Executive Report

On October 15, 2015, Access held a Membership Meeting at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall. The Access Membership, made up of the fixed route operators in LA County, reviewed the proposed fare system scheduled to start on January 1, 2016. After a presentation, public comments, and questions from the members, the Membership voted to amend the LA County Coordinated Paratransit Plan to adopt the new fare system, where fares will be either: $0, $0.50, $1, $2, $3, or $4, depending on the trip. Fares for Santa Clarita, Antelope Valley, and for Transfer Trips will not be changing.

The fare presentation also included an update on regulatory efforts that would allow Access to keep its current fare system. Access submitted a Petition for Rulemaking to the DOT that would allow for a coordinated fare system, the DOT issued a notice seeking public comment. Comments were accepted until September 21st and were overwhelmingly supportive. The Membership also approved a motion that in the event that regulatory changes were enacted before January 1st, Access would not implement the proposed fare system.

We would like to thank the Members of Access for attending the meeting and for submitting letters of support for rulemaking. We'll keep all members updated on further developments.

By Shelly Verrinder
Executive Director

Access Attends APTA 2015 Annual Meeting

Access COO F Scott Jewell being introduced into the 2016 Leadership APTA Class. Three Access/APTA Scholarship recipients were also introduced: Cynthia Perkins-Stevenson, Faustino Salvador and Cynthia Belmonte. Faustino and Cynthia took part in the APTA Scholarship Panel presentation to share insights on their current role with Access and why they deserved to receive an APTA Foundation Scholarship Award. Other highlights included the APTA Diversity Council LGBT Listening Session, APTA-COMTO DBE Assembly, the General Session with U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx and A Conversation with FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan and representatives of the FTA.

APTA is the leading nationwide force in advancing public transportation. APTA's mission is to strengthen and improve public transportation. APTA serves and leads its diverse membership through advocacy, innovation and information sharing. APTA and its members and staff work to ensure that public transportation is available and accessible for all Americans in communities across the country.

By Faye Moseley
Deputy Executive Director, Human Resources
Access recently revamped its “Driver Safety Recognition Program” for the six regional paratransit providers. The criteria for safe miles driven and milestones achieved have been refined and included input directly from drivers. When drivers reach increments of 25,000 safe miles, they receive increasingly valuable prizes.

All six contractors received safety incentive awards in September, but the top two regions with the most awards given were MV Transportation in the San Fernando Valley and Diversified Transportation in the Antelope Valley. A total of 24 drivers from MV Transportation and 15 drivers from Diversified Transportation received prizes including computer bundles, Disneyland tickets, flat screen TVs, Access jackets and Access backpacks. Each incentive is tied to not having preventable collisions, not receiving valid safety complaints, and not triggering serious SmartDrive camera incidents. Those drivers receiving incentives were able to drive safely for many months and thousands of miles. In fact, those that received the top prizes (the computer bundles) have gone more than 200,000 miles without a disqualifying incident!

Access congratulates all the contractors and drivers that received awards. We appreciate your effort to safely transport riders throughout the region. We look forward to giving drivers more awards next quarter, so continue to drive safely!

By Fayma Ishaq
Project Administrator
Transit. This is the second job fair co-hosted on the LATTC campus. The event was widely promoted through L.A. County work source centers, Veterans Administrations, Goodwill Industries, and various radio and television community calendars. The efforts to reach potential employee candidates netted over 100 applicants.

The companies actively recruiting at the job fair were Global Paratransit, MV Transportation, California Transit, San Gabriel Transit, Southland Transit, and Transdev. When asked if they felt the job fair was a worthwhile venture, all the providers replied with a resounding “yes!” Some of the providers were able to conduct interviews on site. Transdev hired three drivers on the spot with three more potential drivers ready to start as soon as they present their driving records. All providers came away with several good candidates.

LATTC has robust automotive technology and customer service training programs. Their customer service program trains students for positions such as call center representative and frontline staff jobs. Their vehicle maintenance programs include training on alternative fuel vehicles such as CNG, LNG, diesel, and hybrids with many students completing their ASE Certification. LATTC has been a long time partner with Metro to train their big bus mechanics and rail technicians.

