CALACT 2026

Fall Conference & EXPO



Santa Rosa, CA

November 3-5

WELCOME

HYATT REGENCY SONOMA WINE COUNTRY

The Conference Hotel is at Hyatt Regency Sonoma Wine Country located at 170 Railroad Street, Santa Rosa, CA.

PARKING

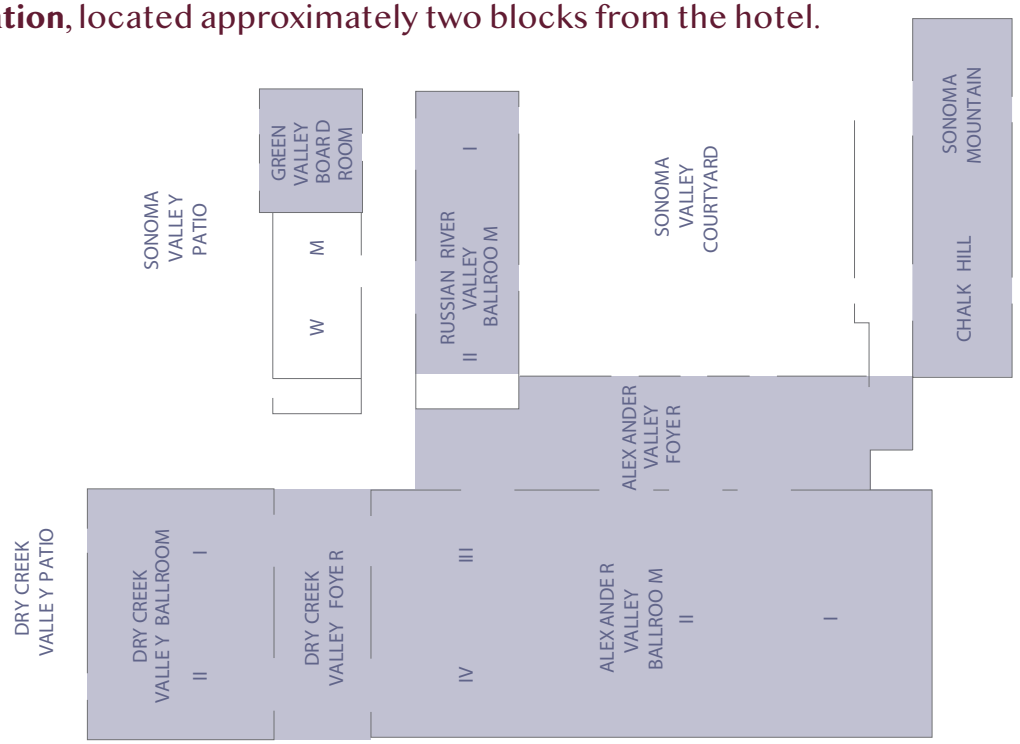
The Hyatt offers discounted daily and overnight self-parking for $12 a night.

TRANSPORTATION

Attendees can fly into Santa Rosa airport and take public transportation to the Hyatt Regency. Public transportation options from the airport include **Sonoma County Transit Route 62**, which provides service to the Santa Rosa Transit Mall. The Hyatt Regency Sonoma Wine Country is approximately one-half mile from the Transit Mall.

Travelers may also use **SMART Connect** to reach the SMART Airport Station and take the SMART train to **Downtown Santa Rosa Station**, located approximately two blocks from the hotel.

CONFERENCE MEETING ROOMS



Conference Hosts

SonomaCounty Transit

SONOMA COUNTY TRANSIT & CITY OF SANTA ROSA TRANSIT

City of Santa Rosa CALIFORNIA

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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

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SPECIAL EVENTS

EVENING EVENT	Transdev
OPENING SESSION & KEYNOTE	MV Transportation
BUS SHOW LUNCHEON	A-Z Bus Sales
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BUS SHOW DECALS	Decals by Design

CONFERENCE BREAKFASTS & BREAKS

BREAKFAST	Model 1 Commercial Vehicles
BREAKFAST	Diamond Coach
BREAKFAST	RATP Dev USA
EXPO BREAK	RO Bus Sales

CONFERENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

California Air Resources Board
Caltrans
Federal Transit Administration
Raul V. Bravo & Associates
University of the Pacific

Keynote



SCOTT LESNICK

Scott Lesnick is a global keynote speaker renowned for his memorable presentations. Scott captivates audiences worldwide with his engaging style. He is a sought-after author, having published both a memoir titled "Kidjacked – A Father's Story" and a critically acclaimed book titled "Lifejacked: Life Lessons on Leadership."

Scott's expertise is recognized by his esteemed Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation from the National Speakers Association. Currently there are only 650 full-time speakers with this distinction worldwide.

In addition to his accomplishments as a speaker and author, Scott has made significant personal achievements. He recently presented at TEDx, sharing his insights and inspiring audiences. Also, Scott has completed the equivalent of running twice around the planet, covering an astounding distance of 50,000 miles!

Prior to his speaking career, Scott spent 24 award-winning years leading sales teams at Shaw Industries, a Fortune 500 company under the Berkshire Hathaway umbrella. This extensive experience in sales leadership provides him with practical insights and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by professionals.

Scott is a graduate of The University of Miami, Florida. His passion for sharing his story and leadership lessons has left a lasting impact on his audiences, earning him a reputation as a dynamic and influential speaker.

With his diverse background, engaging storytelling ability, and wealth of knowledge, Scott brings a unique perspective to his keynotes, leaving attendees inspired, motivated, and ready to take their leadership skills to new heights.



REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03
7:00 AM - 12:00 PM
2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04
7:30 AM - 12:30 PM
2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

MOBILITY TRANSFORMED REGISTRATION HOURS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
11:30 AM - 5:00 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 06
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Agenda

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2026

9:00 AM
RUSSIAN RIVER I

CALACT BOARD MEETING

11:00 AM
SONOMA GOLF CLUB

GOLF EVENT AT SONOMA GOLF CLUB

The golf course has a strict dress code for the event.
GOLF LUNCH SPONSOR: Diamond Coach
GOLF BALL SPONSOR: CoachWest

12:00 PM
ALEXANDER FOYER

REGISTRATION OPENS

1:00 PM
CHALK HILL

BEYOND SERVICE HOURS: THE BOLD STRATEGY THAT DOUBLED RIDERSHIP

Faced with limited resources, Winter Park, Colorado, took an unconventional approach to growing transit. Rather than investing every available dollar in additional service hours and new vehicles, the agency redirected resources toward branding, design, wayfinding, customer experience, and community identity.

Through extensive stakeholder engagement, Winter Park and Studio Six Branding created a transit system rooted in the community's personality and needs. New vehicle graphics, maps, bus stop signage, advertising, and wayfinding made the system easier to recognize, understand, and use—transforming transit into a visible and celebrated community asset.

