

# CALACT 2026

## SPRING CONFERENCE



**APRIL 13-16 | TEMECULA, CA**

**TRANSIT: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES EVERY DAY**

## **CALACT SPRING CONFERENCE**

### **Conference Host**

Thank you so much for Riverside Transportation Agency for hosting the 2026 Spring Conference in Temecula. Your contributions to the conference contribute to its success.

### **Conference Hotel**

The Conference Hotel is Pechanga Resort Casino located at 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, CA 92592.

### **Transportation**

Attendees can fly into the Ontario International Airport or the San Diego International Airport. You can rent a car or take an airport shuttle to the resort.

### **Parking**

The Pechanga Resort Casino offers free self-parking at the hotel and valet parking is \$10 a day. There is EV charging at .35kwh available at the Pechanga Resort Casino.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

**CALACT expresses its appreciation to the Sponsors  
generously supporting the 2026 Spring Conference & Expo**

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Opening Session & Keynote

Awards Luncheon

Bus Show Luncheon

Bus Show Cocktail Reception

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**Registration Desk Hours:**

**Monday, April 13**

**9:00 AM to 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM-5:00 PM**

**Tuesday, April 14**

**7:30 AM-12:00 PM;1:30 PM-5:30 PM**

**Wednesday, April 15**

**7:30 AM-12:30 PM; 2:30 PM-5:30 PM**

**Thursday, April 16**

**8:30 AM-10:00 AM**

# CALACT Conference Agenda

**Monday, April 13, 2026**

**9:00 AM CALACT Board Meeting**

**9:00 AM Conference Registration**

**9:00 AM Procuring & Acquiring Hydrogen**

This session will present a hydrogen group procurement opportunity with First Public Hydrogen, a joint power authority. Panelists will also share insight and experience for group procurement.

Speaker: Joe Meer, Basin Transit & Jason Caudle, First Public Hydrogen

Moderator: Yachun Chow, California Air Resources Board (CARB)

**9:30 AM Transit Managers 101**

This session is designed for new transit or operations managers to prepare them for managing federal grants for transit operations.

Speakers: Robbie Sarles, RLS & Associates

**10:30 AM Facility Upgrades for Zero Emission Buses (ZEBS)**

Transit agencies need to upgrade their facilities for zero-emission buses charging/refueling and maintenance. This panel comprises transit agencies that have experience in retrofitting an existing facility, constructing a new facility, or utilizing temporary infrastructure. Panelists will share their experience and lessons learned, as well as provide recommendations for future projects. This panel will also discuss the opportunities on how transit agencies can/should work together on leasing temporary infrastructure together to reduce costs.

Speaker: Walter Watcher, SunLine; Janelle DeCampo, Fresno Area Rural Transit Agency; John VanCamp, San Joaquin Regional Transit District; David Ortega, Anaheim Transportation Network

Moderator:

**11:00 AM Golf Event at Temecula Creek Inn**

44501 Rainbow Canyon Road, Temecula, CA

The golf course has a strict dress code for the event.

***Golf Lunch Sponsored by Freedman Seating & TransAir by Lippert***

**11:30 AM**                    **RTAP Advisory Board Meeting**

**12:30 PM**                    **Registration**

**1:00 PM**                    **National Transit Database Training**

The goal of this course is to help transit professionals learn the necessary skills for reporting urban data to the NTD internet reporting website.

Speaker: John Giorgis, KFH Group

Moderator:

**1:00 PM**                    **Caltrans ZEB Deployment Toolkit and Best Practices for Hydrogen Station Permitting.**

Caltrans will present the step-by-step ZEB tool kit to assist ZEB deployment. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Partnership will discuss hydrogen station permitting issues and provide best practice recommendations.

Speakers: Ryan Ong, Caltrans and Jennifer Hamilton, H2 & Fuel Cell Partnership

Moderator: Frank Dopp, Fleet Maintenance Consulting

**2:00 PM**                    **Utility Program Updates**

Starting with the Senate Bill 350 (The Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act), investor-owned utilities (IOUs) are allowed to invest in zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure. More state legislation follows SB 350 for utilities to provide resources or pay for zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure. This session will include the three major IOUs to share their current programs and how transit agencies can participate in them.