Access will be looking to host another job fair at LATTC and other locations after the first of the new year.

By Evie Palicz
Manager Training and Development

Job Fair a Big Success

In an effort to help our providers attract qualified drivers, mechanics, and customer service representatives, Access Services and Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC) partnered again to co-host a two-day job fair at the LATTC campus Work Source Center. All Access providers were invited as well as Transdev North America, provider for Foothill

The event involved organizing a team of six (6) bowlers to participate in a fun-filled friendly competition. A total of eight (8) teams participated. Amongst those 8 teams, Global Paratransit, MV Transportation, and a combined team between California Transit and San Gabriel Transit participated with the team comprised of Access staff. Amongst the Access group, the MV Eliminators led the pack with a combined score of six hundred and forty-six points (646), followed by Dynamic Duo of CTI/SGT with a score of five hundred and sixty-nine points (569), continued in close third by the Access Avengers with a score of five hundred and thirty-three points (533), and closing the group were the Global Destroyers with a score of four hundred and fifteen points (415).

Several recognition awards were presented by our very own Board Director Theresa Devera at the conclusion of the bowling competition that included the Highest Individual Female Score, Highest Individual Male Score, Highest Combined Team score, to name a few. Of those awards presented, Access was proud to have received the Highest Fundraising Team award after donating a combined amount of four thousand one hundred and forty dollars ($4140). Additionally, Access, along with the participating service contractors, received a special recognition award for participating in the event for the very first time.

By Jack Garate
Operations Administrator

Strikes-n-Spares

On Sunday, October 4, 2015, Access staff participated in the 11th Annual “Strikes-n-Spares” bowling fundraiser hosted by Soroptimist International of the Verdugos (SITV) at Pickwood Bowl in the City of Burbank. SITV is an international volunteer organization working together to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

L-R: Beatriz Gonzalez, Erika Macias, Lissette McNatt, Evie Palicz, Carlon Manuel (LATTC), Lina Greenberg, Amanda Zepeda, Diane Javier, Sherri Adams

Participants: Access, SGT, CTI, Global, MV, GPI and SITV
On September 21, Access Services staff and Board Members attended a WTS Reception to welcome new LAWA Executive Director, Deborah Flint to southern California. Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the sixth busiest airport in the world and third busiest in the United States. With the largest public works project in the history of the City of Los Angeles, LAX has more than $8.5 billion in capital improvements, which will increase passenger safety and security while enhancing the overall guest experience at all of the airport’s terminals.

With oversight over three airports, Los Angeles International (LAX), LA/Ontario International (ONT) and Van Nuys (VNY), Ms. Flint will be responsible for continuing the LAX Capital Development program, build on ONT’s 2014 increase in passenger traffic and continue to position VNY as a community partner. She comes to LAWA from the Port of Oakland where she held the position of aviation director since 2010, being the primary executive responsible for the operation, management and business development of Oakland International Airport (OAK). “I am honored by the opportunity to join Mayor Garcetti’s administration,” Ms. Flint said. “I am looking forward to working with him, the commissioners, the entire LAWA team and our neighbors to shape the future of air transportation for Los Angeles and the greater region.” She was appointed in 2012 to the President’s Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection (aviation). She also serves on the Transportation Research Board’s Airport Cooperative Research Program, the California Airports Council, and is a regional advisor to the Airports Council International World Board.

WTS-LA is the Los Angeles chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar, or WTS. An international organization with more than 6,000 members—both women and men—WTS is dedicated to building the future of global transportation through the advancement of women.

By Faye Moseley
Deputy Executive Director, Human Resources

Access will continue to utilize the current location for evaluations at the Santa Clarita Senior Center while SCT transitions into this new role. Following the transition, Access plans to move away from the Senior Center location to have evaluations conducted solely at SCT.

Special thanks to our Access Board of Directors for their support and everyone at CARE Evaluators, Santa Clarita Transit and San Gabriel Transit for working collaboratively with Access to make this a successful transition!

By David Foster
Project Administrator, Eligibility and Mobility Management

The SCT facility and grounds afford a more consistent assessment similar to the process used in the basin at Access’ main facility in Los Angeles, which provides our applicants with a beautiful venue to help make that first impression of Access even more positive.

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