

FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Transit's Role in COVID-19 Vaccination National Peer Exchange

March 26, 2021

2:30 PM ET – 4:00 PM ET



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration



FEMA

Keith Turi

Assistant Administrator
for the Recovery
Directorate

Federal Emergency
Management Agency
(FEMA)

Keith Turi is the Assistant Administrator of the FEMA Recovery Directorate, a position he has held since April of 2018. The FEMA Recovery Directorate is responsible for managing the nation's recovery from declared disasters and emergencies. In this role, Keith is responsible for the management of billions of dollars in disaster aid annually and an organization of more than 4,000 employees. Keith has worked in the emergency management field at the Federal, State, and private sector levels for more than 20 years.

FEMA Support for Vaccinations

- COVID-19 is the first incident with every state, territory, and D.C. receiving a Major Disaster Declaration.
- FEMA assistance is being provided at 100% federal cost share until September 30, 2021.
- FEMA is committed to ensuring everyone who wants a vaccine can get one.

\$4.42B
Vaccine Related Expenses
100% federal cost share



\$63.5B
COVID-19 Response

As of 3/23/2021

Critical Supplies Shipped



Vaccination Centers



999

community vaccination centers supported

As of 3/23/2021

128.2M

Vaccines Administered
Reported by CDC

164.3M

Vaccines Delivered



As of 3/23/2021

Staffing



6,811

Federal personnel deployed

including 2,905 DOD personnel and 2,097 FEMA and DHS Surge Capacity Force personnel directly supporting vaccination efforts in the field. There are an additional 2,788 personnel serving in non-clinical operational roles.

1,901

Interagency vaccinators

As of 3/19/2021

29,283

National Guard Bureau supporting COVID-19 response

1,866

National Guard Bureau vaccinators

2,122

Clinical support staff

FEMA's Lines of Effort in COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Funding

Provide funding through the FEMA Public Assistance program to accelerate vaccination efforts.

Coordination

Coordinate the federal government to identify and fill resource gaps.

Support

Provide materials and personnel through direct federal assistance to help with vaccination planning and site operations.

How FEMA is Supporting COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration

FEMA is committed to ensuring that everyone who wants a vaccine can get one. State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial governments and eligible private nonprofit facilities can seek reimbursement for costs associated with vaccine distribution.



Personal protective equipment (PPE), other equipment, and supplies required for storing, handling, distributing, transporting, and administering COVID-19 vaccines



Training and technical assistance for vaccine distribution and administration



Facility support costs, including leasing space for storage and/or administration of vaccines, utilities, maintenance, disinfection and security



Communications to disseminate public information regarding vaccinations



Medical and support staff not paid for by another funding source



Community Vaccination Sites



IT systems and support



Transportation to support vaccinations in remote areas and for individuals with limited mobility

FEMA Public Assistance for COVID-19

- COVID-19 disaster-specific, interim policies issued to support the delivery of Public Assistance:
 - Purchase and Distribution of Food Commodities Interim Policy
 - Medical Care Cost Interim Policy
 - Reissued on March 15, 2021 to include provisions that minimize cost-share, expand assistance for vaccination support, and embeds fair practices to demonstrate unburdened access to communities in need.
 - Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
 - COVID-19 Work Eligible for Public Assistance
- FEMA is currently developing an interim policy to support expanded eligibility related to opening and operating costs as directed by Presidential Memorandum on January 21

For COVID-19 facts sheets and guidance, visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/fact-sheets>



