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# Behind the Scenes

## Executive Director's Report

The Access Services Board of Directors met on June 26, 2017.

- > The Board approved the Consent Calendar, which included items extending website services and the purchase of a paratransit vehicle.
- > In addition to the above action items, the Board passed the budget for fiscal year 2017-18. The overall budget of \$177 million will provide for the delivery of 4.6 million passengers and 33 million contract revenue miles. The budget also includes a capital plan for the replacement of 149 vehicles at a cost of \$10.1 million. The Board also approved additional funding for the build-out of Access' eligibility center in Commerce.
- > The Board revisited the item related to the extension of the Parents with Disabilities Pilot Program and approved its funding and extension through June 30, 2018.

There will be a Board workshop on Access' Comprehensive Operational Review on July 12, 2017 in El Monte. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on August 21, 2017, also in El Monte. Full agendas and presentations can be found online at [www.accessla.org](http://www.accessla.org). As always, please let me know if you have any questions about these or other Access issues

**Andre Colaiace**  
*Interim Executive Director*



## Disabled Resources Center Awards Dinner

On Thursday June 15, Access staff attended the 41st Annual Awards Dinner held by the Disabled Resources Center, Inc. (DRC) of Long Beach. The dinner was held at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach near the Queen Mary. The DRC holds the event annually to raise funds for the agency, and to acknowledge staff, volunteers and the honorees who have contributed to the disability community.

The DRC Board of Directors presented an award to DRC Executive Director and Access Services Board Vice Chair Dolores Nason for her commitment and 25 years of service to the agency. Former Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe attended to personally present her with the award. Director Nason had no idea that he would be there, nor did she know about the award. The event was a huge success for the many guests in attendance.



Vice Chair Dolores Nason (2nd from left) and Access staff.

**Louis Burns**  
*Community Liaison*

## Metro Board passes Access Budget, Measure M Guidelines

Community Liaison Louis Burns and I attended the Metro Board Meeting on Thursday June 22nd where several issues related to Access were acted on:

- > The Metro Board passed funding for our FY 18 budget.
- > In addition, during a discussion on the Measure M guidelines, Metro Board member and Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian made a verbal motion, consistent with Access' position, that the guidelines be amended to state that 75 percent of the ADA/Metro Discounts for seniors and students fund be allocated to ADA paratransit activities on an annual basis. This motion was seconded by Supervisor Janice Hahn and passed by the Board.

This is a big victory because it guarantees Access a more stable source of Measure M funding whereas the prior language would have left open the possibility that a lesser percentage could be provided for ADA paratransit activities.

**Andre Colaiace**  
*Interim Executive Director*

## PASC (Personal Assistance Services Council) Presentation

On Friday May 26, Access visited the PASC (Personal Assistance Service Council) in Pasadena to provide information on Access and the services it provides. PASC is the public authority for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) in Los Angeles County. The County Board of Supervisors established PASC in 1997, and its main goal is to enhance the IHSS Program. PASC serves as the employer of record, representing over 180,000 IHSS consumers in collective bargaining over provider wages and benefits.

The In-Home Supportive Services Program helps pay for services provided to low-income elderly, blind or disabled individuals to help them with housework, meal preparation, and personal care. With help, individuals who receive IHSS can remain safely in their own home and do not need to move into a care facility or boarding home.

Some of the services can be authorized through IHSS include housecleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, personal care services, accompaniment to medical appointments, and protective supervision for the mentally impaired. This group was very thankful for the presentation; most of the attendees had little information about the application process or the services that Access provides.

**Stephen Wrenn**  
*Senior Mobility Management Counselor*

## People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) Winnetka Village Presentation

On May 25, 2017, I had the pleasure along with Monica Marroquin who is one of the travel trainers for Access' contractor Mobility Management Partners (MMP), to speak with residents of the Winnetka Village senior housing facility in Winnetka. PATH's goal is to help end homelessness by building affordable rental homes for homeless and low-income individuals and families. The goal of the event was to assist potential customers with transportation options that are available to them.

There was an informative group presentation as well as one-on-one sessions with their residents. Among the questions asked by attendees were share rides, standing orders, and reasonable modification. Staff also explained additional transportation options that

are available, such as City Ride and the Dial-A-Ride program for un-incorporated Los Angeles County area.

Monica Marroquin explained that one-on-one travel training is available to Access members on how to utilize the fixed route bus service. In addition, for non-eligible paratransit customers there is free "Transit 101" classes for those that have mobility or other limitations and do not feel confident enough to travel on their own. These classes explore local transportation options, the ins and outs of riding public transit, TAP card program and how to read and plan bus routes online.

**Stephen Wrenn**  
*Senior Mobility Management Counselor*

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## Rider Commendations

"Ms. Barbara Ford filed a smile for reservationist Ramon Nolasco from the Eastern Region. He was quick and knew what he was doing."

***Member since January 1997***

"Ms. Martha Gill filed a smile for DT driver Monica Calero. She was nice and friendly. She arrived on time and appreciated that she got home safely."

***Member since October 2015***

## Intern Message

On Thursday, May 25, 2017, I spent my last full day here with Access Services. I started interning under the Planning & Government Affairs Department back on September 27, 2016. I was made aware of this opportunity through my involvement with the Millennium Momentum Foundation, Inc.

Prior to starting at Access Services, I had not had any previous experience working in a planning related position. While my focus in my Master of Planning program at the University of Southern California revolves around Social and Community Planning and not necessarily transportation planning, I took this internship to be able to learn about another field and challenge myself to become a more holistic student as well as professional. By working for an organization that deals specifically with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it has really pushed me to think critically when it comes to planning for members of the disability community.

I feel I am leaving having earned a greater appreciation for the field of transportation, especially for the work being done in paratransit. I am leaving with a unique perspective in city planning that I know I will be able to apply to other projects and positions that I take on in the future. Access Services will always have a special place in my heart for all the experiences I have gained, all the opportunities I have been exposed to and for all the support I have received. Thank you all again for a wonderful internship experience.

***Douglas Tohom***  
***Access Planning & Government Affairs Department Intern***