



# Behind the Scenes

## Executive Director's Report

The Access Services Board of Directors met on June 26, 2023.

The Board approved the Consent Calendar, which included a contract extension for an on-board vehicle camera system; an award for a financial audit services contract; and an increase in funds for commercial business package insurance. The Board also approved a contract award for architectural and engineering services for the Agency's planned operations and maintenance facility in Lancaster, CA along with a new service area map policy.

The Board also approved the FY2023/24 budget at a total funding amount of \$272.7 million, which includes a capital component of \$36.7 million for revenue vehicle replacement, an electric vehicle pilot project and facility construction.

Upcoming Board committee meetings are scheduled for July 24, 2023 and the next full meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for August 28, 2023.

**Andre Colaiace**  
*Executive Director*

## Meet your new Metro Rail Line!

Last Friday, Martin Gombert, Chair of the Access Services Board of Directors; Hector Rodriguez, Access Deputy Executive Director; and I attended the L.A. Metro Regional Connector Grand Opening Ceremony at the Japanese American National Museum in downtown Los Angeles.

The Regional Connector Project is a major milestone for Metro and a significant enhancement for Los Angeles County transit riders, providing direct one-seat rides between Santa Monica and East LA and between Pasadena and Long Beach without having to transfer, which will save passengers 20 minutes in each direction and up to 40 minutes roundtrip.

The project includes three new underground stations:

- > Little Tokyo/Arts District Station where riders will have easy access to historically rich and vibrant neighborhoods and cultural institutions.
- > Historic Broadway Station features two nationally registered districts: the Broadway Theater District, with 12 original theaters within seven blocks and Old Spring Street, known as the original Financial District of Downtown Los Angeles.
- > Grand Avenue Arts/Bunker Hill Station connects riders to Downtown's performing arts institutions, museums, fine dining experiences and more.



The ceremony featured the naming of the Little Tokyo/Arts District station after former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, a significant figure in Japanese American history and author of landmark transit

legislation. There were speeches by U.S. Senator Alex Padilla and Metro officials, and the master of ceremonies was George Takei, who starred in the original Star Trek series.

**Randy Johnson**  
*Director, Government Affairs and Outreach*

## Access staff attends Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) Training



I recently had the pleasure of attending the Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) Course on Transit Bus System Safety in Everett, Washington.

The US Department of Transportation Transit Bus System Safety course covers best practices and strategies for ensuring the safety of transit bus systems. This includes topics such as driver training, vehicle maintenance, emergency procedures, and passenger safety. The course is designed to help transit agencies and their employees develop the skills and knowledge needed to create a safe and reliable transit system for passengers and employees alike.

Most of the class consisted of learning the module(s) for the day, then a practice test for review. We did build up to a group project on Thursday where we had to present in a Power Point format. The group I was in was designated with perimeter safety of the outside of the facility. We walked the outer areas in search of potential hazards and came up with options and possible solutions. We listed items such as unlocked doors that were supposed to remain locked and areas where potential "hazardous devices" could be stored or hidden and have a catastrophic effect on the area. We used a Criticality Matrix to define the initial "threat level" and then determined a newer, lower level if our suggestions were applied through mitigation.

I enjoyed this class. Most of the modules and lessons were a reminder of what we already do here at Access and made me very proud to be a part of such a great team.

**Colin Obeso**  
*Senior Road Safety Inspector*

## Commendations

"Sam, my reservationist, was very patient and professional. I would like to commend his great customer service."

**Linda Pullen**  
*Rider since Feb 2010*

"This is a Smile for Bernice and Susana in Customer Service. They were able to answer all my questions and were respectful of my needs."

**Marvin Mateo**  
*Rider since Nov 2018*