

Behind the Scenes



Executive Director's Report

The Access Services Board of Directors met on December 4, 2023.

The Board approved the Consent Calendar, which included a contract extension for TAP card production, reappointments to the Community Advisory Committee, the 2024 Board Meeting Calendar, and an update to the agency's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. The Board also approved an additional scope of work and funds for the architectural and engineering services contract for the proposed Antelope Valley Operations and Maintenance Facility.

The Board awarded a contract for ADA paratransit eligibility and mobility evaluation services to MTM Transit for a three-year period for a contract amount of \$13,896,807.

Finally, the Board approved the agency's California Air Resources Board Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan and approved changes to the Access to Work program.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for January 22, 2024.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

Latinos in Transit Leadership Summit



I recently attended Latinos in Transit's first annual Leadership Summit. The conference coincided with Hispanic Heritage Month and featured a theme of equity and diversity.

I attended the sessions titled Equity in Transportation, Embracing DEI in your organization, and the closing session titled Strengthening Our Core. The sessions provided plenty of real-life examples of how to provide equity across the spectrum for all. I

personally felt that the question-and-answer sessions at the end of each session was truly educational. Every single question dealt with day-to-day working examples of issues both staff and riders deal with, and the panel did a great job in providing resources, answers, and examples.

However, the highlight of the conference was the working luncheon at which Administrator Nuria Fernandez of the Federal Transit Administration was the main speaker. She highlighted her career path, her experiences, and the current state of the FTA. Unbeknownst to her, she was surprised when she received the Founders Award in recognition of her efforts and assistance in the advancement of Latinos in transit.

Hector Rodriguez
Deputy Executive Director

Access staff attend Move America 2023 Conference

I recently attended The Move America 2023 conference that was held in Austin, Texas. The Move America conference (MOVE) has become the critical meeting place for buyers and sellers across the mobility value chain. Original equipment manufacturers, transport operators, tech companies, energy companies, technology startups and policymakers gather every year to discover the next generation of technologies being brought into the marketplace.

This year's conference covered topics such as smart cities and infrastructure, electric and autonomous vehicles, fleet management, micro transit, and assistive technologies. With more than 160 sessions and 300 vendors in attendance, the conference registered more than 3,000 attendees.

As an invited speaker, I shared our agency's experience in developing an accessible autonomous vehicle, and how the Where's My Ride (WMR) app has positively impacted Access riders and the ADA community. Other panel members who co-presented with me are representatives from Capital Metro, Austin; the mayor of Pleasant Ridge, Michigan; and a researcher from the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University.

Bill Tsuei
Director of IT



Commendations

"Aideen was so nice when he assisted me in canceling my trips. Please file a Smile for him."

Jose Arias
Rider since Jan 2000

"I am filing a Smile for my driver Ruth Diaz. She is an excellent driver and a nice person. I appreciate her helping me get to my destination safely."

Mary Holland
Rider since Oct 2018