The results were significant: ridership increased 103 percent within six months of the rebrand and another 135 percent following regional expansion. The system's success also helped Winter Park to secure a $12 million state investment for a new transit maintenance and operations facility.

This session challenges the idea that branding is simply marketing. Learn how design can function as infrastructure, customer experience can drive ridership, and community identity can build lasting support for transit. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for using stakeholder engagement, thoughtful design, and limited resources to create a transit system their community understands, uses, and champions.

Speakers: Traci Jones, Studio Six Branding; Michael Koch, Studio Six Branding



Agenda

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2026

2:30 PM
SONOMA MTN

CARB AND THE TRANSPORTATION QUANTIFICATION METHODOLOGY TOOL & LCFS CREDITS

California's clean transportation programs continue to evolve, creating both new requirements and funding opportunities for transit agencies. This session will provide an overview of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Transportation Quantification Methodology Tool and how agencies can use it to estimate greenhouse gas emission reductions and other benefits associated with transportation projects. Speakers will also discuss California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program, including how transit agencies can generate, manage, and maximize LCFS credits from eligible zero-emission vehicles and fueling infrastructure. Attendees will gain practical insight into how these programs can support fleet planning, funding strategies, and California's transition to zero-emission transit.

Speakers: Chris Montague-Breakwell, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority; Andrew Martinez, CARB

Moderator: Yachun Chow, CARB

2:45 PM
CHALK HILL

NTD REPORTING: UPDATES, CHANGES, & WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Stay current on the latest National Transit Database (NTD) reporting requirements and understand how recent changes may affect your agency. This session will review key updates, reporting expectations, common challenges, and important deadlines to help agencies submit accurate and compliant NTD data. Attendees will gain practical guidance on navigating reporting requirements, avoiding common errors, and improving the quality and consistency of their NTD submissions.

Speakers: Chelsea Champlain, Federal Transit Administration; Reed Kattmann, MacroSys LLC

Moderator: Edwin Bragado, Caltrans

4:00 PM
SONOMA GOLF CLUB

GOLF RECEPTION

SPONSORED BY: Complete Coach Works







Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

7:30 AM
ALEXANDER FOYER

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION DESK OPENS

7:15 AM
DRY CREEK FOYER

BREAKFAST

SPONSORED BY: Model 1 Commercial Vehicles

Speakers: Mike Farr, Model 1 Commercial Vehicle Sales

8:00 AM
ALEXANDER BALLROOM

WELCOME SESSION

Speakers: Mayor Mark Stapp, City of Santa Rosa; Emily Betts, Sonoma County Transit

8:25 AM
ALEXANDER BALLROOM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

SPONSORED BY: MV Transportation

Speaker: Gary Coles, MV Transportation

Keynote: Scott Lesnick

"Forward Together: Leading Transit Through Cuts, Competition, and Change"

California's transit agencies are being asked to do more with less at every level. Funding cuts and staffing shortages are stretching operations thin, while political pressure to shift riders toward services like Uber and Lyft raises real questions about the future role of public transit itself. The impact on staff cannot be ignored. Drivers, dispatchers, and technicians are navigating new pressures, exhaustion, and genuinely uncharted territory, often while being asked to justify the value of the service they have spent careers building.

Drawing on my five-year national survey of workplace leadership and disruption, this session speaks directly to the theme of moving Forward Together, Smarter and Stronger, United. I address how transit leaders can respond to funding and staffing cuts strategically rather than reactively, how to make the case for public transit's value in an era of rideshare competition, and how to repurpose limited resources without burning out the teams who keep service running.

Part of this session introduces Micro shifting: a work style where employees break the traditional continuous workday into smaller, flexible work blocks that fit around personal energy rhythms, life needs like childcare or appointments, and peak focus times. For an industry built around rigid shift schedules and route demands, this offers leaders a genuinely useful, low-risk way to build flexibility into scheduling without compromising service reliability, especially when short-staffed.

This keynote delivers essential strategies to navigate change successfully: encouraging open communication, cultivating a resilient and inclusive culture, and keeping staff focused and engaged even as funding, staffing, and political pressure all shift at once. Attendees are equipped to reduce burnout, increase retention, and lead their transit organization forward together, with resilience and agility, regardless of the pressures coming from outside the organization.

9:45 AM
DRY CREEK FOYER

BREAK

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

10:00 AM
CHALK HILL

MAKING TRANSIT FRIENDLY FOR ALL RIDERS

As our communities grow and change, transit systems must evolve to ensure that every rider—regardless of age, ability, or mobility needs—can travel safely, comfortably, and independently. With an aging Baby Boomer population and increasing use of mobility devices, now is the time to consider whether our transit systems are truly designed for everyone.

This session will explore practical ways to make both fixed-route and paratransit services more accessible and rider-friendly. Speakers will discuss vehicle design, including accommodating wheelchairs and other mobility devices; accessible bus stops and pathways; rider information and wayfinding; travel training; and service improvements that can help older adults and individuals with disabilities confidently use fixed-route transit.

The discussion will also examine Healthy Cities and Aging in Place initiatives and opportunities for transit agencies to collaborate with local governments, healthcare providers, community organizations, and riders to create more inclusive transportation networks.

What do our riders need today, what will they need tomorrow, and what can we do now to make transit welcoming and accessible for all?

Speakers: Angela Swanson, Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority; Eileen Collins Mastel, Tri-Met; Robert Betts, Marin Transit; Tina Dubost, SAMTRANS

Moderator: Eric Haack, Access Services

10:00 AM
SONOMA MTN

FROM VISION TO REALITY: CREATING FUNDABLE TRANSIT PROJECTS

This session will provide practical guidance for developing **grant-ready transit projects** that can compete for FTA, Caltrans, and other California transportation funding opportunities. Speakers will discuss how to move an idea from concept to a well-developed project, establish realistic budgets and timelines, demonstrate project readiness, and connect proposed investments to state and federal goals such as mobility, accessibility, safety, sustainability, and equity.

Attendees will also learn how early planning, stakeholder coordination, environmental and procurement considerations, and identifying potential matching funds can strengthen a project before a funding opportunity iS announced.

Do not wait for the Notice of Funding Opportunity to start planning. Learn how to build a pipeline of strong, fundable projects today so your agency is ready to compete when tomorrow's funding becomes available.

Speakers: Katie Collender, Humboldt Transit Authority; Sebastian Hernandez, City of Pasadena Transit; Erik Reitz, Caltrans; Ray Tellis, Federal Transit Administration

Moderator: Chris Mejia, Caltrans

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

10:00 AM
DRY CREEK II

INTERCITY BUS BEST PRACTICES

Intercity bus service provides a critical transportation connection for rural and small urban communities, linking passengers to larger transit networks, employment, healthcare, education, airports, and other essential destinations.

