

To : Board of Directors

From : Diane Shaw

Date : 10/8/2025

Re : Attendance at APTA TRANSform Conference

APTA TRANSFORM CONFERENCE Sept 13-17, 2025, Boston, MA

Attended the Board Meeting on Saturday which continues discussions on all of the big events we have coming in this county and the need for us to work together in these tough times.

Sunday was Committee Meetings. Attended committee meetings all day starting at 8:30 with the TBM/BM legislative subcommittee, CIO Peer Exchange, Access Committee, Mobility Management and many more through 5pm. FTA Administrator Marc Molinaro spoke at several of the committee meetings.

AI and Autonomous Vehicles continue to be a heavy theme as are safety, big events and big capital projects topics.

Conference was opened up with the leadership from Massachusetts. We heard from the Governor, LT Governor, and the head of the DOT all very impressive woman who really support transportation and are putting the money behind it and really making a difference. They had some great comments and show a real vision for the state.

Couple of interesting things I heard.

- 1) MBTA is looking at a lot of new innovative processes at their agency. An example is Iterative Funding. They got a state grant to do innovation and then they opened it up within the agency for employees to come up with some ideas and then they would fund small internal efforts with the bigger grants and see which ones had promise. They also started streamlining processes with the state so that if a person was already in a state assistance program, they didn't need add'l eligibility verification by the transit agency. The interfaced with the DMV and had governor sponsorship to make this work. They also started a "Selling IT" campaign which helped to celebrate and cultivate innovation.
- 2) Standards – we really need more industry standards so we can make it easy to provide good reports to those that need it.
- 3) FTA Marc Molinaro has 3 priorities: Safety, Capital Project Efficiencies, and Access. He's very clear that he wants to look forward and not discuss pre-Covid ridership and wants us to tell our new stories. Not the ones they've already heard. All about increasing access for families and how we are making people feel safe on transit. He wants to see us all partner more with our cities to address growing issues.

We also got to take a trip over to MBTA and talk to their paratransit services about lessons learned from their implementation of SPARE which is the same system we are implementing.

It was a great conference, and it was good to catch up with colleagues and hear what they are doing. There is a lot of work going on at all agencies. All of the presentations are now loaded on the APTA website if anyone is interested in any of the details of sessions presented.

Once again, congratulations to Joel Young for being elected as the Vice President of APTA for this coming year.