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Behind the Scenes

Executive Report

The 5th Annual Roadeo is here! Please refer to the event schedule below for all activities on Saturday June 28th.

6:00 AM-7:00 AM - Registration & Breakfast

7:00 AM - 7:30 AM - Driver Walk-Through

7:30 AM - 8:00 AM - Welcome Address, Introductions, & Anthem

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Driver Competition

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM - Call Center Challenge

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM - Lunch

12:30 PM - 12:45 PM - Spectator Raffle

12:45 PM - 1:00 PM - Competitor Raffle

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - Recognitions and Awards



access

American Public Transportation Association Annual Rail Conference



As a member of APTA's Early Career Program I was able to attend APTA's annual Rail Conference, which was held in Montreal, Canada. APTA's Rail Conference brings together service providers and vendors of new products along with other experts in the field from around the world. Each learns from one another in conference panel discussions as well as through the multiple opportunities to network with individuals from other parts of the country.

The conference had a variety of sessions providing updates and lessons learned from multiple projects from around North America, including the development of streetcars in Cincinnati, Ohio and Atlanta, Georgia and expanded commuter service in Salt Lake City

and Phoenix as well as updates associated with development of High Speed Rail services in California. All of which were designed to expand existing transit service and encourage people to use other modes of travel than private cars.

One of the principal themes brought up throughout the conference, which lasted through Wednesday, June 18th, was that transit ridership is higher than it has been in decades. Over 10.7 billion trips were taken on Public Transportation in the United States in 2013. This is the highest use of transit since 1956. Some of the principal reasons for this increase is a larger number of young persons are delaying the expense of owning a car and using public transport, some persons in large urban areas are choosing to avoid the seeming ever-increasing traffic delays and choose public transport and (as Access is in some ways experiencing) the American population is aging and many are choosing to no longer drive themselves, but relying on other transportation services.

As there is more and more demand for public transportation options, the value of having these expert sessions increases. The next annual Rail Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah in June of 2015.

*Eric J. Haack
Strategic Planner*

Grand Re-Opening at SCIL



The Service Center for Independent Life (SCIL) located in Claremont held its Grand Re-Opening ceremony on May 28. I was invited by Access Board Member Angela Nwokike who was quite proud to show off the facility. SCIL has worked with people who are disabled

of all ages in 22 cities in south east Los Angeles County since 1980. Services include: self-advocacy training, assistive technology, housing information, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and personal care assistance, as well as information and referral about a variety of timely topics. Most services are provided at no cost to their consumers.

The ceremony was very well attended - standing room only, and was highlighted by a ribbon-cutting ceremony that both celebrated the SCIL and one of its key benefactors who passed away earlier this year - Dr. Lee Nattress. The SCIL also received recognition from the Mayor of the City of Claremont - Joe Lyons and a representative from State Assemblyman Chris Holden, both of whom read proclamations noting the services that the SCIL provides.

*F Scott Jewell
Chief Operating Officer*

American Public Transportation Association Hosts Early Career Program in Montreal



In June of 2013 the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) began a new program - the Early Career Program - designed to provide assistance to persons in the transit industry with three to five years of experience to gain the knowledge and skills to move up in their agency and in the industry. This year-long course included on-line projects and mentoring opportunities from transit industry

leaders and was designed to prepare participants to take on additional responsibilities in their organizations.

From June 12th to June 15th APTA started its second year-long Early Career Program class in Montreal, Canada. I participated in the initial classes with a group of 24 other young professionals attending three and a half days of intense information sessions on varied topics from the transit industry to career skill-building.

Course sessions included improving skills related to public speaking and managing complex projects. Course sessions also included an overview of the transit industry and its funding sources as well as a question and answer session with the APTA Chair Peter Varga and APTA President and CEO Michael Melaniphy and a tour of the Metro control center for the Montreal subway system.

The Early Career Program was developed by APTA to prepare professionals in the transit industry to take on roles of higher responsibility as many executives in the industry reach retirement and are seeking out knowledgeable professionals to add to their teams.

In the next months the members of the Early Career Program will work in three to four-person groups in a formal mentoring program designed to increase knowledge of the transit industry by working on various web-based projects. The program will conclude in May of 2015 at APTA's Bus and Paratransit Conference in Ft. Worth, Texas.

For questions or comments about the APTA Early Career Program, please feel free to contact me.

