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LADOT Transit Services Join TAP Transit Smart Card Program

Los Angeles- The City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), the second largest provider of public transit services in Los Angeles County, today became a member of the TAP (Transit Access Pass) Regional Smart Card Consortium. All of the 310 buses that provide LADOT's Commuter Express and DASH services are TAP ready with the installation of card validators and driver control units.

The TAP regional smart card is an initiative of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), which developed and manages the regional revenue collection system. LADOT's decision to accept the TAP card is a major milestone in the roll out of the TAP system in Los Angeles County. LADOT's Commuter Express and DASH bus services play an important role in the regional transportation network. LADOT's DASH services connect riders to MTA and other regional transit operations in Downtown Los Angeles and 24 other communities in the city.

Mayor Antonio Villiariagosa said at a mid morning news conference at Patsouras Plaza that the addition of LADOT services to the TAP Program was an important step for regional transportation, "LADOT will now be able to offer the more than 28 million annual riders of LADOT services another option to pay fares using the regional smart card system." The Mayor added, "When riders use TAP they board quicker reducing the amount of time at each stop, which results in faster travel times."

Approximately 80% of the \$3.1 million cost of the TAP software and equipment comes from a grant from the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration.

LADOT will phase in the TAP Program in two stages. The first stage, which begins immediately, will allow riders to use stored or cash value on the smart cards to pay their LADOT DASH or Commuter Express fares. Later this year the second stage of the implementation will see LADOT move all of its paper passes and trip tickets to the TAP card.

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