The Safety Straps program officially launched in 2009. Safety straps are a good idea to secure passengers with wheelchairs while riding on the bus. Wheelchairs come in many shapes and sizes. As such, it may take time for a bus operator to determine where to secure the wheelchair to “tie downs” on the bus. MTA will now come to your house or facility and provide free yellow safety straps, which they will secure to the appropriate place on a wheelchair or scooter. The yellow straps allow the bus operator to easily identify where to secure tie down hooks. To have FREE safety straps installed on your wheelchair, you may contact (213) 922-8800.

THE DASH BUS SYSTEM

Keep these simple tips in mind and use this guide to determine which LADOT route will serve you best. Pick up the specific DASH or Comuter Express brochure for the route you will be using.

Stops are clearly marked on the route maps. Board the bus at any place along the route that is marked with an LADOT bus stop sign displaying either a DASH or Commuter Express logo.

Many Commuter Express stops are shared with other services that are part of Metro, the region's integrated transportation system. Signs are marked Metro on top with route numbers using that stop listed below. When the bus approaches, check the sign above the windshield for the route number and destination.

Pay your fare upon boarding or show your pass at this time. If you need to make a transfer, pick up your transfer slip upon boarding. Have a seat and watch for the stop where you want to get off.

About one block before your bus arrives at your stop, signal the driver to stop by pulling the bell cord overhead.
Cont’ the Dash Bus System (cont. from page 1)

The driver will stop at the next bus stop sign. If you are unsure of where you need to depart, the driver will be glad to assist. Refer to your specific route brochure for exact bus stop locations and departure times.

Times are approximate and may vary due to traffic and weather conditions. Please plan your trip accordingly.

Please reserve the forward-most seating on the bus for elderly or mobility impaired riders. The DASH is able to accommodate individuals using wheelchairs.

Contact (213, 310, 323, or 818) 808-2273 for additional information.

Submitted by: Alan McDowell, CAC member
Additional information provided by: Los Angeles Dept. of Transportation website- www.ladottransit.com

MTA TIDBITS

MTA information can be accessed via the web at www.metro.net. The website will display bus routes and bus schedules. Calling 1-800 Metro will also allow you to obtain information regarding bus schedules. For example, if you need a bus with a wheelchair lift, you can call the 800 number to find out when the next available bus is coming. A Day Pass will cost $1.80 for a person with disabilities. Persons with disabilities can also purchase a TAP card with their picture to prevent the card from being stolen.

Submitted by: Xan Blackwell, CAC member
THE TAP CARD

The Metropolitan Transit Authority has introduced a new ticketing system for people who use public transportation in Los Angeles County. It is the TAP card, which means Transit Access Pass. The TAP card is used on electronic readers on the busses and the Metro Rail so it will be known if someone has paid their fare or not.

MTA has many different train lines including the Red Line to North Hollywood, the Purple Line which goes to Wilshire and Western, and the Gold Line located by Union Station, goes to Pomona. The electronic reader will be located outside of the Metro Rail stations where you can tap your card. You can recharge them, if needed, at Ticket Vending Machines (TVM) in Metro Rail stations, Metro Customer Service Centers or online. If you don’t have money they accept credit cards. If you forget to pay or don’t want to pay, the police will fine you up to $250 dollars. The police use a device that can scan the entire card to make sure it is validated.

TAP is still new, so in time it will be able to reach the entire Los Angeles County transportation system. There will be no more paper cards, just plastic, to help the environment stay green. In October 2007 and early 2008 the Metro staff allowed a free upgrade. Now monthly TAP cards for seniors and persons with disabilities costs $14.00 per month plus a $2.00 processing fee to obtain the TAP card. Regular monthly passes are $62.00. At this time, any rate increases will not impact persons with disabilities or the elderly.

Submitted by: Domonique Young, SCLARC CAC member
CITYRIDE

Cityride is a transportation support system for persons with disabilities and individuals 65 years of age or older. A person must complete an application process and be approved by Cityride. If you are disabled, you will need a statement from your doctor verifying your disability. Once approved, you will receive $42.00 in fare value for each quarter, for a payment of $21.00 per quarter or $9.00 per quarter for low income participants. You are eligible for the low income rate if you are receiving Medi-Cal or SSI.

You may be asked if you use a cane or a wheelchair. If so, they will assist you on and off the van and they may also provide a larger van if needed. An aide can also accompany you for free.

It is important to note that you must call a day ahead of time to make a reservation. They urge you to call 2 days in advance for doctor appointments.

Cityride will make every effort to get you home before dark. They will also attempt to have you ride with people who live in your area.

You may contact (213, 323, 310, or 818) 808-7433 to register or for additional information.

Submitted by: Eugene and Karen Washington, SCLARC CAC members
Additional information provided by: Cityride website- www.cdsnet-inc.net/cityide.htm
ACCESS

Access Services provides door-to-door transportation service to individuals who are hearing impaired, physically handicapped, and/or mentally challenged. They provide services to people who are not able to successfully use regular public transportation like the busses and trains under the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA).

In order to qualify, a person must show documentation of their disability. A person can use their SSI income statement, a letter from their Service Coordinator stating their disability from the Regional Center, and/or a statement from their doctor.

The process for qualifying is tough. In addition to documentation, a person must also be interviewed by Access to verify that the handicap prevents the person from using the bus. If found eligible, they will be given an Access Card and will be able to use the service. The fare for the LA Basin is $2.25 one way-under 20 miles and $3.00 one way-20 miles or more. You must have the EXACT fare; change is not provided. You may contact Access by calling 1-800-827-0829. **TIPS:** Ask for the Vehicle Number of the Van that is picking you up. Make sure you provide the SPECIFIC entrance/exit where you will be picked up since some buildings have multiple entrances and exits.

Submitted by: Desiree Boykin, SCLARC CAC member

CAC Newsletter designed by Paul Mate, SCLARC CAC member