Speakers: Dean Kunesh, Pacific Gas & Electric; Ramiro Lepe, Southern California Edison; Nicholas A Badillo, San Diego Gas & Electric

Moderator: Robin VanValkenburgh, Nevada County Transit

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

**7:15 AM**                    **Breakfast**  
*Sponsored by RATP Dev*

**8:15 AM**                    **Welcome Session**  
**Riverside Transit Agency**

**8:20 AM**                    **Keynote Address- Phil Gwoke, CEO of BridgeWorks and Generational Expert**  
*Sponsored by Model 1*

As an internationally recognized speaker, Phil has spoken in forty-seven different states and four continents to over a quarter of a million people. He continues to inspire audiences with valuable insights that are the result of collaborating with people for over twenty-five years as a high school teacher, college admissions professional, marketing coordinator, corporate trainer, and even small business owner. He is a mentor and consultant to young entrepreneurs and employs his diverse background and skill set as the CEO of the BridgeWorks team.

Phil brings his unique humor, experiences, research, and generational expertise to every keynote, workshop, and training session he delivers. He is a firm believer that with the proper motivation, training, and support system, members of any generation are capable of remarkable accomplishments. With his down-to-earth, relatable style, and dedication to presenting research in a digestible, entertaining way, Phil has become a fast favorite with audiences around the country both virtually and in person. Phil is a firm believer that with the proper motivation, training, and support system, members of any generation are capable of remarkable accomplishments.

**9:20 AM**                    **Break**  
*Sponsored by Paratransit Services*

**9:30 AM**                    **Outside the Box Funding Part I- PUC Access for All**  
Well-planned Alternative Transportation Systems can meet service quality demand and reduce pressure on the ADA systems. The CPUC Access for All Funding is available to fund On Demand Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVE) . You will hear from CPUC Staff about the program and how agencies are using the Access for All Funds for services.  
Speakers: Anna Jew, California Public Utilities Commission; Noah Thoron, California Public Utilities Commission; Arun Prem, FACT

**9:30 AM**

**Bridging the Gap: Managing A Multigenerational Workforce**

Today's workplaces often include four or even five generations working side by side—each bringing unique perspectives, communication styles, expectations, and strengths. This session explores practical strategies for leading and supporting a multigenerational workforce in a way that fosters collaboration, productivity, and mutual respect. Participants will learn how generational experiences shape workplace behaviors, how to address common communication and management challenges, and how to leverage generational diversity to build stronger, more adaptable teams. Through real-world examples and actionable tools, attendees will leave better equipped to bridge generational gaps and create an inclusive workplace where every employee can thrive.

Speaker: Phil Gwoke, CEO of BridgeWorks and Generational Expert  
Moderator:

**9:30 AM**

**Funding Programs for ZEV Infrastructure & Vehicles**

This panel will discuss several funding sources for zero emission infrastructure and vehicles. Speakers will discuss Energize, HVIP, and Utility programs and creative sources for match funding for grants.

Speakers: Katina Bayer, CalSTART; Yachun Chow, CARB; Eric Reitz, Caltrans  
Moderator:

**9:30 AM**

**Bus Stop Planning & Implementation on State Highways**

This session examines the planning and implementation of bus stops on state highways, including coordination with state DOTs, safety, and accessibility considerations, permitting processes, and real-world examples of successful projects.

Speakers: Robin VanValkenburgh, Nevada County Connects; Suresh Ratnam, Caltrans  
Moderator:

**9:30 AM**

**Altoona Testing Requirements**

Altoona testing is a mandatory Federal Transit Administration requirement for new bus models receiving federal funding, conducted at the Penn State Altoona Bus Research & Testing Center. The testing evaluates eight key areas: safety, structural integrity/durability, maintainability, reliability, performance, fuel economy, noise, and emissions. Passing, which includes a weighted score, is required to be eligible for federal funds.

Speaker: Dave Klinikowski, Penn State University  
Moderator: Joe Meer, Basin Transit

**9:30 AM**

**From Paper to Digital: Modernizing Paratransit Eligibility & Travel Training  
Session Sponsored by JackRabbit Data Systems**

If your office is still juggling paper files, Excel sheets, and whiteboards to manage paratransit eligibility and travel training, you are not alone—and you are not stuck. Implementing a software solution built specifically for transit agencies to bring structure, compliance, and efficiency to eligibility interviews, assessments, and travel training programs will not only reduce expenses and make your process much faster, it will make community members' experiences better.

