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# Behind the Scenes

## Executive Report

It's budget season again and we have been working with our partners at Metro on our funding request for next fiscal year. Many of you are familiar with our budget process, which like most things in ADA paratransit is guided by the ADA, its regulations and various legal decisions.

- Our first step is always to work with our consultant, HDR Engineering, Inc., on ridership projections for the coming year. This year, for the first time, we had HDR project ridership for the system as a whole and for individual service regions. This will help us better plan the service and allocate resources across Los Angeles County.
- After we get the projections, we develop a basic budget for Access which guides our funding request to Metro. This year, this budget was reviewed by a subcommittee of our Board and then subsequently approved by our Board.
- After our funding is approved by the Metro Board in May, staff starts working on our line-by-line budget which is taken to our Advisory Committees for comment and then to our Board for final approval in June before the start of the fiscal year.

Shelly Verrinder  
Executive Director

## AM General officially starts new production of the MV-1



Charlie Hall AM General

About 6 months ago, Access Fleet Operations announced the arrival of the new CNG MV-1 unit, which was the first purpose-built, accessible CNG vehicle. The MV-1 was designed and financed by the Vehicle Production Group and manufactured under contract by AM General in Mishawaka, Indiana. In order to test the MV-1 in service, Access purchased 28

Unfortunately, last year, Vehicle Production Group (VPG) ceased production of new vehicles and the company laid off all employees. AM General subsequently reached an agreement to acquire the assets of VPG. AM General created "Mobility Ventures LLC", a wholly owned subsidiary to again produce and distribute the MV-1 through its dealer network and restarted production.



AM General MV1 attendees



MV1 Plant Tour

vehicles. These 28 units have now traveled over 900,000 miles, and have demonstrated that they are dependable and actually have a lower maintenance cost than the current gasoline-powered Dodge minivan.

Last Tuesday, March 11, marked a historic day for Mobility Ventures LLC, and the disability community. Mobility Ventures officially kicked off its 2014 MV-1 production with a ceremony at AM General's Commercial Assembly Plant in Mishawaka, Indiana. Attendees included myself, local, state and federal political leaders, dignitaries from transportation and disability advocacy groups, commercial and consumer customers, dealers, suppliers, and union officials.

## The 2014 LBUSD Special Education Transition Fair



On Friday, March 21, 2014 Access Services Mobility Management staff participated at the annual Long Beach Unified School District's Special Education Transition Fair held at Cabrillo High School. The fair was to provide support their students, ages 14 and older to

The fair was to provide important information which will support their students, ages 14 and older to transition towards greater independence. Joe Gawel, the 2014 Transition Fair Committee Chair, invited community members, the LBUSD's Adult Community Transition Program, Harbor Regional Center and the Department of Rehabilitation to join forces. The goal of the fair is to inform the school facility, parents and students of options for youth to become productive citizens and to support them in their efforts to be as independent as possible. Mobility staff spoke with Access riders who stated that they were really fortunate to have a service like Access and they didn't know

what they would do without the options that Access supplies. The State of California Department of Rehabilitation's Staff Services Manager 1-Team Manager, Vernard A. Johnson visited the Access kiosk to share a comment. Mr. Johnson wanted Access to know that he was a driver for the service in the 1990's, when drivers were using the Thomas Guide for directions and that Access was the catalyst for his career with the Department of Rehabilitation for which he will always be very grateful.

*Stephen Wrenn  
Senior Mobility Management  
Counselor*

## 5th Annual Access Roadeo



Just 79 days before Access' most anticipated event, the 5th Annual Access Roadeo!!!

It's been a series of dominant performances by California Transit since the Annual Roadeo has been a part of Access, winning 3 out of the 4 Roadeos. Only MV Transportation has stood in their

way, breaking their run at a three peat in 2012. But as the saying goes "winners never quit and quitters never win" California Transit not only came back in 2013 and placed 1st as a team, they held the top individual performer in their lineup as well.

The question is who's going to come on top this year?

Will it be Santa Clarita who brought 10 drivers to compete for the first time in 2013 and currently holds the recent Jerry Walker Award recipient on their roster? Could it be Global Paratransit Inc. who displayed impressive individual performances with two team members placing 2nd and 3rd respectively? Will MV Transportation play the upset card again and knock the defending

champions from winning their 2nd back to back titles? Will San Gabriel Transit, who placed 2nd in 2013, finish the job and come up on top? Or will it be Diversified Transportation, who had their first look at the Annual Roadeo last year, make a Cinderella run and take the gold? The competition is gearing up to push the throttle to the limit in hopes of knocking the defending champions, California Transit, out of 1st place.

Don't miss the action at the 5th Annual Access Roadeo on Saturday, June 28, 2014 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena!