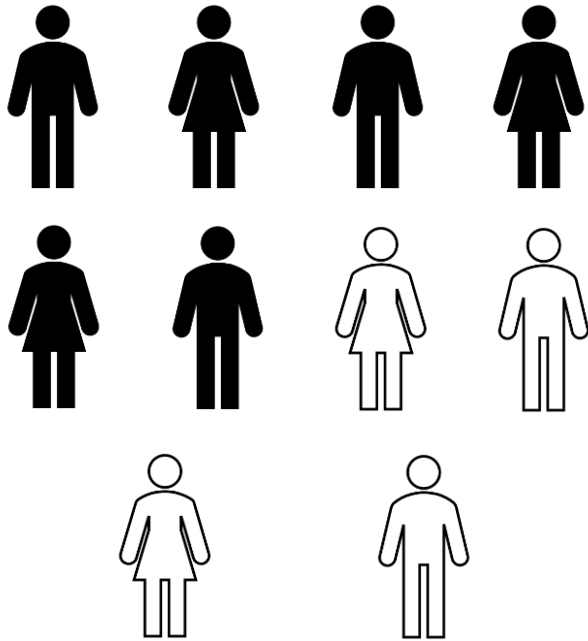
Dr. Robert Blaine

Senior Executive and
Director – Institute
for Youth, Education,
and Families

National League of
Cities (NLC)

Dr. Robert Blaine is the senior executive and director for the NLC's Institute for Youth, Education and Families (YEF Institute). Most recently, Dr. Blaine served as the City of Jackson's Chief Administrative Officer, where he oversaw 2,200 employees and managed an annual budget of more than \$500 million. Dr. Blaine also led the development and efficient implementation of the City of Jackson's Strategic Plan, promoting a "dignity economy" – an economic model in which municipal investments are made towards the inherent dignity of every citizen through early childhood success, financial empowerment, and equitable workforce development. Dr. Blaine is a nationally-recognized thought leader in the areas of public service, education, and music.

Poll Question Results



11 of the **190** (**58%**) of responding agencies have workers that are eligible to receive the **COVID-19** vaccine

- 46 of the responding agencies (24%) reported facing challenges getting vaccinated
- 88 responding agencies (43%) are actively involved in helping facilitate access to the vaccination process in their communities



**BRAZOS TRANSIT
DISTRICT**

Wendy Weedon

Deputy CEO/General
Manager

Brazos Transit District
(BTD)

Bryan, Texas

Wendy's love for public transportation began her first day on the job in 2008. New to BTD and public transportation she found an immediate dedication to the industry. She has served in various aspects of the organization during her tenure, which makes her uniquely qualified for her role as Deputy CEO, facilitating services and leadership in the over 16 counties in Central and East Texas that BTD serves. Pride in customer service, being a public servant, infrastructure, quality employees and training has been at the forefront of her vision for BTD. Her goal is to encourage the participation in public transit on all levels of government and to encourage more leaders and advocates of this industry. Wendy is currently the CTAA State Delegate for Texas.



Jackie Pacha, Ph.D.

Executive Director

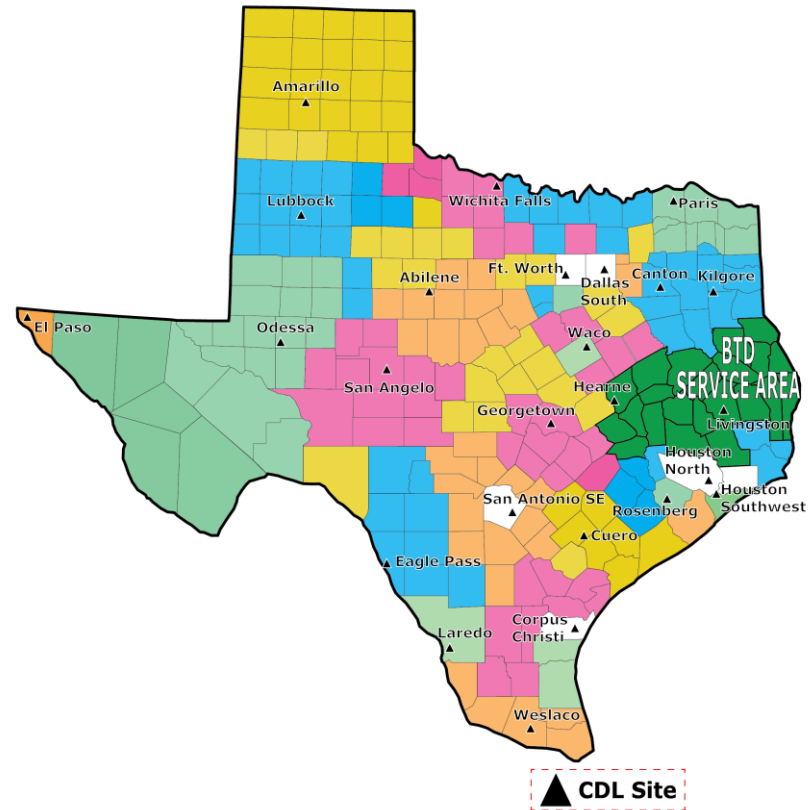
Brazos Valley Center for
Independent Living
(BVCIL)