This session will highlight **best practices and successful approaches to planning, operating, and sustaining intercity bus service.** Speakers will share strategies for identifying service needs, developing productive routes and schedules, coordinating connections with local and regional transit providers, building effective partnerships with private operators, and improving passenger experience.

The discussion will also explore **FTA Section 5311(f) funding**, strategies for maximizing limited resources, increasing ridership, marketing services, and creating meaningful connections between rural communities and regional and national transportation networks.

Learn from successful programs and take-home practical ideas for building stronger, more efficient, and better-connected intercity bus services that meet the evolving mobility needs of the communities you serve.

Speakers: Don Chartock, WSDOT; Robin Phillips, National RTAP; Joe Rye, Redwood Coast Transit; James Sookne, Lake County Transit Authority

Moderator: James Haskell, Caltrans

10:00 AM
RUSSIAN RIVER I

FINDING THE BALANCE, MANAGING MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS

Building a strong maintenance team takes more than technical expertise—it requires a thoughtful approach to develop people at every stage of their career. **Finding the Balance: Managing Maintenance Technicians** explores practical strategies for building and sustaining a successful maintenance workforce, from bringing new talent into the industry to developing experienced technicians into effective leaders.

This session will examine how **apprenticeship and internship programs** can create a strong pipeline for skilled maintenance professionals while giving emerging talent meaningful hands-on experience. We will also address the unique challenges that come with **transitioning from technician to supervisor**, including shifting from "doing the work" to leading, coaching, delegating, communicating, and holding others accountable.

Attendees will gain practical insights into how managers can balance productivity, training, employee development, and day-to-day maintenance demands—while creating clear career pathways that help technicians see a future within the organization.

Speakers: Norm Tuitavuki, Monterey Salinas Transit; Richard Montgomery, Victor Valley Transit Authority & Humberto Marazzi, MV Transportation

Moderator: Dustin Strandberg, Victor Valley Transit Authority

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

10:00 AM
RUSSIAN RIVER II

FORWARD TOGETHER: LEADING TRANSIT THROUGH CUTS, COMPETITION & CHANGE

The keynote named the disruption is that every transit agency in California is facing funding cuts, staffing shortages, and rideshare competition all converging at once. This 1-hour deep dive moves from naming the challenge to building the response, giving transit leaders and staff room to work through the keynote's strategies as they apply to their own agency, not just hear them once from the stage.

Where the keynote introduced the 7 Powerful Communication Actions and the three stress-reduction and engagement tools, this session slows down to apply them directly. Participants work through how Microshifting could realistically fit their own scheduling constraints, route demands, and staffing gaps, rather than leaving the concept alone. We spend focused time on the leadership vision work from the keynote, specifically, how to make the case for public transit's value at a moment when that value is being publicly questioned, and how to keep staff engaged through funding uncertainty rather than watching them quietly disengaged.

This is not a repeat of the keynote content. It is the room doing the work the keynote set up: identifying one or two specific actions each participant can bring back to their own team within the week, and leaving with a clearer, more personal answer to what "leading forward together" looks like inside their own agency.

Speaker: Scott Lesnick

Moderator: Amy Hance, City of Clovis

11:30 AM
PARKING LOT

LUNCH WITH THE BUSES

Take time to view the buses while enjoying a nice lunch.

1:00 PM
CHALK HILL

LEVERAGING RESOURCES BY COORDINATING REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

As transit agencies face increasing financial constraints, regional coordination can help stretch limited resources while maintaining essential transportation services. This session will explore how agencies are partnering across jurisdictions, coordinating routes and schedules, sharing resources, and integrating local and regional transportation services to reduce duplication and improve efficiency. Hear real-world examples of collaborative approaches that have lowered costs, expanded mobility options, and provided riders with more affordable and seamless connections throughout their communities.

Speakers: Arun Prem, FACT; Tony Hill, MOVE; Mona Babauta, Sunline Transit; Don Chartock, WSDOT

Moderator: Margaret Schoep, KWADAS Consulting

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

1:00 PM
RUSSIAN RIVER II

FROM INTENTION TO EXECUTION: GOAL SETTING THAT PRODUCES RESULTS

Why Attend This Session

Transit leaders face constant operational demands that can make it difficult to focus on long-term priorities. Effective goal setting provides direction, improves accountability, aligns teams, and turns strategic priorities into measurable results. This session will show why successful leaders do not just set goals; they create systems that ensure goals are achieved.

What Participants Will Learn

Participants will learn how to develop clear, meaningful goals, overcome the common obstacles that derail progress, and build practical accountability systems that keep teams focused. Through real-world examples and interactive discussions, attendees will leave with tools they can immediately use to turn goals into results.
Speaker: Peter Johnson, University of the Pacific

Moderator: Nieves Castro, Caltrans

1:00 PM
SONOMA MTN

THE POWER OF FUND BRAIDING: DOING MORE WITH EVERY DOLLAR

As transit agencies face growing service demands, rising costs, and increasingly competitive funding programs, relying on a single funding source may no longer be enough. Funding braiding can help agencies stretch limited resources, advance larger projects, and create more sustainable transportation programs.

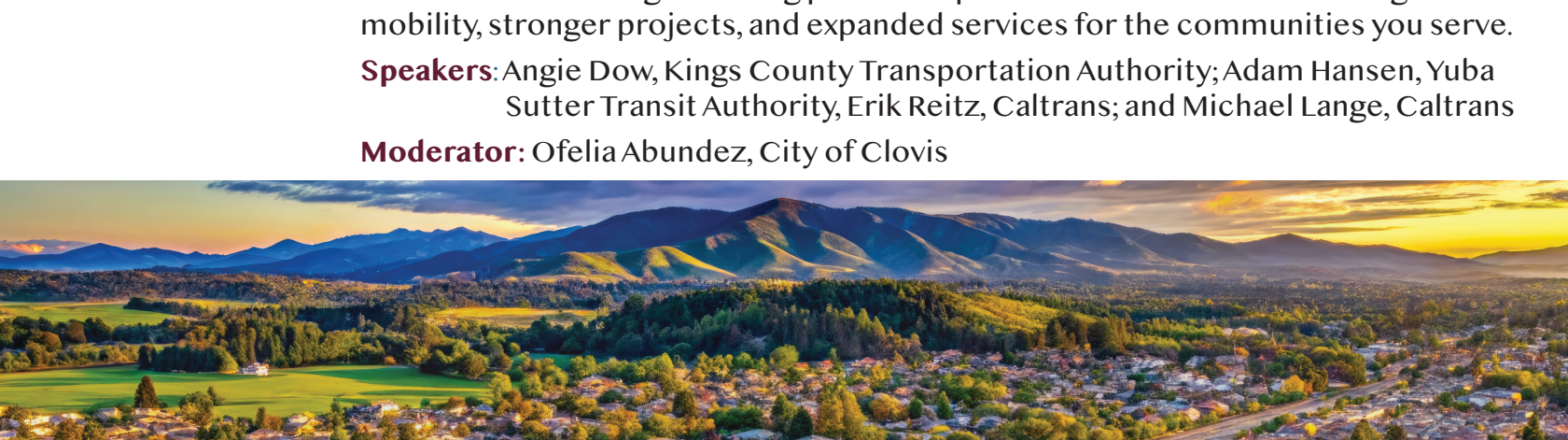
This session will explain what funding braiding is and how transit agencies can strategically coordinate multiple federal, state, local, and other funding sources while maintaining the requirements and accountability of each individual program. Speakers will explore opportunities to combine transportation funding with resources from housing, healthcare, human services, climate, workforce development, and other programs that share common goals.