In this session, Jackrabbit Data Systems will showcase how GetGoing Cloud can help teams centralize client records, streamline scheduling, and simplify reporting—without overcomplicating your workflow.

Whether you're upgrading from paper or planning ahead for scalable systems, this session offers practical insights and tools to help you modernize without overwhelm.

Speakers: Marilyn Cole, JackRabbit Data Systems & David Gonzalez,  
JackRabbit Data Systems

**11:00 AM**

**Outside the Box Funding Part II-Innovative Partnerships**

Meet California transit agencies who are partnering within their communities to provide additional services using existing resources to generate much needed revenue. Staff from Kings County and County Connections will describe their partnerships with businesses and public agencies providing paratransit transportation to jails and other services. You will also hear about funding from the Rural Health Transformation initiative. Speakers will discuss agreements with these agencies.

Speakers: Angie Dow, Kings County Area Transit; Robbie Sarles, RLS & Associates.

**11:00 AM**

**Passing the Keys: A Gen X Time Capsule for Millennials & Gen Z**

Imagine it is ten years from now. Gen X is stepping aside, Millennials are running the room, and Gen Z is walking in with “main character energy” and zero patience for outdated systems.

In this interactive panel session, we are creating a public transportation time capsule, but here is the twist: instead of deciding what we think matters, we are asking Millennials what Gen X needs to leave behind as they take the wheel. We are also asking Gen Z what they want us to preserve, fix, or completely delete, because yes, some things may be giving them “boomer energy.”

This session will provide honest generational perspectives and real talk about leadership, culture, Artificial Intelligence (AI), sustainability, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), work-life balance, branding, innovation, and what makes transit “low-key iconic” versus totally outdated. Expect a candid conversation, bold ideas, and maybe a few moments where we realize the future is not scary, it is just built differently.

Speakers: Chris Ackerman, Victor Valley Transit Authority; Bethany Berube, City of Clovis

Moderator: Valerie Gibson, City of Pasadena

**11:00 AM**

**Staying Compliant: Updating Your Website for New Accessibility Standards**

On April 24, 2024, the ADA published a new rule regarding the websites, social media posts, and apps of all public transit agencies. Starting April 24, 2026, agencies that serve populations of 50,000 or greater must ensure that their web content and apps adhere to WCAG 2.1 Level AA to remain ADA-compliant. Agencies serving fewer than 50,000 people will follow one year later, with requirements taking effect April 26, 2027. This session will dive into what that means and the free tools available to help all public transit agencies bring their web content into compliance.

Speaker: Nome Dickerson, Garnet Consulting

Moderator:

**11:00 AM**

**Life-Cycle Maintenance Cost Comparison for Transit Bus Technologies**

Detailed maintenance cost data for all bus technologies is difficult to obtain because agencies do not analyze their cost data in detail and do not make this data available to the industry. Through the FTA’s Transit Vehicle Innovation Deployment Program (TVIDC), CTE has developed an interactive comparison tool used to analyze the maintenance costs on a system and sub-system level. This project has collected detailed maintenance data sets from U.S. transit agencies to determine the average maintenance costs across all five major bus propulsion fuel systems. The project has provided insights into which bus components drive the maintenance costs for each technology, helping agencies plan for future costs during technology transitions. The CTE presenter will dedicate their CALACT conference session to highlighting the initial findings related to maintenance costs, conduct a demo of the comparison tool, and present ways for additional transit agencies to get involved in this ongoing project.

Speakers:

**11:00 AM**

**Continuity of Operations: Preparing for Disasters and Service Disruption**

When disaster strikes, preparation makes all the difference. This session explores how organizations can maintain essential functions during emergencies such as power outages, internet disruptions, natural disasters, or other unexpected events. Learn practical strategies for emergency planning, communication protocols, backup systems, and operational resilience to ensure your team can respond quickly and continue serving effectively—no matter the circumstances.