Bryan, Texas

Jackie is the founding executive director for BVCIL, located near Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. She has over 30 years of experience working with people who have disabilities as a Sign Language Interpreter, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, and Special Education Teacher & Administrator. In addition, she has taught Adaptive and Assistive Technology at Texas A&M and worked with school districts in establishing structured work experience programs for students with disabilities. Jackie has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Texas A&M and a Master's degree in counseling and undergraduate degree in rehabilitation services from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

About Brazos Transit District

- Brazos Transit District (BTD) is a general public transportation provider. Founded in 1974, BTD only served seven counties of the Brazos Valley.
- We now serve 16 counties in Central and East Texas covering over 13,000 square miles with a population of over 1 million people.
- BTD operates Fixed Routes, Demand & Response & ADA Paratransit.



Fare-free Transportation to COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

- BTD began offering fare-free transportation for any person traveling to or from their COVID-19 vaccination appointment on February 1, 2021; across 21 counties.
- BTD wanted to ensure we were doing our part in connecting individuals who needed transportation to get their COVID-19 vaccine fare-free. By ensuring equitable access to the vaccine, we are fulfilling our purpose as a transit agency and as public servants, to equally benefit everyone we serve.
- We encouraged our transit drivers and staff to get their vaccine. We signed them up and helped book their appointments. Allowed them time off to get their vaccine during their shift as needed.
- We needed to ensure we did as much public outreach as possible to reach individuals in need of transportation.



Vaccine Distribution

BTD created and distributed flyers in English & Spanish to:

- Emergency Management hubs in our service areas
- Contact our county judges via email & phone to help spread the word
- Post on our social media outlets, on all service vehicles and at our transit facilities



The flyer features a green header with the Brazos Transit District logo and the text "Brazos Transit District COVID-19 Vaccine Transportation". Below the header, there are several sections: a red and white box with "DON'T WAIT VACCINATE" and a large exclamation mark; a black box with "NEED A RIDE TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?" and an image of a syringe and vaccine vial; a black box with "CALL BTD & WE CAN GET YOU THERE" and an image of a white van; a section titled "SERVICE AREA BY COUNTY" with a list of counties; a green box with "Free Transportation To Get To Your Vaccination!"; and a final green box with "CONTACT INFORMATION" and phone numbers.

Brazos Transit District
COVID-19 Vaccine Transportation

DON'T WAIT VACCINATE !

NEED A RIDE TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?

CALL BTD & WE CAN GET YOU THERE

SERVICE AREA BY COUNTY
IF YOU LIVE IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES, BTD CAN PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE TO AND FROM COVID-19 VACCINE

Angelina, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Houston, Jasper, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Polk, Robertson, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Walker and Washington

Free Transportation To Get To Your Vaccination!

CONTACT INFORMATION
TO SCHEDULE A RIDE CALL:
979-778-0607 or 800-272-0039

Use of Federal Resources

- BTD has utilized CARES Act funding and Federal capital assets to provide safe and reliable transportation to any person that wants it at no charge to them.
- BTD staff in all departments have been allowed to volunteer at our vaccine hub during work hours to ensure that ample staff are available to assist in the vaccination process.
- Additional BTD staff have been employed temporarily to assist with the Disability booth daily at the vaccine hub.
- BTD has made itself readily available to the counties, emergency services, Center for Independent Living, the Universities, and more.
- BTD has assisted Texas A&M University Transportation Services with PPE supplies, cleaning products, and transportation assistance.