Attendees will learn how to identify compatible funding sources, build partnerships across agencies and sectors, navigate differing eligibility and reporting requirements, and develop projects that can attract investment from multiple programs.

Discover how strategic funding partnerships can turn limited dollars into greater mobility, stronger projects, and expanded services for the communities you serve.

Speakers: Angie Dow, Kings County Transportation Authority; Adam Hansen, Yuba Sutter Transit Authority, Erik Reitz, Caltrans; and Michael Lange, Caltrans

Moderator: Ofelia Abundez, City of Clovis



Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

1:00 PM
DRY CREEK I

FINDING EFFICIENCIES WITHOUT REDUCING REVENUE SERVICE

Transit agencies are facing increasing financial pressures while continuing to meet community expectations for safe, dependable, and accessible public transportation. This session will explore practical strategies for **doing more with existing resources while minimizing the need for major service reductions.**

Learn how thoughtful service planning and network redesign can improve accessibility, simplify travel, and create operational efficiencies. Examples will include transitioning from one-way loop routes to bidirectional service, strengthening regional partnerships, coordinating intercity connections, and integrating local and regional services to make better use of available resources.

Speakers will also examine opportunities beyond service design, including process improvements, workforce development, strategic fleet management, and cross-departmental collaboration. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for reducing unnecessary costs, improving productivity, and maximizing limited resources while maintaining quality service for their communities.

Speakers: Lola Torney, Yolo County Transit; Omar McPherson, San Luis Obispo Transit Authority; Ron Kilcoyne, Transportation Management & Design; Katie Collender, Humboldt Transit Authority

Moderator: Robin Van Valkenburgh, Nevada County Transit

1:00 PM
SONOMA MTN

MAINTAINING THE AGING FACILITY

Transit facilities are built to last—but aging infrastructure, outdated equipment, changing fleet technologies, and limited capital resources can create significant maintenance challenges. How can agencies extend the useful life of their facilities while planning strategically for future needs?

This session will explore practical approaches to maintaining and modernizing aging transit facilities, from preventive maintenance and facility assessments to prioritizing repairs, budgeting for capital improvements, and addressing deferred maintenance. Speakers will share lessons learned and strategies for identifying critical needs, managing limited resources, and determining when rehabilitation, modernization, or replacement is the best investment.

Attendees will leave with practical ideas for developing a proactive facility maintenance strategy that improves safety, protects agency assets, reduces unexpected costs, and keeps facilities ready to support transit operations for years to come.

Speakers: John Coos, San Joaquin Regional Transit District; Jacob King, Mendocino Transit Authority; Jim Wilson, Humboldt Transit Authority

Moderator: Frank Dopp, Fleet Maintenance Consulting

2:15 PM **BREAK**

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

2:30 PM
CHALK HILL

IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL RIDER RESOURCES

Online trip-planning tools and agency apps have transformed how riders use fixed-route and demand-response, but for passengers with a disability, seniors, and new transit riders, this digital shift can be a barrier as easily as a benefit. This peer session looks at how transit agencies are using video-based travel training, digital toolkits, and blended (in-person/virtual/self-paced) programs to close that gap. This session will include a demonstration on using free or low-cost tools to create digital resources, like how-to videos and guides.

Speakers: Tateyana Hendricks, City of Vacaville Transit; Laina Tekelidis, Solano County Transportation Authority; Leeann Loroño, Eastern Sierra Transportation Authority

Moderator: Robbie Lucio, Gold Coast Transit

2:30 PM
RUSSIAN RIVER II

AI: REINVENTING DEMAND RESPONSE OPERATIONS: PART 1

This interactive workshop puts attendees to work using AI on the challenge at the center of members' operations: modernizing demand-response and paratransit service. As driver shortages strain ADA service and costs climb, participants use AI to rethink their service models—weighing microtransit and TNC partnerships, coordinating with community and nonprofit providers, and finding practical ways to save money while serving riders better.

What Participants Will Learn:

- How to use AI to model and compare demand-response service alternatives.
- Evaluating microtransit, TNC, and nonprofit partnership options for your agency.
- Using AI to analyze rider demand and right-size ADA and paratransit service.
- Writing an RFP and evaluation criteria that cuts through vendor noise

Speaker: Stephen Kuban, Kuban Transit Solutions

Moderator: Cristina Russell, Transdev

2:30 PM
SONOMA MTN

CARB AND THE TRANSPORTATION QUANTIFICATION METHODOLOGY TOOL

California's clean transportation programs continue to evolve, creating both new requirements and funding opportunities for transit agencies. This session will provide an overview of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Transportation Quantification Methodology Tool and how agencies can use it to estimate greenhouse gas emission reductions and other benefits associated with transportation projects.

Speakers: Erik Helseth, CARB; James Tipton, CARB

Moderator: Yachun Chow, CARB

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

2:30 PM
DRY CREEK II

BUILDING CALIFORNIA'S TRANSIT STOP NETWORK: FROM STANDARDS TO DELIVERY

This session builds on previous CALACT discussions that examined the challenges associated with bus stop permitting on the State Highway System. California has statewide standards for highways, bridges, sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and traffic control devices, but no comparable statewide standards for transit stops. The session explores how California can develop a consistent framework for planning, designing, engineering, permitting, and delivering transit stop infrastructure. The discussion is also timely considering the Governor's Executive Order directing state agencies to accelerate the delivery of transit projects, including transit centers, transit stops and shelters.

Panelists will examine approaches to standardizing the planning, design, engineering, permitting, and installation of transit stop infrastructure across California. Topics will include transit stop location, accessibility, passenger amenities, engineering requirements, standard designs, implementation practices, and opportunities to establish a California Transit Stop Design Manual. Together, these approaches can improve consistency, reduce engineering, and permit costs, accelerate project delivery, and support the development of a safe, accessible, and high-quality statewide transit stop network.