Speakers: Jim Beck, Gold Coast Transit District; Dustin Strandberg, Victor Valley Transit Authority; Jason Spohr, Tahoe Transit District and Norm Tuitavuki, Monterey Salinas Transit

Moderator:

**11:00 AM**

**Training Programs for Tribes and Rural Transit Agencies**

This session will discuss free training programs for transit agency staff provided by the National RTAP program. These include driver training, procurement, GTFS, dispatching, cost allocation, website builder and more.

Speakers: Robin Phillips, National Rural Transit Assistance Program

Moderator:

**12:30 PM**

**Parking Lot**

**Bus Show Luncheon**

*Sponsored by AZ Bus Sales*

**2:00 PM**

**Strategies for Dealing with Disruptive Passengers-Part I**

Effective strategies for dealing with disruptive behavior in paratransit transportation involve a mix of proactive training, clear policies, and de-escalation techniques that balance passenger safety with ADA compliance. Staff from NCTD, Stan RTA and VVTA will share their insights into effective policy development and implementation that help keep everyone safe.

Speakers:

**2:00 PM**

**The Discipline of Trust: What Effective Transit Leaders Do Differently  
Why Trust Is Important**

In public transit agencies, where funding is public, scrutiny is constant, labor relations are sensitive, and service reliability affects entire communities, trust determines whether decisions are accepted, resisted, or undermined. When trust is high, employees give discretionary effort, unions engage constructively, boards govern strategically rather than reactively, and the public gives leaders the benefit of the doubt during service disruptions or budget challenges. When trust is low, everything slows down—communication becomes guarded, change initiatives stall, rumors fill information gaps, and leaders spend more time defending decisions than advancing the mission. In a sector facing workforce shortages, evolving

ridership patterns, and increasing political pressure, trust is critical for success.

### **Key Issues Discussed in the Presentation**

This session examines how leaders intentionally build and sustain trust through behavior, structure, and discipline. Topics include the link between consistency and credibility; the impact of transparency during financial or service disruptions; the role of follow-through in shaping organizational culture; how decision-making processes either build or erode confidence; and the difference between likability and trustworthiness. We also explore how leaders unintentionally damage trust—through mixed messages, avoiding difficult conversations, overpromising, or failing to align board direction with executive action. Practical frameworks are provided to help leaders assess the current trust climate within their organization, identify trust gaps between frontline staff, management, boards, and stakeholders, and implement specific behaviors that strengthen alignment and accountability across the agency.

Speaker: Peter Johnson, University of the Pacific

Moderator:

**2:00 PM**

### **Transit and Intercity Rail Program Post Award**

The Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funds transformative capital improvements that will modernize California's intercity, commuter, and urban rail systems and bus and ferry transit systems, to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, increase ridership, and improve integration of rail services. Through seven cycles of TIRCP funding, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) has been awarded \$11.3 Billion. This session will provide an overview of the TIRCP program with an emphasis on the post-award process and what to expect.

Speakers: Cayman Morgan, Caltrans; Ezequiel Castro, Caltrans;  
Daniel Gonzalez, Caltrans

Moderator: Erik Reitz, Caltrans

**2:00 PM**

### **Rebranding Your Agency: Strategy, Story, and Community Impact**

Rebranding is more than a new logo—it is a strategic opportunity to redefine your agency's story, strengthen community trust, and align your identity with the services you provide. *Rebranding Your Agency: Strategy, Story, and Community Impact* explore how transit agencies can thoughtfully evolve their brand to reflect changing rider needs, organizational growth, and long-term vision.

This session will walk through the key phases of a successful rebrand, including internal alignment, stakeholder engagement, market research, visual identity development, and rollout planning. Attendees will learn how to build a compelling brand narrative, avoid common pitfalls, and measure the impact of their efforts. Whether you are considering a full transformation

or a targeted refresh, this presentation provides practical tools and real-world insights to guide your journey.

Speakers:

Moderator:

**2:00 PM**

**Mobile Hydrogen Fueling Solutions-Part I**

This session will discuss several different technologies for hydrogen availability. You will hear about gaseous versus liquid, cascade, chilled, and compressed gases.

Speakers:

Moderator:

**2:00 PM**

**FTA Program Update**

This session will provide an update on Federal Transit Administration programs, applications, and grant requirements.

