

access

AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 10, 2025

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 8, 2025, Minutes	Chair	Action	4-7
	3.	General Public Comment	Chair/Public	Information	
	4.	Executive Director's Report	Andre Colaiace	Information	
	5.	Results of Technology Survey	Eric Haack/Great Blue Research	Presentation	
	6.	FY 2026 Budget	Hector Rodriguez	Presentation	
	7.	Operations Report	Faustino Salvador	Presentation	
	8.	Officer Nominating Subcommittee	Matthew Avancena	Information	
	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 agenda 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 to 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 8, 2025 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/83457098056>
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 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: 834 5709 8056
4. When the TPAC Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, press *9 to raise your 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.

**TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES FOR THURSDAY MAY 8, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

TPAC Chair Fayma Ishaq called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

TPAC members and alternates in attendance: Fayma Ishaq (METRO), James Lee (Torrance Transit), Erica Jacquez (Pomona Valley Transportation Authority), Martha Graciano (LADOT), Britt Card (City of Pasadena), Chaka Garbutt (Long Beach Transit), LaShawn Gillespie (Foothill Transit), Liliana Huerta (East Los Angeles Regional Center), Melissa Munguia (Orange County Transportation Authority), Adrianna Kendricks (Montebello Bus Lines)

TPAC Members absent: David Feinberg (Santa Monica Big Blue Bus), Silva Baghdanian (City of Glendale), Tyrone Gunn (City of Redondo Beach), Tisha Lane (AVTA)

Access staff in attendance: Matthew Avancena, Andre Colaiace, Alex Chrisman, Jessica Volanos, Byron Barrientos, Eric Haack, Veronica Guzman-Vanmarcke

APPROVE MARCH 13, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Fayma Ishaq entertained a motion to approve the March 13, 2025 minutes.

First: Chaka Garbutt

Second: LaShawn Gillespie

Abstain: None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Matthew Avancena gave the executive report on behalf of Andre Colaiace. He is in Washington DC to meet with congressional staff to try to lobby for Access in the region to ensure that Access is on the radar. Access Services is in the middle of a triennial review. The final conference will not be held until Andre Colaiace is available, and so we're trying to set that up. They had elections and Lee Burner and Adrian Aguilar will be representing the municipal bus operators, and Martin Gombert will represent the local operators. For this election cycle, the alternating seat went from the locals to the municipal operators and that is why you now have two municipal operator

members on the Board. This current cycle has Valerie Gibson who represents the locals, and so she will step down effectively July 1st and then Martin Gombert will remain to represent the local operators. He thanked the member agencies and TPAC members who have sent him a support letter. Access is submitting a grant application for their STBG funding. They received this money to account for the federal portion of the budget. It's about 30%, so for this year it's about \$90 million and the reason why they now need to apply is Metro, who is the planning agency, will allocate these funds to Access Services as part of a formal allocation. Due to a change in the regulations, SCAG will now have to conduct a call for projects. For others who have traditionally received this funding in the past, they have to apply in order to continue to receive this funding. Alvina Narayan and he are preparing an application so that they can continue to receive this for Fiscal Year '27 and '28 because Fiscal Year '26 would be the last year that access would continue to receive these funds automatically.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS VIDEO

Alex Chrisman gave a presentation on a new emergency preparedness video that provides riders with suggestions about being prepared for emergencies while on an Access vehicle and at home. It covers many aspects of emergencies in the five-minute video with as much information based on guidance from the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management and feedback from the CAC over the years. This video is being shown at the Access Eligibility Center, the YouTube page and the Access website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Yael Hagen made a public comment by asking TPAC members to advocate for riders to have areas in the vehicle where they can put things like a water bottle or a backpack. Additionally, there is a suggestion that if it's a mandatory evacuation, that people call 911. The danger of calling 911 when you have a mobility device is that you will not likely be transported with a mobility device. She suggested they rethink this suggestion.

WEST CENTRAL RFP PREVIEW

Jessica Volanos discussed that they will be presenting the West Central Region RFP, and she reviewed the contract changes. They are approaching the end of the contract with California Transit, who are currently providing service in the West Central Region. All contract extensions have been approved by the Board and the contract will end in October 2026. The scope of work for the West Central Region was last developed 10 years ago and will be updated to reflect the changes within Access, including policy changes, goals, and the Board direction.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Byron Barrientos presented the statistics for operations and gave some highlights. On April 22nd, Access participated in a tabletop exercise for the Transportation Mutual Assistance Compact, better known as TransMAC at Metro's new Emergency Operations Center. Numerous agencies attended and practiced their response to various emergency events, walking through how they react in a real-life situation. Access staff has been instrumental in the recent growth of TransMAC, which is now 28 agencies throughout Southern and Central California. TransMAC agencies have entered into an agreement to help in the event of emergencies or unplanned event that will overwhelm local resources. Access staff attended the Patients Family Advisory Council on April 9th, which was hosted in Rancho Los Amigos. That's the highest trip generator in the southern region. Project Administrator Faustino Salvador attended the meeting and was able to answer questions the attendees posed. Lastly, Access attended sensitivity training for new employees for all six contractors. During the month of April, Access visited the West Central and Southern Region to observe training material and clear lesson plans and also observed strong suits and improvements that could be made and communicated with the general managers.

MEMBER DISCUSSION

LaShawn Gillespie asked on the preventable collisions per 100,000 miles, if they have any idea of the contributing factors that are going into some of the actions the contractors have taken. He asked if there was any training involved. Byron Barrientos stated it was always important to retrain the fundamentals and eliminate some of the common ones, which tend to be those types of incidents.

ACCESS TO WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

Eric Haack presented this item by stating that the Access's program was designed to do three things. The Access to Work program modified traditional Access trips for customers who were using Access to travel to places of employment or job training. Trips were designed around a customer's start time so that they would know they would get to work on time. A component of the FTA grant was intended to benefit persons with low-income earnings, so that last line was challenging some who applied for the program because FTA used a national low-income or poverty scale. Access has faced a choice of whether to continue the Access to Work program or discontinue it since they did not have grant funding supporting it. The Access to Work fare was changed from \$2 under the grant to now match the traditional Access fare, which is \$2.75 for trips up to 19.9 miles and \$3.50 for trips 20 miles and over. Access is continuing to monitor the Access to Work program and can introduce improvements where and when needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Yael Hagen made a public comment by stating that riders use Access to Work, five days a week to and from work at the rate of \$2.75 per trip, which is a much higher cost than an unfixed route and this adds up. She was hoping that this committee would be willing to put their heads together and see if they can find ways to help with the cost of these trips.

NEW BUSINESS RAISED SUBSEQUENT TO THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Chair Fayma Ishaq requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
First: Erica Jacquez
Second: Melissa Mungia
Vote: Meeting adjourned at 10:39am