Speakers: Patrick Merrick, Tolar Manufacturing; Robin VanValkenburgh, Nevada County Transit; Jessica Wilkinson, Federal Transit Administration, Lucien Musso, Stanislaus Regional Transportation Authority

Moderator: Simon Herrera, Stanislaus Regional Transportation Authority

2:30 PM
DRY CREEK I

THE ABC'S OF SOP'S

Strong maintenance programs start with clear, consistent Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This session will break down the ABCs of developing, implementing, and maintaining effective SOPs that help transit maintenance teams improve safety, consistency, accountability, and efficiency.

Learn how to turn everyday maintenance practices into practical, easy-to-follow procedures for preventive maintenance, inspections, repairs, documentation, parts management, shop safety, and other critical functions. Speakers will also discuss how to keep SOPs current such as fleets, technology, regulations, and staffing change—and how to ensure procedures become part of daily operations rather than documents that simply sit on a shelf.

Whether you are creating maintenance SOPs from scratch or updating an existing program, this session will provide practical strategies and examples you can take back to your shop.

Speakers: Frank Dopp, Fleet Maintenance Consulting; Jill Dopp, Fleet Maintenance Consulting

Moderator: Grant Hendrick, RATP Dev USA

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

2:30 PM
RUSSIAN RIVER BALLROOM

FTA GRANT MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Stay informed on the latest Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant management requirements, regulatory updates, and compliance expectations impacting transit agencies. This session will cover recent changes to federal grant administration, reporting requirements, eligible expenses, and grant oversight. Learn about common compliance challenges, best practices for managing federal funds, and strategies to prepare for FTA reviews and audits. Attendees will gain valuable insights to help ensure their agencies remain compliant while maximizing the effective use of federal transit funding.

Speakers: Amy Changchien, Federal Transit Administration; and Amitra Mamdouhi, Federal Transit Administration

Moderator: Wendy King, Caltrans

3:30 PM
DRY CREEK FOYER

BREAK

3:45 PM
CHALK HILL

SAFER RIDES, STRONGER TRANSIT: PROTECTING PASSENGERS AND REDUCING LIABILITY

Keeping passengers safe—particularly riders who use wheelchairs, mobility devices, or require additional assistance—is a critical responsibility for every transit agency. This session will explore practical strategies agencies can implement to improve passenger safety while reducing accidents, injuries, and potential liability.

Speakers will highlight innovative approaches including **ambassador and companion programs, Personal Care Attendant (PCA) initiatives, enhanced driver training, securement practices, and new vehicle and safety technologies** designed to better protect riders. The discussion will also address challenges such as preventing passengers from sliding or shifting in mobility devices, properly maintaining, and using securement equipment, and providing additional assistance for riders who may need support during their trip.

Hear perspectives from transit agencies, contractors, and equipment providers on new technologies and programs being implemented today, including the use of temporary or intermittent ambassadors to address specific rider needs. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for creating a safer, more supportive transportation experience while strengthening their agency's overall approach to risk management.

Speakers: Robert Kerr, Sacramento Regional Transit; Cristy Sugabo, Monterey Salinas Transit

Moderator: Eric Haack, Access Services

3:45 PM
RUSSIAN RIVER II

AI: REINVENTING DEMAND RESPONSE OPERATIONS - PART II

This is a continuation of the session from 2:30 PM.
Speaker: Stephen Kuban, Kuban Transit Solutions
Moderator: W.C. Pihl, Transdev

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

3:45 PM
SONOMA MTN

ICT: STATE OF THE STATE: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND THE ROAD AHEAD

What are California transit agencies doing to meet the ICT regulations? CARB staff will also discuss the (State of the State) and how agencies can move forward on ICT goals given limited resources. Last, the contractor completing the comprehensive review will discuss the evaluation, state progress in meeting ICT and lessons learned.

Speakers: Shirin Barfjani, CARB; Erik Reitz, Caltrans, Jing Guo, CARB

Moderator: Yachun Chow, CARB

3:45 PM
RUSSIAN RIVER I

COMPLETING A COST ANALYSIS FOR PRICE INCREASES ON CONTRACTS INCLUDING TARIFFS

Rising material costs, tariffs, supply chain challenges, and other market conditions can result in vendors requesting price increases on existing contracts—but how does a transit agency determine whether those increases are reasonable and allowable?

This practical session will walk participants through the process of completing a cost and price analysis when evaluating contract price adjustments. Learn how to review vendor documentation, identify, and validate cost increases related to tariffs and other market factors, determine whether proposed increases are adequately supported, and document the agency's analysis for procurement and federal compliance purposes.

Attendees will leave with practical strategies for evaluating price increase requests, strengthening contract documentation, and making informed decisions that protect both the agency and public funds.

Speaker: Jim LaRusch, Raul Bravo & Associates

Moderator: Joe Meer, Basin Transit

3:45 PM
DRY CREEK I

USING THE DATA: KPI'S IN PRACTICE

Are you collecting maintenance data—or using it? This session explores how Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) can help maintenance teams improve fleet reliability, reduce downtime, manage costs, and make better operational decisions. Learn which maintenance KPIs matter most, including vehicle availability, preventive maintenance compliance, road calls, parts costs, repeat repairs, and mean distance between failures. Speakers will share practical examples of how to identify trends, establish benchmarks, and turn maintenance data into action.

Speakers: John Loverseed, Keolis; Jonathan Steketee, Marin Transit; Jim Beck, Gold Coast Transit

Moderator: Richard Montgomery, Victor Valley Transit Authority

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026

5:15 PM
PARKING LOT

BUS SHOW COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Check out the buses while enjoying a beverage. Pick up your FREE DRINK ticket at the New Flyer bus.

SPONSORED BY: New Flyer Industries

6:30 PM
ALEXANDER BALLROOM

EXPO RECEPTION

Visit the exhibitors to explore their products and vehicles while enjoying appetizers and adult beverages.

SPONSORED BY: Davey Coach Sales







WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2026

7:30 AM
ALEXANDER FOYER

REGISTRATION OPENS

7:30 AM
DRY CREEK FOYER

BREAKFAST

SPONSORED BY: Diamond Coach

8:00 AM
CHALK HILL

THINKING OUTSIDE THE VEHICLE: CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR PARATRANSIT PROGRAMS

What if the best paratransit trip is the one you do not have to provide? Explore how transit agencies are thinking beyond the traditional vehicle trip and use creative, cost-effective alternatives to meet riders' everyday needs.

From Instacart memberships and pharmacy delivery to Uber Eats credits and other innovative partnerships, agencies help customers access groceries, prescriptions, meals, and essential services without scheduling a traditional paratransit trip. Hear how these programs can improve convenience for riders while reducing demand and stretching limited paratransit resources.

