



Alameda Contra Transit District
1600 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Board of Directors

September 21, 2025

RE: Attendance at the 2025 APTA TRANSform Conference

Dear Members of the Board:

I attended the 2025 APTA TRANSform Conference (the “Conference”). Pursuant to Board Policy No. 155, below is a written summary of the information learned at the Conference. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me.

Introduction

- The 2025 APTA TRANSform Conference in Boston focused on the latest innovations, funding strategies, and challenges in public transportation, gathering over 3,100 leaders, policymakers, and innovators from September 14–17, 2025.

Keynote Speakers and Opening Remarks

- Paul P. Skoutelas, President and CEO of APTA, opened the conference by highlighting the industry’s upward trajectory in ridership and the importance of reimagining mobility for future needs. Inspirational speeches included Bert Jacobs, Co-Founder and CEO of Life is Good, and FTA Administrator Marcus Molinaro, who discussed federal priorities for advancing public transit.

Main Program Highlights

- The exhibit hall showcased cutting-edge transit technologies, including new digital platforms and zero-emission mobility solutions.
- Educational sessions addressed transformative technology, mental health in the workforce, workforce development, global mega-projects, and innovative funding strategies.

- Notable panels examined federal, state, and local funding success stories, the MBTA's modernization efforts, fare evasion solutions, and how agencies can optimize transit for large-scale events.
- A heavy emphasis was put on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), accessibility—such as ADA eligibility advances—and specialized transit operations.

Focus on Technology and Innovation

- There was a premier focus on next-generation AI applications and cloud-based intelligent transport for agencies.
- Panel discussions and the final day Innovation Summit explored how technology can drive operational excellence, enhance safety, and reduce emissions.

Strategic Themes

- Strong messaging on federal advocacy and funding as crucial catalysts for modernization and service enhancements coast to coast.
- Case studies demonstrated approaches to community-building and service equity, ensuring reliable and accessible transport for everyone.

Closing and Future Direction

- The conference concluded with the Innovation Summit, spotlighting emerging technologies and future trends aimed at transforming the way people move in cities worldwide.
- Overall, APTA TRANSform 2025 in Boston reinforced public transit's key role in urban evolution and policymaking, while prioritizing smart mobility, workforce resilience, funding, safety, and innovation.