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**Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 1:00 PM**

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## AGENDA

### Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

1	Member and Staff Introductions Housekeeping Items	1:00 – 1:10 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
2	<b>ACTION:</b> Approval of March 12, 2026 Minutes	1:10 – 1:20 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
3	<b>INFORMATION:</b> Code of Conduct for Advisory Bodies	1:20 – 1:35 pm Julie Nguyen, LA Metro
4	<b>INFORMATION:</b> FY27 Budget	1:35 – 2:00 pm Tina Panek, Jenny Wang, Meybel Monge, LA Metro
5	<b>INFORMATION:</b> Ad Hoc Board Composition Committee	2:00 – 2:30 pm Lilian De Loza-Gutierrez, LA Metro
6	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	2:30 – 2:45 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair (2 minutes per speaker)



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7	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	2:45 - 3:00 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
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**TO REQUEST ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDAS IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS, PLEASE CALL 213.922.4067. LIVE CAPTION IS PROVIDED AT EVERY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2026**

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Accessibility Advisory Committee

**Members in Attendance:**

- Kathleen Barajas (Chair)
- Cynde Soto (First Vice-Chair)
- Jared Rimer (Executive Member)
- Ellen Blackman
- Deaka McClain
- Karen Esquivel-Mayes
- Greg Kuhl
- Raul Tafoya
- Blanca Angulo
- Fran Sereseres
- Daniel Garcia
- Fernando Roldan



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Max Romero



**Excused:**

Arlene Descargar  
Antonio Mendez  
Olga Parra

**Absent:**

Kevin Dixon  
Mark Panitz

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kathleen Barajas called the meeting to order following opening housekeeping remarks from Metro staff. Participants attending in person and virtually were welcomed, and staff asked that attendees mute themselves when not speaking in order to reduce background noise. Staff also reminded everyone to engage respectfully with presenters, committee members, and members of the public. Public comments and broader concerns were reserved for the designated public comment and new business portions of the meeting. Roll call was conducted, and after additional members identified themselves, staff confirmed that a quorum was present and the meeting could proceed.

**2. ACTION: Approval of February 12, 2026 meeting Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the February 12, 2026



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meeting minutes. Members identified several corrections. One member noted that the printed and Braille versions referenced an incorrect year in one section, and another member pointed out inconsistencies in the time ranges listed in the Braille agenda. Karen Mayes also noted that her attendance had been omitted from the previous month's minutes even though she had been present. A motion was made to approve the February 12, 2026 minutes with corrections, and the motion was seconded. The Committee approved the minutes by roll call vote with the requested revisions incorporated.

### **3. INFORMATION: WiFi on Metro A and E Lines**

The scheduled presentation regarding WiFi on the Metro A and E Lines did not proceed because the original presenter, Nick Madanat, was unavailable and no substitute presenter was available. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to table the item. The Committee approved the motion by roll call vote.

Although the item was tabled, members briefly discussed connectivity issues affecting riders. Comments included uncertainty regarding whether WiFi service is currently available in certain rail segments and observations that there are service gaps, including between Little Tokyo and 7th Street/Metro Center. Members emphasized the importance of reliable connectivity for accessibility and



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customer use, particularly for riders who rely on digital tools and assistive technology. The Committee indicated interest in revisiting the topic at a future meeting.



#### **4. INFORMATION: SB707 Teleconferencing Update**

Armando Roman provided the SB 707 teleconferencing update. He explained that although the item had been placed on the agenda in anticipation of new guidance, there was no substantive update to share at this time. He stated that the Committee may continue operating under its current teleconferencing accommodation approved by County Counsel and that business would continue as usual unless and until additional guidance is issued.

Staff noted that once SB 707 is fully implemented, one of the expected changes will be that members participating virtually will need to keep their cameras on while attending remotely. Staff also indicated that any future updates from County Counsel or the Clerk's Office would be shared with the Committee once available. Committee members noted that other bodies on which they serve are already operating with cameras on, but no action was required from AAC members at this time.

#### **5. INFORMATION: Committee Reports**

Jared Rimer provided an extensive report



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summarizing recent Metro Board, Service Council, and Public Safety Advisory Committee discussions relevant to accessibility. He reported that at the February 26 Metro Board meeting, the Board Chair announced that the D Line extension is scheduled to open on May 8, 2026. Jared noted that new line openings often raise accessibility issues during early operations, including announcement consistency, wayfinding, and rider assistance, and he suggested this may be an area for future observation.

Jared also reported on Metro outreach related to the LIFE low-income fare program in the Van Nuys area and noted the importance of accessibility for public-facing information, including accessible materials and staff support for people with disabilities. He shared that Metro had launched a new online Safety Hub and suggested that its accessibility should be reviewed, especially for screen reader usability and accessible navigation. During the meeting, members commented that the site appeared difficult to navigate, with rendering and layout issues that may affect usability. Staff indicated that they would connect with the web team regarding those concerns.

A substantial portion of Jared's report focused on Board discussion of shuttle services for upcoming stadium and major event operations, including World Cup-related transportation planning. He reported that Metro staff had discussed efforts to ensure shuttle vehicles have functioning ramps, automated voice



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announcements, and other accessibility features. Armando Roman clarified that Metro accessibility staff, including himself, Richard Saldivar, and Ruben Menendez, had been conducting bus inspections in Chatsworth using a detailed checklist to verify ramps, securement equipment, and announcement systems.