Speakers: Rusty Whisman, FTA; Mary Nguyen, FTA; Amy Changchien

Moderator:

**3:30 PM**

**BREAK**

**3:45 PM**

**Strategies for Dealing with Disruptive Passengers-Part II**

See how AI technology can be deployed in Operations to track disruptive passengers, maintain records for discipline and insurance. Staff from transit agencies will share their experiences deploying this technology to tackle a challenging issue.

Speakers:

**3:45 PM**

**Operational Analysis for Appropriate Transit Planning**

In an era of transparent social inequity and at a time of declining ridership and revenue, discover how comprehensive operational analysis that is coordinated with existing land use and short- and long-range land use planning can divulge non-traditional mobility options for transit systems that provide better services and cheaper fares - all on shoestring budgets. How are concepts like this shaping the FTA's rule-making process to better serve transit and its customers in the future?

Speakers: Angela Swanson, Stanislaus Regional Transit Agency.

Moderator:

**3:45 PM**

**Building a Talent Pipeline: Leveraging Internships, Mentorship and Strategic Recruitment**

Developing a strong and sustainable workforce requires intentional strategies that attract, develop, and retain talent. This session explores how organizations can build effective talent pipelines by integrating internships, mentorship programs, and strategic recruitment practices. Participants will

learn how to create meaningful internship experiences that introduce emerging professionals to the industry, establish mentorship structures that support career growth, and implement recruitment strategies that expand outreach to diverse and qualified candidates. Through practical insights and real-world examples, this session will highlight how investing in early-career development and professional guidance can strengthen organizational capacity and ensure a steady flow of skilled talent for the future.

Speaker: Kristen Joyner, KJ Backpack; Laura Ortiz, San Joaquin Regional Transit District

Moderator:

**3:45 PM**

**Building Effective Zero and Reduced Fare Transit Programs: Advancing Fare Equity Through Zero and Subsidized Fare Programs**

Learn how transit agencies implement free and reduced fare programs to expand access and support equitable mobility. This session will explore funding strategies, program design, partnerships, and lessons learned from agencies offering subsidized or zero-fare transit for targeted populations.

Speakers: Eric Reitz, Caltrans; Jonathan Steketee, San Mateo County Transit District; Nick Chin, City of Clovis Transit

Moderator: Bethany Berube, City of Clovis

**3:45 PM**

**Hydrogen Mobile Fueling Solutions-Part II – Deployment in Public Transit**

This session will discuss how agencies are using mobile fueling solutions in their zero emission operations. Hear from the agencies about techniques they are using to reduce hydrogen boil off and lessons learned. Speakers will also discuss hydrogen boil off control technologies.

Speakers: Freddy Rocha, Santa Cruz Metro; Jerome Qiazari, Humboldt Transit Authority; John VanCamp, San Joaquin Regional Transit District and Dustin Strandberg, Victor Valley Transit Authority; Jim Beck, Gold Coast Transit District and David Harbour, San Mateo County Transit District

Moderator:

**3:45 PM**

**Procurement 101**

This session will introduce the Federal Transit Administration procurement regulations from the development of a need for the acquisition of goods and services. The course will also cover the fundamental procurement process for public agencies: the basics of contracts, the impact of guiding regulations, the essential elements of a procurement policy, and documenting the process.

Speakers: Julie Schafer, RLS & Associates

Moderator:

**5:00 PM**

*Parking Lot*

**Bus Show Cocktail Reception**

*Sponsored by New Flyer Industries*

Visit the Bus Show and receive free tickets for alcoholic beverages from representative from New Flyer Industries.

**6:30 PM**

**EXPO Reception**

Visit the exhibitors to explore their products and vehicles and participate in the EXPO game for an opportunity to win prizes.

*Sponsored by Davey Coach Bus Sales*

## Wednesday, April 15, 2026

7:30 AM

**Breakfast**

7:30 AM

**Registration**

8:30 AM

### **Same Rider, Same Subsidy, Different Safety**

A rider books a trip to a medical appointment through their transit agency.

The vehicle arrives and the rider gets in—simple, right?

What the rider does not see is that depending on which contractor provides the trip, the driver may be held to vastly different safety standards. They may or may not be subject to FTA drug and alcohol testing, the same background checks, or identical training as the primary paratransit provider. Same agency, same rider, same public funding—yet potentially vastly different safety protocols.

