MISSION STATEMENT
Access Services promotes access to all modes of transportation and provides quality and safe ADA paratransit service on behalf of public transit agencies in Los Angeles County.

DISPOSITION

1. CALL TO ORDER ACTION

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMATION

3. GENERAL STUDY SESSION POSSIBLE ACTION
   - Delay in Operating Funds Approval for Fiscal Year 2013/14 [Vote Required: majority of quorum by roll call]
   - Ramifications of Failure to Receive Timely Funding For Fiscal 2013 beginning July 1, 2013

4. NEW BUSINESS SUBSEQUENT TO THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

5. ADJOURNMENT ACTION

Access Services does not discriminate on the basis of 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 Services board 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 board both initially and supplementally prior to the meeting at the agency’s offices located at 3449 Santa Anita Avenue, El Monte California and on its website at http://accessla.org. Documents, including Power Point handouts distributed to Board Members by staff or Board members at the meeting will simultaneously be made available to the public. Three opportunities are available for the public to address the board during a board meeting: (1) before closed session regarding matters to be discussed in closed session, (2) before a specific agendized item is debated and voted upon regarding that item and (3) general public comment. The exercise of the right to address the board 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 the Secretary to the Board. Public comment is generally limited to three (3) minutes per speaker and the total time available for public comment may be limited at the discretion of the Chairperson. Persons whose speech is impaired such that they are unable to address the board 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 Board of Directors 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 board may direct staff to investigate and/or schedule certain matters for consideration at a future Board of Directors Meeting and the staff will respond to all public comment in writing prior to the next board meeting.

"Alternative accessible formats available upon request."
JUNE 7, 2013

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: SHELLEY VERRINDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RE: GENERAL STUDY SESSION

ISSUE:

At its meeting on May 23, 2013, the Metro Board of Director failed to approve the $67,172,267 in Proposition C local funding for Access Services for Fiscal Year 2013/2014 (starting July 1, 2013). The issue of funding was referred to the METRO Executive Management Committee on June 20, 2013 and will subsequently be presented to the Metro Board of Directors for approval at their meeting on June 27, 2013.

Staff is hopeful that Access’ full FY 13/14 budget request will be approved on June 27th but, given the unprecedented nature of this action, also must plan for the possibility that it will not be. The failure to approve funding has significant implications for Metro, the other 42 fixed-route operators in Los Angeles County as well as Access employees and the employees of our contractors. Most importantly, the failure to fund Access will negatively affect the more than 135,000 persons with disabilities who depend on Access Paratransit for their daily transportation needs.

Current estimates are that Access will run out of local funds and be required to cease operations on or around July 31, 2013 if full funding is not forthcoming. (This date is contingent on our ability to begin drawing down on previously approved federal 5310 funds.) Failure to provide complementary ADA paratransit would result in an ongoing Federal and State civil rights violation by all Los Angeles fixed-route operators who are Access member agencies each of which have the duty to provide compliant service. It would also be a derogation of the compliance certifications under federal grants received by these organizations for other purposes.

The delay in securing the annual local funding for Access presents significant problems in and of itself. Any attempt to provide Access with less than a full year of local funding would also have significant negative ramifications for the following reasons:

- Federal law requires that the mandated services provided under the FTA approved Los Angeles County Coordinated Paratransit Plan administered by Access be funded to meet all anticipated demand. If funding is not forthcoming and the mandatory aspects of the Coordinated Plan not provided, all of the fixed route operators in the region could be found out of compliance.
• Access may not be able to draw on its approved federal funds because to do so requires that it certify to the FTA that Access has adequate resources and financial capability (including source of required matching funds) to properly plan, manage, and complete its “Project” for the fiscal year of the grant. Access would not be able to enter into annual contracts for any number of essential services, which would make it virtually impossible to operate the Agency.

• It goes without saying that not being funded for the entire year would be a severe distraction for the Agency and its employees and distract from its main purpose of providing ADA paratransit.

Given this unfortunate circumstance, the Access Board Chairperson has called a special meeting for June 12, 2013, so that the Access Board of Directors can discuss this issue and determine what steps need to be taken to comply with contractual and statutory requirements.