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Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

Access, led by Director of Information Technology Bill Tsuei, is continuing to push its technology program forward.

We are working with service providers to launch an online reservation function, which will allow riders to make reservations and cancel reservations directly via computers, tablets and mobile phones. It will eventually integrate with the Where's My Ride (WMR) mobile app as well.

As it did with WMR, Access intends to have customers test this new feature before rolling it out more widely. The schedule is as follows:

- > Eastern and West Central regions in April;
- > Northern region in July;
- > Southern region in August;
- > Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita regions in September.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

Access staff attends US DOT Automated Vehicle Policy Stakeholder Discussion

On March 1, I was invited to attend an Automated Vehicle Policy Stakeholder discussion at the US Department of Transportation Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The invitation came directly from US DOT Secretary Elaine L. Chao to individuals around the United States who are involved in the automated vehicle field.



The event consisted of two half-day sessions. The morning session was an invitation-only event with about 90 invitees. The session broke into several breakout sessions covering six different topics:

1. Public Safety and First Responders
2. Disability and Accessibility Mobility Concerns
3. Consumer and Public Education
4. Insurance and Liability
5. Employment Issues and Labor
6. Cybersecurity

The afternoon session was open to the general public and it started with Secretary Chao providing an overview on DOT's existing Automated Vehicle Guidelines 2.0 and how they intend to transition to Automated Vehicle Guidelines 3.0 by the 3rd quarter of 2018. This was followed by two discussion sessions addressing the "Impacts of Automation on Smart Logistics" and "AV Policy Best Practices from All Levels of Government". The session ended with a panel discussion of Administrators from FTA, FHWA, FMCSA, MARAD, NHTSA, FRA and PHMSA to share their perspectives on this emerging technology.

Bill Tsuei
Director of Information Technology

Culver CityBus Celebrates 90 years!

On March 3, 2018, Culver CityBus hosted a celebration at the Culver City Transportation Headquarters, celebrating 90 years of providing bus service to its citizens. Culver CityBus first started providing service on March 3, 1928. It is the second oldest, municipally owned and operated bus line in California, and one of forty five member agencies for whom Access provides ADA complementary paratransit services.

The celebration included a DJ, entertainment, free food, caricature artists, a bus photo booth, a tour of the property and giveaways, including a free commemorative TAP Card. Access Board Member Kim Turner and I attended the celebration along with many other member agencies, city officials, and Culver City residents.

It threatened to rain throughout the day, but fortunately the Southern California sunshine held



on to allow the attendees to enjoy the celebration. Access Board Member Art Ida, Director of Transportation for Culver CityBus, and his staff put on a great event.

Congratulations Culver CityBus!

Randy Johnson
Manager, Government Affairs & Outreach



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Rider Commendations

"I would like to file a commendation for my driver Hamilton Rodriguez. I happened to be at his pickup location but was not scheduled to ride with him. He called Dispatch and got the approval to add me to his trips. He went out of his way to make sure I got home. He was kind, courteous, and very patient. I called today because I truly believe Hamilton deserves recognition for being an exceptional driver. Thank you Access!"

Pearl Bottfeld
Customer since December 2012

"I would like to file a commendation for my driver. I was just released from the hospital, and this driver took extra care of me. On my way to the vehicle I almost fell, and the driver was there to prevent me from falling. If it wasn't for her preventing me from falling, I don't know how long I would have been on the ground."

Michael Vanhook
Customer since December 2016

access

Foothill Transit 23rd Annual Roadeo

On Saturday, March 11th 2018, Justin Sheldon and I had the opportunity to volunteer as judges at Foothill Transit's 23rd Annual Bus Roadeo. We were joined by former Access staff Christina Blanco (OCTA) and London Lee (Foothill Transit), as well as dozens of transit professionals from various agencies throughout Los Angeles County.

The day kicked off with some clouds and a doughnut and bagel breakfast, along with a complimentary water resistant fleece jacket and event pin from Foothill. 25 drivers participated in the competition. The winner will advance to the regional competition on April 7th in Hesperia for a chance to compete in the national competition later this year.

I was tasked to be a safety judge and rode inside one of the buses while drivers navigated the obstacle course. I was in charge of observing the driver's usage of emergency flashers, turn signals, mirrors, and good driving posture and habits. Justin was in charge of judging the "first passenger stop" and making sure drivers were stopping at a proper distance from the curb. Aside from watching drivers keep their focus while competing in the rain, the most exciting part of the event was seeing the overwhelming encouragement and support that Foothill drivers showed for their fellow competitors and colleagues.

The day ended with a big raffle and lunch for everyone in attendance. It was a great day for Foothill Transit drivers and their families in attendance and a great experience for me and Justin to represent Access at the Roadeo.

Anthony Santiago
Operations Service Monitor