The session will also highlight lessons learned, program outcomes, and considerations for agencies interested in developing similar programs. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for expanding mobility options while making every paratransit dollar go further.

Speaker: Eileen Collins Mastel, TriMet; Bruce Frink, Access Services; Kim Petty, Onward Health; Kim Coulthurst, City of Hayward; Matthew Weidner, King County Metro

Moderator: Eric Haack, Access Services

Agenda

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2026

8:00 AM
SONOMA MTN

MAPPING MOBILITY: USING DATA TO ANALYZE TRANSIT NETWORKS

Oregon DOT (ODOT) and Washington State DOT (WSDOT) have joined forces to develop an innovative, open-source tool that gives statewide and regional planners a clearer picture of public transportation services and connections. The Network Analysis Tool can load an entire state's GTFS and GTFS-Flex data and quickly analyze key measures such as service frequency, populations served by transit stops, and connections between fixed-route and demand-response services.

During this interactive session, WSDOT Technical Project Manager Thomas Craig will demonstrate the tool in action, highlight practical applications for transit and regional planning, and discuss how other states and regions can leverage this technology to better understand service gaps, connectivity, and opportunities for improving mobility.

Speakers: Thomas Craig, Washington State Department of Transportation; Drew Dara-Abrams, Interline

Moderator: Valarie Alexandar, Caltrans

8:00 AM
RUSSIAN RIVER II

CONTRACTING WITH CONFIDENCE: NAVIGATING FTA PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS

Navigating Federal Transit Administration (FTA) procurement requirements can be challenging when contracting for transit operations and maintenance services. This session will break down the federal requirements agencies need to understand when developing, procuring, and managing contracted services. Participants will explore key topics including procurement methods, competition requirements, cost and price analysis, contract terms, required federal clauses, oversight responsibilities, and documentation.

Designed with small and rural transit agencies in mind, the session will highlight common compliance pitfalls and provide practical strategies for developing procurements that meet FTA requirements while supporting effective contractor performance and protecting your agency during reviews and audits.

Speaker: Jim LaRusch, Raul V. Bravo & Associates, inc

Moderator: Michael Lang, Caltrans



Agenda

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2026

8:00 AM
DRY CREEK I

CREATING SCROLL STOPPING FOR TIK-TOK, INSTAGRAM & MORE

Stop the scroll and get transit noticed! Social media moves fast—and your agency's content needs to move even faster to capture attention. Learn how to transform everyday transit moments into fun, creative, and engaging content that riders want to watch, like, share, and follow.

This high-energy, interactive session will explore what makes content click on TikTok, Instagram Reels, Facebook, and beyond. Discover how to create attention-grabbing hooks, short-form videos, memorable captions, and authentic posts that highlight your employees, riders, services, and community. You will also learn how to jump on trends without losing your agency's voice—and how to create great content without a big marketing team or budget.

Bring your phone and your creativity! You will leave with fresh ideas, practical tips, and inspiration to turn your agency's next post from **"keep scrolling" to "wait–I have to see this!"** This session will continue outside working with speakers to take photos and videos for marketing.

Speakers: Chris Ackerman, Victor Valley Transit Authority; Traci Jones, Studio Six Branding; Krzysztof Walder, Studio Six Branding

Moderator: Wendy King, Caltrans

8:00 AM
RUSSIAN RIVER I

MITIGATING SAFETY RISKS AND DEVELOPING A SAFETY CULTURE

Safety starts in the shop. Transit maintenance teams work in environments where high-voltage systems, heavy equipment, hazardous materials, vehicle lifts, moving vehicles, and evolving technologies can create significant risks. This session explores practical strategies for identifying and mitigating hazards while building a strong safety culture throughout the maintenance operation. Learn how agencies can strengthen safety procedures, improve employee training and communication, encourage proactive reporting of hazards and near misses, and engage technicians in taking ownership of workplace safety. Attendees will leave with actionable practices for reducing injuries, protecting employees, and making safety an integral part of every maintenance activity.

Speakers: Nicole Thunich, MV Transportation; Chris DeGrave, RATP Dev

Moderator: Frank Dopp, Fleet Maintenance Consulting

9:15 AM
DRY CREEK FOYER

BREAK





Agenda

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2026

9:30 AM
DRY CREEK I

SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING TIRCP FUNDING & REPORTING

For agencies new to TIRCP, or veterans who still find the process unclear, this session breaks down the practical mechanics of funding access, from award close-out. We would walk through realistic timelines for allocations and reimbursements, what Caltrans expects in terms of regular project reporting, and where agencies most often lose time or run into friction. The goal would be to demystify the administrative side of TIRCP so agencies can plan cashflow, staffing, and reporting with confidence rather than guesswork. Attendees should leave with a clearer picture of both the advantages TIRCP offers and the operational demands it carries, plus tips for staying ahead of reporting deadlines and avoiding common invoicing pitfalls.

Speakers: Yesenia Ochoa, Caltrans; Cinthia Spitaleri, Caltrans

Moderator: Joshua Pulverman

9:30 AM
CHALK HILL

MOBILITY MANAGEMENT: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

A conversation on Mobility Management from the State, Regional and Local perspective. Caltrans (with Nelson\Nygaard) is developing a Mobility Management Action Plan. The aim of this plan is to spearhead coordinated mobility management best practices across California, prioritize industry research, community outreach, and coordinate with other state agencies that provide specialized transportation. Guidance will be developed to better align public transportation and public health goals, streamline services, inventory existing programs, and identify conflicting policies. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has an initiative to develop and support mobility managers in each of the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area region. MTC manages mobility through regional planning, funding, and coordination programs aimed at improving transportation access, equity, and first-and-last-mile connections across the region. The Solano Transportation Authority, the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for Solano County, supports mobility management through the Solano Mobility Call Center and Travel Training Programs. The call center is the one stop shop for providing transportation and mobility programs and services via phone, email, or in-person, including specialty services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The Travel Training program provides one-on-one training and classroom and group field trip training for all transit operators in Solano County.

Speaker: Naomi Armenta, Nelson Nygaard Consulting; Ezra Pincus-Roth, Nelson Nygaard Consulting; Drennen Shelton, Metropolitan Transportation Commission; , Laina Tekelidis, Solano Transportation Authority

Moderator: Mark Barry, Caltrans

Agenda

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2026

9:30 AM
SONOMA MTN

MAKING THE MOVE: AVL/CAD PROCUREMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, COMPARING AND TRANSITIONING

In this session we will discuss lessons learned from procurement and what to look for when selecting an AVL/CAD solution. We will then discuss holding AVL/CAD providers accountable during implementation and continued operations. We will review a case study comparing two possible AVL providers and how they were evaluated in live operation head-to-head. Finally, we will discuss transitioning providers.