*Jack Garate  
Operations Administrator*

## Spirit of Accessibility Award Recipient



**Richard Devylder**

As Access Services celebrated its 20th year anniversary, it was important to recognize individuals who have made a profound impact to improving access to public transportation for persons with disabilities. At the Annual Membership Meeting held on March 26, 2014, Access was proud to

present and honor this year's Spirit of Accessibility Award recipient Richard Devylder. As a charter member of Access' Community Advisory Committee and later a member of Access' Board of Directors, Richard Devylder has played a prominent role in ensuring that persons with disabilities are able to live independently. Born without arms and legs, Richard exemplifies what it means to be an accomplished individual and to live life beyond limitations. After graduating from Cal State University Long Beach, Richard began his career at Southern California Rehabilitation Services Inc. from 1992 to 1998 and at CSULB from 1998 to 2000. He served as Executive Director of the Dayle McIntosh Disability Resource Center from 2000 to 2003, and was appointed Deputy Director of Independent Living and External Affairs at the California Department

of Rehabilitation from 2003 to 2008.

In 2010, President Obama appointed Devylder as the first Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation at the U.S. Department of Transportation, where he advised on effective policy strategies to ensure all modes of transportation are accessible and integrated to meet the diverse functional needs of the public.

On June 2013, Richard Devylder was appointed by Governor Brown to lead the Office for Access and Functional Needs at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

*Matthew Avancena  
Manager, Planning and Coordination*

## Access Services Hosts USC Extern Students

**L-R: Jarrett Stoltzfus, Faye Moseley, Fred Chang, Jesus Herrera, Samuel Zneimer, Vy Phan-Hoang, Boyang Zhang,**



On March 17th, Access Services hosted five students from USC who are currently enrolled in the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. In conjunction with the USC Office of Career Services, four were graduate students in the Masters of Public Policy Program and one in the Bachelors of Policy, Planning and Development. In addition, Mr. Jarrett Stoltzfus, FTA Transportation Program Specialist, currently on a

program exchange and Ms. Yoko Igawa, Procurement Manager from Foothill Transit, also participated in the day's events. The day was jammed packed with introductions from the Access Executive Management Team, a presentation about paratransit and Access and a tour of a contractor site. The highlight of the day came when each student met one-on-one with a member of the Access

team who currently works in their field of interest. This allowed each student to get personal insights into the job and career path. The group attended an Access Services Board of Directors Meeting in the afternoon. The day culminated with the externs spending close to an hour with Chairman of the Board, Doran Barnes, discussing the meeting, career opportunities and APTA. Doran serves as Secretary Treasurer of APTA. Access will be working closely with USC and other universities in the future to promote transit, specifically paratransit, to the next generation of employees and leaders.

*Iwalani "Evie" Palicz  
Manager Training and Development*

**Access Services**  
**Consolidated Transportation**  
**Services Agency**  
 PO Box 5728  
 El Monte, CA 91734

Tel: 213.270.6000  
 Fax: 213.270.6055  
 Email: [info@accessla.org](mailto:info@accessla.org)  
[accessla.org](http://accessla.org)

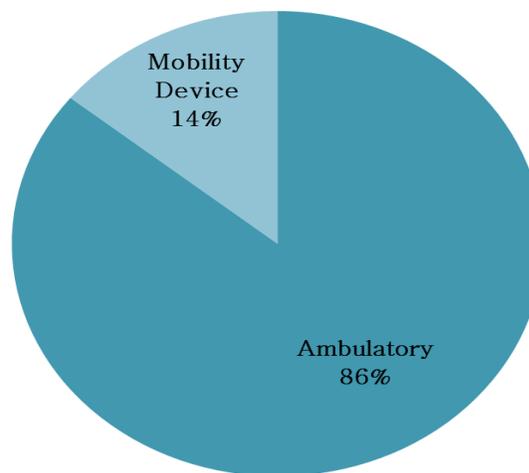
## Rider Comments

"Thank-you, so very much for your outstanding service and knowledgeable, patient drivers.

You are like my family members---because you make sure that I get to work, church-for prayers, and even, give me something to smile about! Thank you Access Services!"

*Phyllis*  
 Rider since 2013

## Operations Fun Fact



### Did you know?...

Access transports close to 10,000 customers each weekday. Of those 10,000, 14% use a mobility device and 86% are ambulatory.

*Melissa Thompson*  
 Operations Analyst

## Continued - AM General new production of the MV-1



**AM General MV1 attendees**

The assembled group celebrated the contributions of the thousands of people associated with launching the production of the MV-1 fleet of vehicles. "Today's event recognizes the many men and women who have taken this vehicle from concept to production reality," said Charlie Hall, AM General President and CEO. "On behalf of AM General and Mobility

Ventures' employees in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, we are proud to create new jobs and deliver this truly revolutionary vehicle into the hands of a deserving market."

Access Fleet Operations is looking forward to working with the Mobility Ventures team to help us achieve clean fleet objectives and help control day to day operating costs. For more on this event, please see the article in the South Bend Tribune at [http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/business/mv--provides-new-freedoms/article\\_c0700bf2-b275-11e3-ba81-0017a43b2370.html](http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/business/mv--provides-new-freedoms/article_c0700bf2-b275-11e3-ba81-0017a43b2370.html).

*Rick Streiff*, Manager of Fleet Design and Maintenance

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