

# MEMORANDUM

Date: April 11, 2025

To: AC Transit Board

From: Diane Shaw

Re: Notes from the APTA Mobility Conference held on April 4-9, 2025 in Austin, Texas

Attended the Board Meeting on Saturday with a few key messages:

- 1) Public agencies around the country are not changing their policies on equity and diversity. They might be changing what they call it or some of the words, but the intent is the same. As this was across the board. Everyone recognizes the importance in our industry. But we do need to be aware of the social and emotional toll that this will take on both our customers and our employees.
- 2) Tariffs are going to hurt us. Not only in the cost of purchasing vehicles but in the cost of purchasing parts for our maintenance programs. It could very well cost jobs in the transit industry as well. Whether it be companies moving locations or the reduction in sales due to the increased costs.
- 3) Opportunity to let the FTA know what things we think need streamlining. They are listening.

Sunday was the Rodeo and the Committee Meetings. Attended meetings in the morning and then went to the Rodeo in the afternoon to watch our teams complete. They were amazing. All of them!

AI and Autonomous Vehicles were a heavy theme in this conference. Saw several presentations and talks on these themes. A lot of work is being done in both areas. Visited one of Cap Metro's maintenance facilities where they are implementing autonomous technology in their maintenance yard.

Another theme in the sessions were the number of agencies doing micro transit and combining on demand rides with on demand paratransit.

Couple of interesting things I heard.

- 1) Not only did one agency pay their Non-Profit CBO for input but they paid them to have people in their organization do the canvassing and surveys. They said it worked well, and they were helping the community along the way.
- 2) DADSS – Driver Alcohol Detection System. One agency mentioned we need to look at our Drug and Alcohol Programs moving forward and maybe it makes sense to do something like DADSS instead. They have installed in their pool vehicles as a test. It is a system that can sense if there is alcohol in the air around the driver. This way it's not just a one-off test but a constant check.

- 3) According to a Harvard study, new transit metrics include efficiency, sustainability, social gains, economic growth, and job creation. I think they are metrics we should discuss when we have our session on this.

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.