This is not about poor decisions by agencies. It reflects the realities of a changing mobility ecosystem: rising paratransit demand, limited vehicles, tight budgets, and increasing partnerships with TNCs, micro transit operators, and specialized providers. Different regulatory frameworks have created an invisible patchwork of safety standards that riders cannot see. This session explores how these differences emerged, why they matter, and what agencies can do to ensure consistent baseline safety standards across all providers—while clearly communicating those protections to riders. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for evaluating contractor safety requirements and strengthening rider trust.

Speakers:

8:30 AM

### **Triennial Reviews and Common Findings**

What patterns emerge from recent triennial reviews? This session examines the most frequent findings, the underlying causes, and what organizations can do to address them proactively. Through examples, discussion, and shared experiences, participants will explore practical solutions, strengthen their understanding of review requirements, and identify strategies to improve compliance and operational effectiveness before the next review cycle.

Speaker: Robbie Sarles, RLS & Associates

Moderator:

8:30 AM

### **The Do's and Don'ts of Vendor Contract Negotiations**

The landscape of negotiating a vendor contract can be a slippery slope. It is no longer about what the overall cost of the product and deliverables will be. It is easy to overlook the fine print that may overall cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In this session, we will delve into the perspectives of the transit agency and

vendor contract negotiations. We will discuss the sections of a contract you need to review to make sure it is understood liability standards, what does it truly mean name another entity as additionally ensured, what happens when a vendor contract automatically renews and such much more!

Speaker: Kelly Halcon, Monterey Salinas Transit; W.C. Pihl, Transdev  
Moderator:

**8:30 AM**

### **Strategic Artificial Intelligence Policies: Managing Risk While Driving Government Efficiency and Innovation**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly entering the workplace, offering new opportunities to improve efficiency, customer service, and decision-making. But without clear guidelines, agencies risk security issues, data misuse, inconsistent practices, and employee uncertainty.

This session will explore how organizations can develop practical, responsible AI policies that encourage innovation while protecting sensitive data and maintaining public trust. Speakers will share real-world approaches to establishing internal guidelines, addressing privacy and cybersecurity concerns, defining appropriate staff use of generative AI tools, and aligning AI practices with organizational values and legal requirements.

Attendees will learn key considerations for building an AI policy framework, including governance structures, risk management, staff training, and implementation strategies. The discussion will also highlight lessons learned from agencies that are beginning to integrate AI into daily operations.

Participants will leave with actionable insights and resources to help their organizations responsibly adopt AI while setting clear expectations for staff and leadership.

Speakers: Catherine Groves, Hanson Bridgett; Mona Babauta, Sunline Transit

**8:30 AM**

### **ZEV Roundtable: Real-World Implementation in Transit Operations**

Join transit agency leaders and operations professionals for an open and candid discussion on the realities of implementing Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in transit systems. This roundtable will explore successes, setbacks, infrastructure challenges, workforce impacts, funding considerations, and lessons learned from agencies actively deploying ZEV fleets. Participants will gain practical insights and peer-driven strategies to support effective and sustainable ZEV integration.

Speakers: Roland Cordero, Foothill Transit; Jacob King, Mendocino Transit Authority; Mike Johnson, Riverside Transit Agency; Freddy Rocha, Santa Cruz Metro

Moderator:

**8:30 AM**

**Preparing Successful Grant Applications**

Successful grant writing is both an art and a strategy. This session will guide participants through the essential components of competitive grant proposals, identifying the right funding opportunities to crafting compelling narratives and measurable outcomes. Attendees will learn practical tips for strengthening applications, aligning proposals with funder priorities, and avoiding common mistakes that can weaken submissions. Whether you are new to grant writing or looking to improve your success rate, this session will provide tools and insights to help secure funding for your programs and initiatives.

Speakers: Dennis Brooks, AMMA Transit Planning and Andrea Breault, AMMA Transit Planning

Moderator:

**10:10 AM**

**Café World Roundtable Discussions**

Join colleagues and industry peers for an interactive World Café–style roundtable focused on the challenges and opportunities shaping transit today. This collaborative session invites participants to rotate through small-group discussions on key topics such as funding, workforce development, technology, service innovation, and community partnerships.

