Access in the past, and most recently as the Antelope Valley operations manager. Access attended the Los Angeles Disabilities and Aging Collaborative on April 11. Access was able to connect with a diverse group of professionals, advocates, and individuals with lived experience. Project administrator, Faustino Salvador, and mobility management administrator, Steve Wrenn, were in attendance representing Access. Additionally, their senior road safety inspector has been working with the City of Long Beach and Long Beach Transit to implement, adding a total of three stand signs at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Lastly, in terms of vehicle acquisition, 121 ProMasters have been delivered to the contractors as of May 3rd. This concludes the order of 58 ProMasters. The order of 101 vehicles is making progress with approximately six deliveries per week.

NEW BUSINESS RAISED SUBSEQUENT TO THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Chair Fayma Ishaq requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
First: Vice Chair Diane Amaya
Second: David Fienberg
Vote: Meeting adjourned at 10:20am

ITEM 3
TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES FOR THURSDAY MARCH 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

TPAC Chair Fayma Ishaq called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

TPAC members and alternates in attendance: Fayman Ishaq (METRO), Diane Amaya (City of Redondo Beach Cities Transit),,, Silva Baghdanian (City of Glendale), Gracie Davis (Orange County Transportation Authority), Esteban Rodriguez (Antelope Valley Transit Authority), Chaka Garbutt (Long Beach Transit), Erica Jacques (Pomona Valley Transportation Authority), Janna Smith (LADOT), Liliana Huerta (East Los Angeles Regional Center), Trini Ramirez (City of Pasadena, DOT)

TPAC Members absent: Adrianna Kendrick (Montebello Bus Lines), James Lee (Torrance Transit)

Access staff in attendance: Matthew Avancena, Vicente Pena, Alex Chrisman, Eric Haack, Andre Colaiace, Veronica Guzman-Vanmarcke

APPROVE JANUARY 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Fayma Ishaq entertained a motion to approve the January 11, 2024 minutes.
First: Gracie Davis
Second: Esteban Rodriguez
Abstain: None
Vote: Via roll call, minutes were approved.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Andre Colaiace announced he went to Washington DC with Randy Johnson. For the first time in 10 years, Congress was accepting proposals for earmarks. They are projects that individual congressional offices can propose for funding through appropriations bills. Last year Access put in a request for \$3 million for the construction of our Antelope Valley Paratransit Operations Maintenance Facility. It was sponsored by Congressman Mike Garcia, who represents Santa Clarita and the City of Lancaster where this project will be built. Senator Alex Padilla also sponsored the request on the

Senate side. He announced that in the most recent Appropriations Act that that was signed by President Biden, it was approved for \$3 million for the construction of the Access Antelope Valley Paratransit Operations and Maintenance Facility. He thanked the congressman and senator, as well as Jen Covino with Covino Smith and Simon, and Access staff who worked on the project. It was a big success, and it was assisted by the fact that the Board decided to purchase property in the Antelope Valley and also establish a facilities development and construction fund, which allowed them to go to congressional offices and state.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fernando Roldan made a public comment by stating that what was missing from the report is the lack of complaints on bad shared rides. It's something that needs to be discussed at the CAC and any committee meetings regarding bad shared ride routes. Something that needs to be addressed is also the newer vehicles. He hopes that they bring the new vehicles to the Abilities Expo, if not some other event so people can look at the newer vehicles.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Vicente Pena presented the statistics for the operations report. He stated the new, small Ram ProMaster was currently in production in Riverside. Two different orders are on the assembly and an order of 58 vehicles is almost complete with 49 delivered as of March 8th. The next order of 101 vehicles has started with 29 vehicles delivered so far. Once those two orders are complete, work will start on the next 48 more vans. The Access info line was updated with information on standing order rules and how they function as well as to how to submit compliments and complaints through the Access website. The phone number can be found in the riders guide and on the Access website. Lastly, Access held the community meeting on Zoom on February 24th. There were over 100 attendees, and a wide range of topics were discussed. The topics range from the Access Biannual Customer Satisfaction Survey, and Operations Monitoring Service, also known as OMC.

ZERO EMISSION BUS (ZEB) ROLLOUT PLAN

Eric Haack presented Access' ZEB Rollout Plan. The California Air Resources Board drafted innovative clean transit regulation guidance in 2019. A component of this was that transit agencies develop a Zero Emission Bus Rollout Plan. The elements required for the rollout plan are as follows. The plan seeks to know what Zero Emission vehicles the agency intends to purchase. Second, the plan then seeks to know what fueling or

charging infrastructure the agency will install for its vehicles. Examples include hydrogen fuel or battery charging technology. Third, the plan asks the agency to demonstrate that it will include deployment of these vehicles to historically disadvantaged communities. The plan then asks the agency to explain how staff will be trained in the new technology, focusing principally on driver and maintenance personnel. The funding sources may be secured that will help offset the cost of these new expenses and technologies. And finally, the plan seeks a discussion on the possible challenges or barriers an agency may face related to introducing Zero Emission Bus vehicles.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fernando Roldan made a public comment by stating that with the environmental issues they need a lot of clean vehicles. As far as the charging stations he asks them to partner with Metro to see if they could share some of their charging stations. Maybe they can also work something out with other bus companies around San Gabriel Transit, Antelope Valley, Santa Clarita, and the other regions.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Alex Chrisman provided an update on emergency management. The Emergency Operations Center activated to duty officer status during the month of February providing storm intelligence and messaging to riders. The mass notification system was used to advise riders of peak storm conditions on February 4th and to recommend that riders consider rescheduling their travel. The agency website was also used to share this message along with the Where's My Ride app. Access hosted two tabletop exercises in recent months. The first was a simulated evacuation of a nursing home and a request for Access to assist with the relocation of the residents. Their eligibility contractor participated in another tabletop exercise that simulated the evacuation of the Eligibility Center due to a train derailment and a resulting chemical release. The Eastern region was also involved in this exercise since they provide transportation for the Eligibility Center. Both exercises were a great opportunity for staff to hone their emergency management skills before an event happens. The Transportation Mutual Assistance Compact that Access helps administer now has 24 member agencies since Golden Empire Transit in Bakersfield, joined in July 2023. This marks the first agency from Kern County to join the group. TransMAC provides a framework for assistance and coordination among transportation agencies in the event of an emergency. This month, the TransMAC Steering Committee approved the second-ever update of the operating guide, which provides information about agency fleets and capabilities as well as detailed contact information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fernando Roldan made a public comment by stating that he recommends these kinds of emergencies, including fire department, police departments of various locations. Some of the employees and clients are people in wheelchairs and walkers, and they should be prepared.

DRAFT VIDEO - HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Matthew Avancena presented this video on how to make a reservation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fernando Roldan made a public comment by thanking Matthew Avancena for doing a good job on the video. He thinks it will help prevent wrong address mistakes for riders when they get picked up.

NEW BUSINESS RAISED SUBSEQUENT TO THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Amaya stated that the CalACT Conference is on April 15th through the 18th, for those that can attend the conference.

Chair Ishaq stated that the Abilities Expo is coming up soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Chair Fayma Ishaq requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
First: Erika Jacquez
Second: Gracie Davis
Vote: Meeting adjourned at 10:38am