Greg Kuhl asked why AAC members had not been invited to observe or participate in the inspections. Staff responded that the bus yard presented safety hazards, including uneven pavement and poor bus yard conditions, and that Metro did not want to place committee members at risk. Committee members also asked whether any of the buses could accommodate more than two wheelchairs, whether emergency response protocols would be in place if a bus broke down, and whether operators from outside agencies would be trained to Metro standards. Staff explained that the buses observed had two wheelchair spaces, that all operators would be trained to Metro procedures, and that Metro planned to treat those services operationally like Metro bus service, including supervision and mystery rider monitoring.

Committee members also discussed securement practices for riders using wheelchairs and mobility devices. Staff reiterated that Metro policy requires operators to offer securement, but that securement remains optional for the customer. Members discussed past AAC support for legislation that would have allowed local agencies to adopt mandatory



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securement policies, but staff confirmed that Metro has not adopted such a requirement. Members raised concerns about how operators communicate securement options, particularly for people who may not understand the term “securement” or for international visitors who may speak other languages. Suggestions included visual cards, multilingual decals, or other communication aids to better explain the option. Staff agreed to elevate these ideas for further review.

Additional comments addressed the need for better public information distribution, literature at stations, and more proactive outreach to the disability community regarding major events, service changes, and accessibility resources. Daniel Garcia raised concerns that important information is not always reaching the public effectively. Staff agreed that the issue should be revisited, potentially through the Steering Committee, and acknowledged that there may be opportunities to better leverage social media, public-facing literature, or accessibility-specific outreach efforts.

Jared also summarized updates from the San Fernando Valley Service Council, including improvements at Chatsworth Station such as pedestrian circulation upgrades, accessibility ramps, and crosswalk enhancements as part of a broader station improvement project. He noted that questions had also been raised about service animal



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accommodations at the station, including possible waiting areas and relief areas. He provided a summary of the proposed North Hollywood-to-Pasadena bus corridor, including route length, major destinations, design progress, projected construction timelines, boarding concepts, and fare payment procedures. He further noted that the San Fernando Valley Service Council was considering meeting schedule changes and would not meet during July and August because of World Cup activity and its usual summer break. He briefly touched on Public Safety Advisory Committee discussions, including Metro's development of an internal safety index and PSAC's own SB 707-related schedule updates.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

Under new business, Fran Sereseres informed the Committee about an upcoming Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities public hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., with both in-person and virtual participation options. She offered to provide the materials to staff for circulation to the Committee.

Fernando Roldan raised the issue of SB 79 and expressed concern about how it may affect Metro service and access in Glendale and other communities. Members briefly discussed the bill and its relationship to housing development near transit, including Metro's potential ability to develop housing



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on land it owns. Jared noted that similar themes had come up in Metro Board discussions concerning affordable housing near transit. Members indicated that the topic may warrant additional discussion at a future meeting or through the Steering Committee.

Staff also reported that Metro and County Counsel are reviewing advisory committee codes of conduct and that AAC's current code of conduct, originally drafted with committee input, may need to be revised to align with broader Metro expectations for advisory bodies.

Greg Kuhl raised what he described as “new old business” related to the committee bylaws and mission statement. He noted that the Committee had previously discussed removing outdated language in the bylaws suggesting that AAC is responsible only for reviewing issues generated within Metro, and he expressed concern that progress on a revised mission statement may be stalled without Board-level action. Discussion followed about the historical origins of the AAC and the possibility of continuing mission statement work while broader governance issues are addressed. Staff encouraged continued work through the bylaws process and indicated that another bylaws meeting should be scheduled so members can develop a cohesive mission statement for review by the full Committee.

Armando Roman then presented opportunities for



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AAC members to participate in Metro emergency preparedness exercises involving customers with disabilities. He explained that Metro would like AAC members and other volunteers with disabilities to take part in upcoming drills so Metro staff, emergency responders, and law enforcement can practice evacuating and assisting customers with disabilities in realistic scenarios. He described three exercises: a March 19, 2026 train derailment exercise on the E Line between Vermont and Expo Park Stations; a May 2, 2026 active shooter exercise at Downtown Inglewood Station on the K Line; and a May 16, 2026 mass casualty and decontamination exercise at Hawthorne Station. Staff indicated that volunteers with a range of disabilities, including people who are blind, deaf, or accompanied by service animals, would be especially helpful in strengthening the exercises. Members expressed interest but also noted the challenges posed by the very early morning start times. Staff explained that early hours are used to avoid disrupting regular service and stated they would ask whether any flexibility was possible.

Greg Kuhl also renewed an earlier request for a future presentation from operations staff about Metro buses and accommodations for riders using wheelchairs. Staff acknowledged the request and indicated it would be revisited for a future agenda.



## **Metro** **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**



During public comment, one caller reported a discrepancy between the Zoom meeting ID listed on Eventbrite and the meeting ID printed on Metro's agenda. The caller stated that Eventbrite listed the correct number, while the Metro agenda appeared to contain a different ID that led users to a message saying the meeting had not yet started. Staff thanked the caller for bringing the issue forward and confirmed that the information would be corrected for future meetings.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kathleen Barajas adjourned the meeting at 2:48 PM