Designed to encourage open dialogue and idea sharing, the roundtable format allows attendees to exchange experiences, identify common challenges, and surface practical solutions that can be applied within their own agencies and communities. Each discussion table will capture key insights, which will be shared with the broader group to highlight emerging themes and actionable strategies.

Whether you are a transit leader, planner, operator, or partner, this session offers a unique opportunity to connect, learn from peers, and contribute to a collective conversation about the future of transit.

**11:10 AM**

**Break**

**11:20 AM**

**Welcoming Visitors to the Games**

As more transit agencies find themselves play host to ADA visitors for large events, including the Olympics, World Cup and X Games, what does this mean in terms of planning and preparation for guests? Hear staff from LA, the Bay area and Ventura County discuss how they met previously unplanned demand to help ADA guests fully participate in these prestigious events, and

how this may translate into large venue events like concerts. Visitor Policy Changes and Paratransit Reciprocity-Regional services are discussed.

Speakers:

Moderator:

**11:20 AM**

**FTA Drug & Alcohol Regulatory Update**

This session will provide an update on Zero Tolerance versus Second Chance policies, return to duty regulations, and follow up testing. The speaker will cover the role of the Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) for transit agencies and new federal requirements.

Speaker: Robbie Sarles, RLS & Associates

Moderator: Brian Travis, Caltrans

**11:20 AM**

**Leveraging ZEB Operational Data to Maximize Fleet Efficiency**

Zero-Emission Bus data provide a powerful opportunity to align operator performance with fleet efficiency goals. By systematically analyzing vehicle performance metrics—such as energy consumption per mile, braking efficiency, dwell time, and route-based variability—agencies can create structured feedback loops for operators. Integrating these insights into training, performance management, and continuous improvement programs ensures that operators are equipped to achieve the highest levels of efficiency, range optimization, and asset longevity.

Speakers:

**11:20 AM**

**Shop Safety 101**

This session will discuss meeting and exceeding OSHA compliance requirements, including a perspective on HV bus safety

This session will offer suggestions, templates, and rule clarification for OSHA standards regarding shop safety as well as discussions on California shop environmental compliance. We will also discuss some HV facility challenges.

Speakers: Ed Remily, Transdev; Frank Dopp, Fleet Maintenance Consulting; Jason Spohr, Tahoe Transit District

Moderator:

**11:20 AM**

**Preparing Successful Grant Applications-Part II**

**12:30 PM**

**Parking Lot**

**Bus Show Luncheon**

Enjoy a delicious lunch while viewing buses offered on the Basin Transit/CALACT Cooperative Bid. Stop by each vendor for a chance to win some cash.

***Sponsored by A-Z Bus Sales***

**2:30 PM**

**EXPO**

Visit with the exhibitors to learn about their products and software programs. Visit all the vendors to win prizes and the grand prize will be drawn at 5:30 PM. You must be present to win.

**4:00 PM**

**Break in EXPO**

*Sponsored by RO Bus Sales*

**6:30 PM**

**Evening Event**

Enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing to live music at

*Sponsored by Transdev*

## Thursday, April 16, 2026

8:15 AM

**Breakfast**

8:30 AM

**Registration**

9:30 AM

### **Federal Programs Update**

Hear the latest information on federal funding and programs from FTA Administrator, Region IX.

Speaker: Ray Tellis, FTA Region 9

Moderator: Rick Ramacier, Capitol GCS & CALACT Legislative Committee Chair

11:15 AM

### **State Update**

Caltrans staff will provide an update on state funding programs and reorganization of Caltrans Mass Transportation office.

Speakers: Wendy King, Caltrans; Josh Pulverman, Caltrans

Moderator: Valerie Gibson, City of Pasadena & CALACT Board Chair

### **CARB Update**

You will also hear about recent updates on the Innovative Clean Transit regulation, exemption process and more.

Speaker: Yachun Chow, CARB

Moderator:

## **Future CALACT Conferences**

**CALACT Fall Conference- November 2-5, 2026**

**Hyatt Regency, Sonoma, CA**

**TRB Mobility Transformed Conference in Partnership with CALACT**

**November 5 & 6, 2026**

**Hyatt Regency, Sonoma, CA**

**CALACT Spring Conference -May 1-5, 2028**

**Monterey, CA**