Speakers: Robin Van Valkenburgh, Nevada County Transit; Norm Tuitavuki, Monterey Salinas Transit; Abby Smith, Marin Transit

Moderator: Jonathan Steketee, Marin Transit

9:30 AM
RUSSIAN RIVER II

CONTRACTING WITH CONFIDENCE: NAVIGATING PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS - PART II

Speaker: Jim LaRusch, Raul V. Bravo & Associates

Moderator: Omar McPherson, San Luis Obispo Transportation Authority

9:30 AM
RUSSIAN RIVER I

FLEET PLANNING STRATEGIES - MOVING FORWARD

For transit agencies, fleet planning means making every vehicle—and every dollar—count. This session will explore practical strategies for maintaining a reliable fleet while navigating limited funding, aging vehicles, long procurement timelines, changing service needs, and evolving zero-emission requirements. Speakers will discuss vehicle replacement planning, fleet right-sizing, useful-life considerations, spare ratios, procurement and funding strategies, infrastructure needs, and determining which vehicle technologies make sense for rural operating conditions. Learn how to develop a realistic, flexible fleet plan that balances today's operational demands with tomorrow's funding, technology, and service needs.

Speakers: Dustin Strandberg; Victor Valley Transit Authority, Cecil Blandon, AC Transit

Moderator: Byron Bolton, City of Clovis

11:00 AM
DRY CREEK BALLROOM

FEDERAL AND STATES PROGRAM UPDATE

Hear the latest information on federal and state funding, programs and regulatory changes that affect transit.

Speakers: Ray Tellis, FTA Region 9; Jeff Wyly, Caltrans; Yachun Chow, CARB

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

Agenda

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2026

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
ALEXANDER BALLROOM

EXPO

Visit with the exhibitors to learn about their products and software programs. Stop by all the vendor's booth to play our EXPO GAME. All entries need to be completed by 5:15 PM to win prizes and the grand prize will be drawn at 5:20 PM. You must be present to win.

4:00 PM
ALEXANDER BALLROOM

EXPO BREAK

SPONSORED BY: RO Bus Sales

5:20 PM
ALEXANDER BALLROOM

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

Visit the exhibitors and play the EXPO game to win prizes at the completion of the EXPO. You must be present to win. Play the EXPO and Bus Show game on the conference app.

6:30 PM
CHALK HILL WINERY

SIPS & SWEATERS EVENING EVENT AT CHALK HILL WINERY

Enjoy a nice buffet dinner, fine wine, and lively music at Chalk Hill Winery. Wear your cozy sweaters and coats to the event. Prizes will be awarded for cutest sweater and ugliest sweater at the event. **Everyone must ride the bus to the winery.** The winery does not allow private parking for this event. Buses will begin leaving at 5:45 PM with the last bus leaving at 6:20 PM. The first bus will leave at 8:30 PM and every half hour until 10:15 PM.

SPONSORED BY: Transdev



Agenda

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2026

8:15 AM
ALEXANDER FOYER

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION DESK OPENS

8:15 AM
DRY CREEK FOYER

BREAKFAST

SPONSORED BY: RATP Dev USA

9:00 AM
DRY CREEK BALLROOM

CALACT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Hear the latest information on CALACT programs and activities.
Speakers: Valerie Gibson, CALACT Chair and City of Pasadena Transit Manager

9:30 AM
DRY CREEK BALLROOM

THE EMERGING STATE AND FEDERAL POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AND HOW IT AFFECTS PUBLIC TRANSIT

Explore how the evolving political landscape in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. could shape the future of public transit. This session will examine emerging legislative, regulatory, and funding priorities and what they may mean for California transit agencies, including potential impacts on federal and state funding, programs, and policy requirements.

Speakers: Michael Pimentel, California Transit Association; Art Guzzetti, American Public Transit Association; Raayan Mohtashemi, Office of Senator Wiener
Moderator: Rick Ramacier, Capitol GCS

11:00 AM
DRY CREEK BALLROOM

USING AI TRANSFORM PARATRANSIT OPERATIONS

Artificial intelligence is creating new opportunities to make paratransit service more efficient, responsive, and rider focused. This session will explore practical ways agencies can use AI to improve scheduling and dispatching, optimize trips, predict demand, reduce no-shows, enhance customer communication, and support day-to-day operational decisions. Speakers will also address the challenges of implementing AI, including data quality, accessibility, privacy, staff training, and maintaining the human connection that is essential to serving paratransit riders. Attendees will leave with ideas for where AI can deliver meaningful improvements—and how to begin incorporating these tools into their operations.

Speaker: Stephen Kuban, Kuban Transit Solutions
Moderator: W.C. Pihl, Transdev

12:15 PM

MOBILITY TRANSFORMED CONFERENCE BEGINS





Future Conferences

CALACT 2027 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 3-6, 2027 HILTON SANTA BARBARA, CA



2027 NATIONAL RTAP CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 7-10, 2027 SHERATON SAN DEIGO, CA



CALACT 2028 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 1-5, 2028 HYATT REGENCY MONTEREY,CA



Expo Map

EXHIBITORS

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AngelTrax	117
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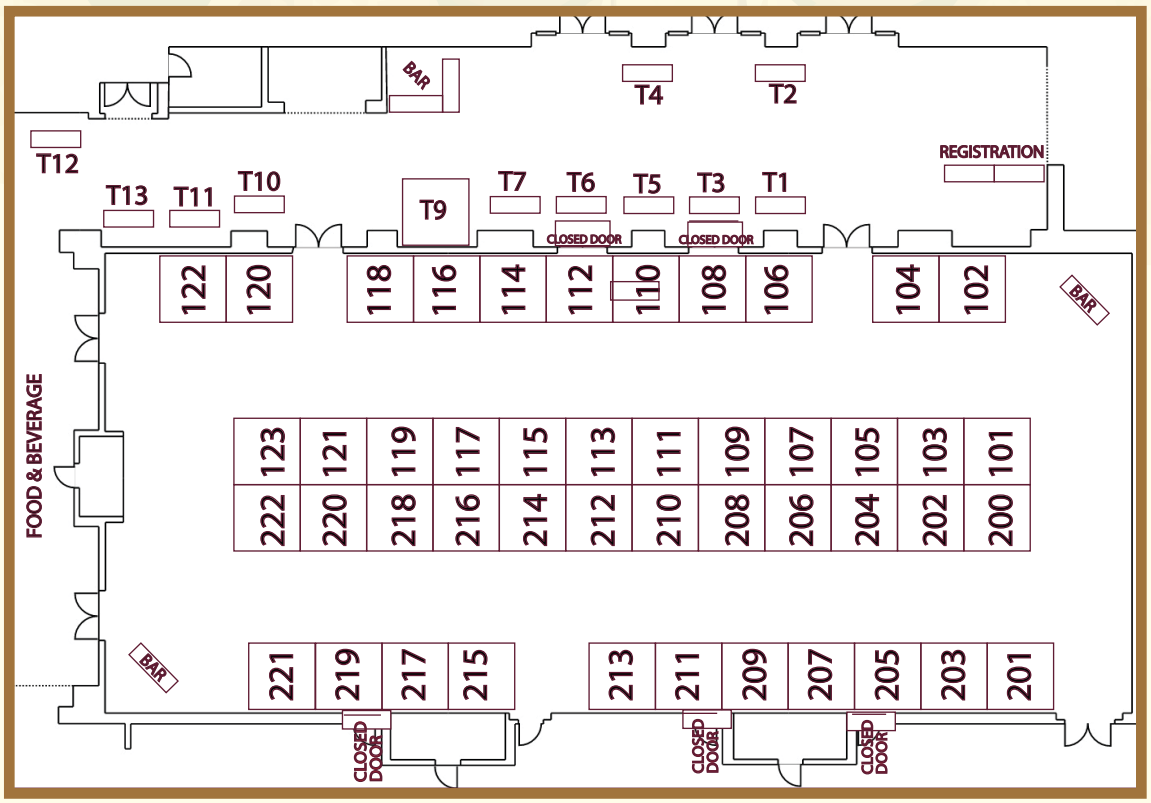
TCRP	T1
Tolar Manufacturing Company, Inc	101
Transdev	222
Transit Marketing Group, Inc.	211
Transit Technologies	215
Optigo	T13
UZURV	202
Via	110



