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Behind the Scenes

Executive Report

Access is looking to adopt a new fare system in order to be in compliance with federal regulations. Under the proposed system, the fare for each trip can be no more than twice the fare of a similar local bus or rail trip.

To calculate the fare, the cost of a similar fixed-route trip would be doubled and then rounded down to the nearest dollar or half-dollar. In a dollar system, the possible fare would be \$1, \$2, \$3 up to a maximum of either \$4 or \$5. In a half-dollar system, the possible fare would be 50 cents, \$1, \$1.50 etc. up to a maximum of either \$4 or \$5. Fares in Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley will not be changing.

Access is hosting a round of Community Meetings and a Public Hearing to get feedback from customers and stakeholders on which fare option (50 cent or \$1 increments) and which maximum fare (\$4 or \$5) they would prefer.

For dates and times of the Community Meetings, please visit our website at accessla.org/meetings.

*By Alfredo Torales,
Special Projects Administrator*

Los Angeles Current Affairs Forum Luncheon with Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

On Wednesday March 18, Access Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Governmental Affairs Andre Colaiace and myself attended the Los Angeles Current Affairs Forum luncheon.

The Forum brings together a wide variety of decision makers who hear from both elected and appointed officials who discuss policies that affect the County.

This luncheon featured Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl as the guest speaker. Supervisor Kuehl was elected to her County seat in November and is also on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors. She spoke to the structure of the County and how the five (5) County Supervisors are responsible for the needs of a population that is larger than most states.

She reiterated her support for mass transportation in the County and also highlighted the importance of first/last mile transportation options that will make the County's bus/rail systems fully useable. Supervisor Kuehl also took questions from the audience and addressed the Supervisor's evolving position on the role of the County's Chief Executive Office.

Next month the Los Angeles Current Affairs Forum luncheon will feature the County's other new Supervisor, Hilda Solis.



*By F Scott Jewell,
Chief Operating Officer*

Access Participates in the CalAct State Rodeo



California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalAct) is the largest state transit association in the United States, promoting ideals and advocates for effective community transportation.

On March 14th and 15th in Roseville California, CalAct conducted its annual Rodeo. We are both proud and elated to announce that our very own Ulysses Espinoza brought home the gold, winning 1st place at the CalAct Rodeo 2015!

He was exuberant about his experience and wants to thank Access and Santa Clarita for the opportunity to be part of such a great experience.

Ulysses provides Access service in the Santa Clarita Region, and has been an employee of Santa Clarita Transit's contractor, MV Transportation, for more than 6 years! This wasn't Ulysses first Rodeo, and in fact he took first place in the individual competition during the 2014 Access Rodeo.

*By Hamilton Franco,
Operations Service Monitor*

StrataGen Users Conference



The conference kicked off with StrataGen management unveiling their next generation platform "ADEPT 7." This new upgrade is slated to be released later this year.

This intuitive solution will help address the day-to-day dispatch challenges most agencies face such as providing efficient and reliable service due to a growing demand.

Mr. Tsuei discussed Access technology infrastructure upgrades and innovative Mobility Management programs utilized across the country.

On the last day of the conference, Digital Dispatch Systems (DDS) personnel were on site to offer a glimpse of the upcoming changes to their mobile data hardware computers which are in all Access vehicles.

By Ruben Prieto, Systems Analyst

On March 3-6, Global Paratransit and Access staff attended the StrataGen user conference in Nashville, Tennessee. StrataGen is the provider of the ADEPT reservation and scheduling system used by Global Paratransit in the Southern region and Keolis in the Antelope Valley.

In addition to StrataGen showcasing their product roadmap, several subject matter experts including Access Services Senior IT Manager, Bill Tsuei, provided useful information for the attendees.

Olive View-UCLA Medical Center's National Professional Social Work Month



On March 2nd Olive View-UCLA Medical Center had their 4th Annual Social Work Month. Their official theme this year was "Social Work Paves the Way for Change." Celebrated each March, National Professional Social Work Month is an opportunity for social workers across the country to turn the spotlight on their profession and highlight the important contributions they make to society.

An invitation was extended to Access Services Mobility Management Team in which Management Counselors Steve Wrenn and Mayra Perez-Calderon attended. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center serves an

ethnically and linguistically diverse population, the majority being Latino. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center is a safety net hospital of the Los Angeles County Department of Health and Human Services. They serve the uninsured and under-insured patient population.

Access received feedback from several staff, some of whom were Clinical Social Workers, Physical Therapy Specialists, and even Registered Nurses—all hailing Access as a "great service."

*By Mayra Perez-Calderon,
Mobility Management Counselor*

Access Services Short Range Transportation Plan

In April, Access Services will release its first Short Range Transportation Plan (SRTP). Many transit agencies develop SRTPs as planning documents to publicly share an agency's plans for the future and Access is no different.

Access' SRTP will begin with a review of some of the major accomplishments that Access has made in the past five years including the installation of SmartDrive cameras on all dedicated paratransit vehicles and launching such programs as the Wheelchair Marking and Tethering Program.

The majority of Access SRTP, however, will focus on the future. Looking out five years (2015 to 2020), the SRTP will lay out some of goals that the agency hopes to achieve in the near future.

With the development of its first SRTP, Access wishes to share the agency's goals with its customers, its partners and the public.

For questions or comments about Access SRTP, please feel free to contact Eric Haack by email haack@accessla.org.

By Eric Haack, Strategic Planner



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Rider Comments

"I want to file a smile on the entire company. All of you give good service, are kind, nice, and I want to bless all of you. This is for every single person that works for Access Services.""

Haroutioun,

Rider since September 2013

Los Angeles Marathon 2015



The Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles was a sight to see on Sunday, March 15 with nine staged Access vehicles from the West Central Region.

Hotel guests and employees stood by and watched as 15 elite male and female racers boarded the Access vehicles and were transported to the starting line to compete in the Los Angeles Marathon Push Rim Wheelchair Competition.

The starting line was Dodger Stadium and the Access drivers worked hard to ensure that everyone was at the starting line on time. The competitors were assisted by two CHP motorcycle officers who escorted the Access motorcade to Dodger Stadium.



By Randy Johnson, Project Administrator and Faustino Salvador, Operations Service Monitor