



**Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)**  
**Thursday, September 11, 2025 – 1:00 PM**

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## AGENDA

### Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

1	Member and Staff Introductions Housekeeping Items	1:00 – 1:05 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
2	<b>ACTION:</b> Approval of August 14, 2025 Minutes	1:05 – 1:10 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
3	<b>INFORMATION:</b> Metro Youth Council	1:10 – 1:25 pm Mark Arroyo, Metro
4	<b>INFORMATION:</b> FTA Section 5310 Grant Program	1:25 – 1:35 pm Ruben Cervantes, Metro
5	<b>INFORMATION:</b> Weapons Detection Pilot Follow-up	1:35 pm – 1:50 pm Jose Cenuse, Metro
6	<b>INFORMATION:</b> Journey Mapping	1:50 – 2:05 pm Robert Heavrin, Metro



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7	<b>ACTION:</b> 2025 Election	2:05 – 2:25 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
8	<b>NEW BUSINESS:</b> Raised Subsequent to the Posting of the Agenda	2:25 - 240 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
9	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	2:40 – 2:55 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
10	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	2:55 – 3:00 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair

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MEETING**

### **Meeting Minutes for August 12, 2025**

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Accessibility Advisory Committee

## **Members in Attendance:**

Kathleen Barajas (Chair)  
Cynde Soto (First Vice-Chair)  
Jared Rimer (Executive Member)  
Deaka McClain  
Arlene Descargar  
Ellen Blackman  
Fernando Roldan  
Raul Tafoya  
Greg Kuhl

## **Excused:**

Blanca Angulo  
Antonio Mendez  
Olga Parra  
Karen Esquivel-Mayes  
Kevin Dixon

## **Absent:**

John Mavis  
Mark Panitz

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kathleen Barajas called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 p.m. She welcomed committee members and reminded attendees to remain muted



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when not speaking and to engage respectfully. Armando Roman conducted roll call and confirmed quorum with nine members present including Kathleen Barajas, Cynde Soto, Jared Rimer, Greg Kuhl, Deaka McClain, Arlene Descargar, Ellen Blackman, Fernando Roldan, and Raul Tafoya.

## **2. ACTION: Approval of June 12, 2025 meeting Minutes**

The committee reviewed the draft meeting minutes from June 12, 2025. Arlene Descargar moved to approve the minutes, and Cynde Soto seconded the motion. Eight members voted to approve the minutes, with one abstaining. The motion to approved the minutes passed.

## **3. INFORMATION: Introduction from Metro Chief of Police**

The new LA Metro Chief of Police Bill Scott introduced himself to the committee and outlined the vision for Metro's emerging Department of Public Safety, a multi-layer model combining sworn law enforcement with care-based components and security. He emphasized accessibility and accommodations as personal priorities, noting lived experience supporting a family member with disabilities. Highlights included staffing ramp-up (~600+ officers over ~5 years), policy development with community input, and readiness planning for major events under federal NSSE frameworks. Committee Q&A covered inclusion of



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people with disabilities in emergency drills; bias-free and disability-aware training; community engagement and leadership access; safety and incident response on buses; and collaboration across jurisdictions.



#### **4. INFORMATION: 2025 Elections**

Staff reported the Nominating Subcommittee's recommended slate for elections at the September 11, 2025 meeting and confirmed each nominee's acceptance:

- Chair: Kathleen Barajas (eligible for second term)
- First Vice-Chair: Greg Kuhl
- Second Vice-Chair: Fernando Roldan
- Member-at-Large / Board Liaison: Jared Rimer

A motion to close the nominating committee slate carried (8 of 16 recorded in roll call), with the clarification that floor nominations will be accepted at the September meeting. Staff also reiterated the one-year service eligibility requirement for leadership nominees.

#### **5. INFORMATION: Upcoming Accessibility Project Review**

Staff presented a list of 15 accessibility initiatives prioritized by the CEO for delivery ahead of the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Olympic & Paralympic Games. Examples discussed included:



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- Tactile Guidance System expansion (12 additional downtown-area stations)
- Hands-free intercoms with antimicrobial plates/IR activation and multilingual support
- Union Station sound design study to improve audible wayfinding while minimizing sensory overload
- Hands-free elevator access and modernization standards
- Calming/Recovery rooms for neurodiverse riders and others needing low-stimulus spaces
- Accessible mobile wayfinding (e.g., NaviLens/Waymap) at Union Station then ~12 additional stations
- Language access expansion (web/print/signage; on-demand interpretation for staff)
- Courtesy Wheelchair Transport program at Union Station (pilot learnings, signage visibility)
- Dedicated assistance/volunteer corps of multilingual people with disabilities to support riders during major events
- Station Manager pilot (single accountable lead)
- Disability awareness & sensitivity training for all Metro staff (online module + potential in-person elements)
- Games Enhanced Transit System (GETS) operator training on accessibility SOPs
- Mystery rider program expansion to include guest operators



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- Volunteer language review panel growth to strengthen translation quality across dialects

Member input highlights include: guidance regarding signage placement/visibility for wheelchair assistance at Union Station; restroom spacing concerns; ensuring accessible onboarding to Red Cap carts; leveraging EDD/job fairs for staffing; and balancing dialect sensitivity.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

Member Jared Rimer noted June/July Board reports posted on his website (print and Braille available); he also flagged Amtrak's "Be My Eyes" pilot information to be shared via AAC email list.

Armando Roman shared information regarding the Journey Mapping program. Cal-ABLE/ILC partners will present in September on a journey-mapping effort focused on riders with disabilities; interested AAC members will be invited to participate.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.



## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kathleen Barajas adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:05 PM, thanking all members and guests for their participation and valuable contributions.