CALACT

Bus Show Map

EXHIBITORS

1 FR Conversions

2 Endera

3 CoachWest

4 Diamond Coach
5 Diamond Coach

6 ABC
7 ABC

8 BraunAbility

9 ENC

10 Model 1

11 Gillig

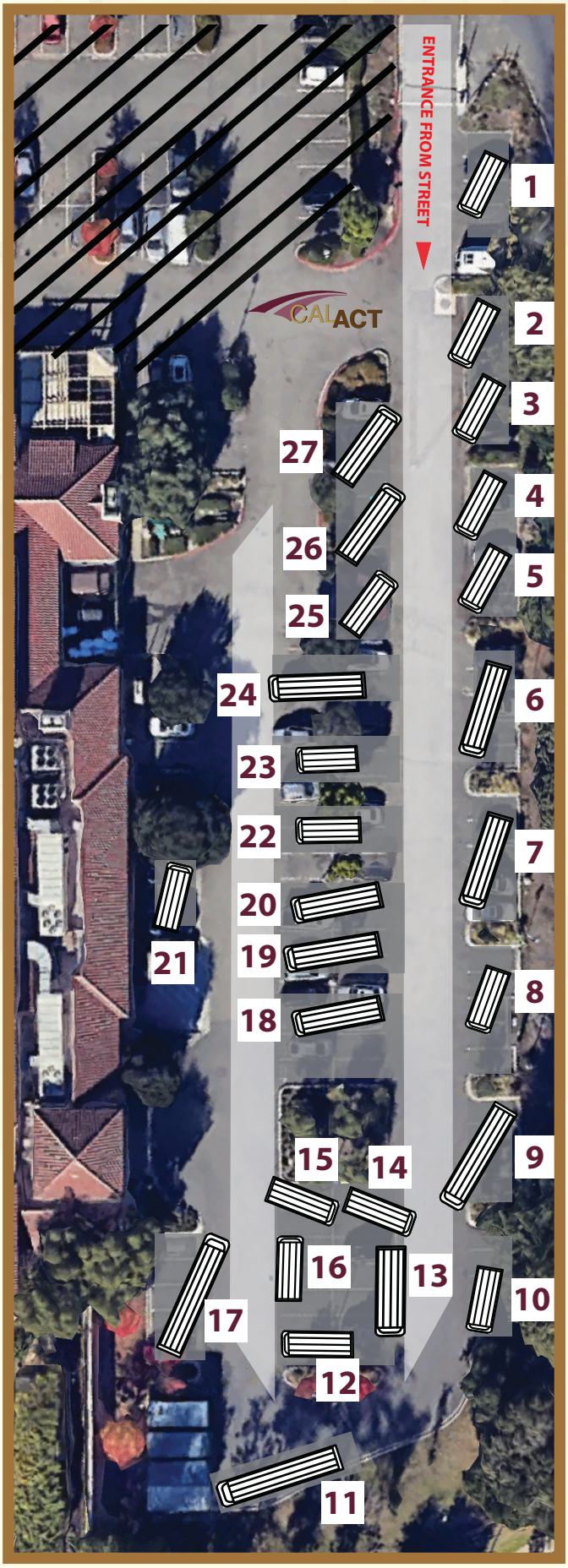
12 Model 1
13 Model 1
14 Model 1
15 Model 1
16 Model 1

17 New Flyer

18 A-Z Bus Sales
19 A-Z Bus Sales
20 A-Z Bus Sales
21 A-Z Bus Sales

22 RO Bus Sales
23 RO Bus Sales
24 RO Bus Sales

25 Davey Coach
26 Davey Coach
27 Davey Coach



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

California Association for Coordinated Transportation would like to express our appreciation to our conference committee members for their willingness to serve on the planning committee and their assistance in promoting education and learning opportunities for our members.

Chairs: Valerie Gibson, Eric Haack & Jonathan Steketee

Chris Ackerman
John Andoh
Naomi Armenta
Katrina Bayer
Bethany Berube
Yachun Chow
Frank Dopp
Valerie Gibson
Eric Haack
Amy Hance
Tateyana Hendricks
Jacob King
Wendy King
Robert Lucio
Omar McPherson
Arun Prem
W.C. Pihl
Ali Poorman
Jerome Qiriazi
Rick Ramacier
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Brian Travis
John Van Camp
Robin Van Valkenburgh
Jim Wilson

2026 FALL SPONSORS, SPEAKERS, & EXHIBITORS

California Association for Coordinated Transportation extends our deep appreciation to our Sponsors and Exhibitors for your participation and support of CALACT's 2026 Fall Conference and EXPO. It is the valuable support and assistance of these companies and speakers that make the education and networking events of the conference possible.

2026 FALL HOST AGENCY

We extend our sincere thanks to the wonderful staff at Sonoma County Transit and City of Santa Rosa Transit who assisted in the planning and completion of the CALACT Fall Conference and EXPO. We could not have done it without them. Please join us in thanking all of them for their hard work.

THE MEMBERSHIP

Without your excellent input, idea sharing, expertise, and participation, our Conferences would not be the same. We sincerely appreciate your support of CALACT and attendance at this year's Fall Conference. Thank you!

THANK YOU

CALACT