*Eric J. Haack
Strategic Planner*

“Special Recognition Scholarship for Military Veteran Mr. Ramon Garcia”



On June 19, 2014 Access Services staff attended the 38th Annual Long Beach Disabled Resources Center (DRC) Awards Dinner. This is an annual event hosted by DRC to recognize its staff, volunteers, supporters and Board of Directors for their contributions in improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities in

the community. In addition, DRC takes the opportunity to honor outstanding individuals and businesses in the community.

One of individuals recognized at the DRC Awards Dinner was U.S. Army Veteran and Access Services Intern Mr. Ramon Garcia, who is the recipient of the 2014 DRC Special Recognition Scholarship for Military Veteran. Certificates of Recognition were presented to Mr. Garcia

and signed by United States House of Representative Alan Lowenthal, State of California 33rd district Senator Ricardo Lara, City of Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, California Legislature 36th district Assembly Member Anthony Rendon, City of Long Beach 5th district Council

Women Derrie Schitike, and County of Los Angeles 4th District Board of Supervisor Don Knabe.

Mr. Garcia spent eight years in the U.S. Army as Specialist/Corporal, where he served three tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. During Mr. Garcia’s military service, he received six Medals including the Bronze Star Medal for Heroic Service while participating in combat action. Mr. Garcia is currently a student at California State University Los Angeles majoring in Business Administration, with a focus on Quality Management and Economics.

On behalf of Access Services, we are very proud of Mr. Garcia’s accomplishments and his service to the country. Congratulations!

Steve Chang
Deputy Executive Director of Operations

Women in Transportation Honors Carrie Bowen. Caltrans-District 7

Evie Palicz, Access Manager of Training and Development and Sherri Adams, Access Training and Hall Tom Bradley Tower for Caltrans Development Coordinator attended a Women in Transportation (WTS) VIP breakfast at Los Angeles City District 7 Director, Carrie Bowen, who was honored for her invaluable service of 30 years in government transportation. There are currently 12 Caltrans districts in California, with District 7 being the most congested. District 7 is located throughout Los Angeles and Ventura County and is responsible for 42 freeways and highways.

Ms. Bowen was introduced by LA City Councilmember Tom Labonge, WTS (Women in Transportation) and a host of Caltrans Deputy Directors. The recognition took place at the Los Angeles City Hall in the Tom Bradley Wing on the 26th floor.

Ms. Bowen discussed the initiatives to reinforce and sustain an integrated transportation system that would alleviate traffic congestion on freeways. District 7 is also committed to satisfying the needs of many communities through constructing State Smart Transportation Initiatives (SSTI) - innovative efforts to improve transportation and provide safe roads for the public.

Ms. Bowen stressed that the vision and core values of District 7 is a shared responsibility of all levels of government that will innovate connections of transportation mobility.

Sherri Adams
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Rider Comments

"This is on behalf of my mother Donna."
 She wanted to give thanks to the driver for her return trip on June 19th. The vehicle was full and while there have been drivers who simply have a "deal with it attitude", this particular driver took steps to ensure that everyone on board was as comfortable as possible. Sometimes it's the little things that make a difference.
 Son, Jason.

*Donna, Inglewood
 Rider since 1997*

West Hollywood 13th Annual Healthy Seniors Fair



The Senior Health Fair celebrated their 13th annual 'Healthy Senior's Fair' in West Hollywood's vibrant senior community in Plummer's Park. The yearly fair was sponsored by West Hollywood's Senior Advisory Board, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, the City of West Hollywood, Jewish Family Service of L.A., the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and the Saban Free Clinic of the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services

Center. The Health Fair featured presentations, free health screenings and representatives from more than 40 community organizations, including Access Services. The Mobility Management staff spoke with seniors who expressed interest in alternate travel options within Los Angeles County along with Access membership. Among the free health screenings offered were for Balance Assessment, Blood Glucose for Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Bone Density, Breast Cancer Risk Assessment, Dental, Hearing, Podiatry, Pulmonary Lung Function, Stroke and Cholesterol. The event was well attended with hundreds of seniors in attendance.

*Erick Washington
 Mobility Management Counselor*

Access Fun Fact

Did you know?

Each day Access Reservation Centers take in over 10,000 calls. Of those calls, roughly 40% occur between 4pm - 10pm.

*Melissa Thompson
 Operations Analyst*

