



Access Services

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In this issue:

Automated Vehicle Symposium	2
2019 UCLA Transportation Camp	2
My Journey at Access Services.....	3
Rider Commendations.....	3

Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

I am pleased to report that, on August 19th, the assembled Executive Directors of five of the six Independent Living Centers in Los Angeles County unanimously elected Andrew Del Castillo as their representative to the Access Services Board of Directors, for a two-year term ending June 30, 2021. Mr. Del Castillo will be replacing Ms. Angela Nwokike who has served on the Access Board of Directors since 2011.

Mr. Del Castillo is employed as a Talking Fingers Braille Translation Specialist/AT Coordinator by the Service Center for Independent Life in Claremont, California. Both he and his wife are regular, longtime Access riders, using the service daily to their jobs and other destinations.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

access

Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) 48th Annual National Meeting

Intelligent Mobility, Transforming the Future of Transportation was the theme for COMTO's 48th annual conference in Tampa, Florida. The conference theme embraced the forecasted changes in technology and provided five (5) different workshop tracks:

1. Accessibility and Innovative Mobility
2. Historically Underutilized Businesses
3. Leadership
4. Transportation Policy
5. Transportation Technical

In 2017, COMTO National, in alignment with their vision for continued growth, inclusion and representation, formed the standing Accessibility Committee. Through the committee's effort and dedication, this year's conference brought accessibility to the forefront of transportation.

The Accessibility and Innovative Mobility track hosted a variety of sessions such as: *Innovations in Non-Emergency Medical Transportation; Providing Accessibility to Underserved Populations; The Ultimate Urban Circulator: Mobility for All; Accessibility of Autonomous Vehicles & Beacons to the Bus: How Intelligent Technology Solutions Can Improve Access to Transit for People with Disabilities and Beyond.*

In addition to a focus on accessibility, innovation and technology were included in each workshop track. The introduction of technology like smart phone apps, Bluetooth beacons and real time information is transforming how transportation professionals design, plan, build and operate systems.

The conference shared progressive and innovative ideas to drive change in the transportation industry, demonstrating the importance of automation in transit, the value of data and the importance of equity when implementing meaningful change for the traveling public. As the transportation landscape continues to evolve through technology, it is critical for agencies to build an integrated system that's adaptable, sustainable and accessible to all riders.

Alvina Narayan
Manager, Training and Compliance

Automated Vehicle Symposium

I recently attended the AV Symposium in Orlando, Florida. As the nation moves closer to the reality of autonomous vehicles, this event is getting larger and larger. There were approximately 250 attendees at this year's conference from all over the world.



The symposium brings together leading experts from industry, government and academia to discuss the future of autonomous vehicles. Representatives from over 45 AV companies displayed their innovative products. There were live outdoor demonstrations to see the future of AVs in action.

A major benefit of the symposium is the ability to engage with some of the researchers and developers of the technology behind automated vehicles. There were poster sessions, which allowed the authors the opportunity to present their papers and engage with attendees. Students who are conducting research at university transportation centers throughout the southeast gave presentations on their projects. The symposium also featured a recruitment fair, which helped leading technology companies connect with soon-to-be graduates. In addition, there were educational breakout sessions for the attendees.

Keynote presentation speakers included Chris Urmson, the co-founder and CEO of autonomous vehicle developer Aurora; Nicole R. Nason, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); and Raymond P. Martinez, Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), all of whom are focusing on the policy and safety aspects of integrating autonomous vehicles into society. Attendees were able to take away actionable insight and knowledge that can be used to help shape the future of the industry.

Randy Johnson
Director, Government Affairs and Outreach

2019 UCLA Transportation Camp

The UCLA logo is displayed in a large, blue, sans-serif font.

UCLA's Institute of Transportation Studies, Luskin School of Public Affairs recently hosted the Transportation Camp LA. The purpose of the event is for transportation professionals to share and learn about the region's transportation issues and successes. There was no set agenda or formal conference, the event is considered an 'unconference', where professionals identify their own experiences and interests. Sessions are determined at the beginning of the day and are drawn from proposals and ideas that attendees submit.

Transportation Camp LA aims to be an open, forward-thinking event that brings people from of all facets of the transportation world. The event, open to advocates, transit professionals, community leaders and members, and anyone who wants to improve mobility in Southern California.

Transportation Camp covers urban transportation issues in all of its forms, including economic, social, public health, and environmental impacts. Session topics in the previous Transportation Camp LA ranged from "Measuring Great Streets," to "Beyond Cars: Suburban Mobility," to "Equity & Inclusion in the Innovation Economy," and change every year to reflect the latest research and questions of the moment.

The experience was great because we discussed all the issues we see daily in the transit industry. We all shared a common theme -- to solve transit needs the best way possible by focusing on the rider.

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CTSA Analyst

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Rider Commendations

"I would like to file a commendation for my driver Rosio Perez. She knows how to care for her passengers and gets the job done professionally. What a wonderful person. I rarely encounter drivers that go that extra mile for their customers. Rosio ensures safety inside and outside of the vehicle."

Mary Bailey
Rider since February 2011

"I would like to file a commendation for Jesse. This young man did his job politely, efficiently, and was just a lovely person to handle my son's needs. I have gotten Jesse before, and he is always wonderful. We have been riders for many years, and Jesse is truly the best operator I have received. A big thank you, Jesse."

Matthew Klein
Rider since September 2003

My journey at Access Services

I wish I had learned the value and importance of interning earlier in my educational career. It was not until my last year as an undergraduate at the California State University of Los Angeles that I decided to finally intern, but interning here at Access for the last nine months exposed me to many supportive individuals that I know I can reach out to for the rest of my life.

When I accepted the Procurement and Contracts Internship, I was surprised that they would select someone who had no experience in procurement or in contracts. I knew it was going to be a challenge being here and learning something new, but I gladly accepted the challenge. Brian Selwyn, Procurement and Contracts Manager, has been hands down the coolest manager I have worked with. Andrew Marin, Procurement Specialist and my direct supervisor throughout my internship, was one of the best teachers I have ever had. As a student, Andrew taught me so much about procurement in such great detail that it made it easier for me to understand and comprehend.

I worked on a variety of projects relating to both procurement and contracts, and I was responsible for processing purchase requests from internal clients. Andrew taught me how to perform a price analysis in order to evaluate the quotes received by suppliers. I also learned how to use Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software from Oracle. I was able to turn purchase requests into purchase orders, create source agreements, receive receipts, and make change orders. After learning how to use Oracle, I was then able to also assist self-service users to create independent cost estimates and correctly enter a purchase request into the system.

Finally, I received my first hands on experience when I reviewed contracts and contract amendments. I also helped with a contract quality control project where I reviewed Board agendas and made sure the items approved by the Board were being executed in the Oracle ERP system. I gained so much knowledge and experience in the nine months I was here. Thank you Access Services for giving me this amazing opportunity and experience.

Mario Torres
Procurement Intern