BTD & BVCIL Partnership

- BTD partnered with BVCIL to ensure individuals with accessibility needs also receive transportation to and from their COVID-19 vaccine, fare-free.
- BVCIL & BTD have worked together to make certain that individuals who require assistance with a mobility device have it available to them when they arrive.
- A BVCIL or BTD staff member is there to assist any individual with a disability. From helping them out of their vehicle to pushing them through the lines to receive their vaccine.
- Stats to date:
 - 1,443 people assisted through the Accessibility Help Desk which includes things like:
 - Wheelchair assistance
 - Sign Language Interpreting
 - Sighted Guide
 - Alternate format materials





Foothill Transit

Doran Barnes

Chief Executive Officer

Foothill Transit

Covina, California

Doran Barnes serves as executive director of Foothill Transit. He oversees Foothill Transit's 38-route system, manages the private contractors who operate and maintain the agency's 360 buses, and leads the delivery of service to 12 million customers annually prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Doran became Foothill Transit's executive director in August 2003. Doran also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Access Services, the regional paratransit operator for all of Los Angeles County.

About Foothill Transit

- Pomona and San Gabriel Valleys (eastern Los Angeles County)
- 327 square mile service area, 1.5 million service population
- 12.6 million boardings per year, 43,000/day (pre-COVID)
- 36 local and express routes
- 343 CNG buses, 32 electric buses
- Innovation is part of our core mission



Video

View the video here: <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/covina-transit-center-transforms-into-covid-vaccine-site/2549480/>

Plan Development






COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health



Attachment A

EVENT ACTION PLAN

Operation: Vaccination Collaborative

Operational Period:
03/13/2021 (Saturday) 0900/1530 hours

NOTE: Minor adjustments to the current EAP may be necessary due to volume

Event Action Plan

Attachment B



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Foothill Transit: Felicia Innesma, 626-216-9934
City of Covina: Angel Carrillo, 626-988-9420

FOOTHILL TRANSIT TO PARTNER WITH CITY OF COVINA, ALBERTSONS TO CONVERT COVINA TRANSIT CENTER TO COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE

(COVINA, CA, March 5, 2021) – The Covina Transit Center at 1126 North Citrus Avenue, Covina, will serve as a new San Gabriel Valley COVID-19 vaccination site thanks to a partnership between the City of Covina, Foothill Transit, and Albertsons. The first vaccination date will be Saturday, March 13 between 9:00am and 4:00pm and is tentatively scheduled to be open for appointments every other Saturday throughout the month, depending on vaccine availability.

The Covina Transit Center, owned and operated by Foothill Transit, opened in early 2020, just before the pandemic forced shutdowns of offices and non-essential businesses. It is served by the local Line 281, which runs from Glendora to Puente Hills Mall and Line 490, a Commuter Express line to downtown Los Angeles. Communities in Glendora, Covina, West Covina, and City of Industry will be able to access the vaccination site via Line 281. The center was developed through a public-private partnership with a residential developer, the City of Covina, and Foothill Transit.

Vaccinations will be scheduled and administered by Albertsons Pharmacy. On site check ins for appointments will be coordinated by both the City of Covina and Foothill Transit. Those eligible for vaccines include Phase 1A – healthcare workers and long-term care residents and Phase 1B – individuals 65 and older as well as sector populations including: agriculture and food, education and childcare, and emergency services. People with vaccination appointments will be able to park inside the Covina Transit Center and will be directed to a safe waiting area following check-in. The site will have capacity to administer 1000 vaccinations.

“Partnering with the City of Covina and Albertsons to meet the vaccination needs of our communities will help us all get to a safer San Gabriel Valley,” said Cynthia Sternquist, chair of Foothill Transit’s Executive Board. “By joining resources and doing our part we increase access to vaccines for all San Gabriel Valley residents.”

Victor Linares, Mayor of the City of Covina stated, “We are pleased to be able to partner with Albertsons and Foothill Transit to bring this much needed resource to our community. We recognize the need to get vaccinations out to folks across our community and region as a whole and are honored to be able to assist our community in these efforts.”

Press Release

March 13th Vaccination Collaborative

- Approximately 1,300 vaccinations
- Staffed by Foothill, City of Covina, and Albertsons Pharmacy staff



Future Plans

- April 24th and May 15th
- May 22nd and June 12th
- Albertsons and Pfizer
- Partnerships with other Cities



Vaccination Sites Accessible by Foothill Transit

Vaccination sites you c... 🔍 ⋮

This map was created by a user. [Learn how to create your own.](#) ✕

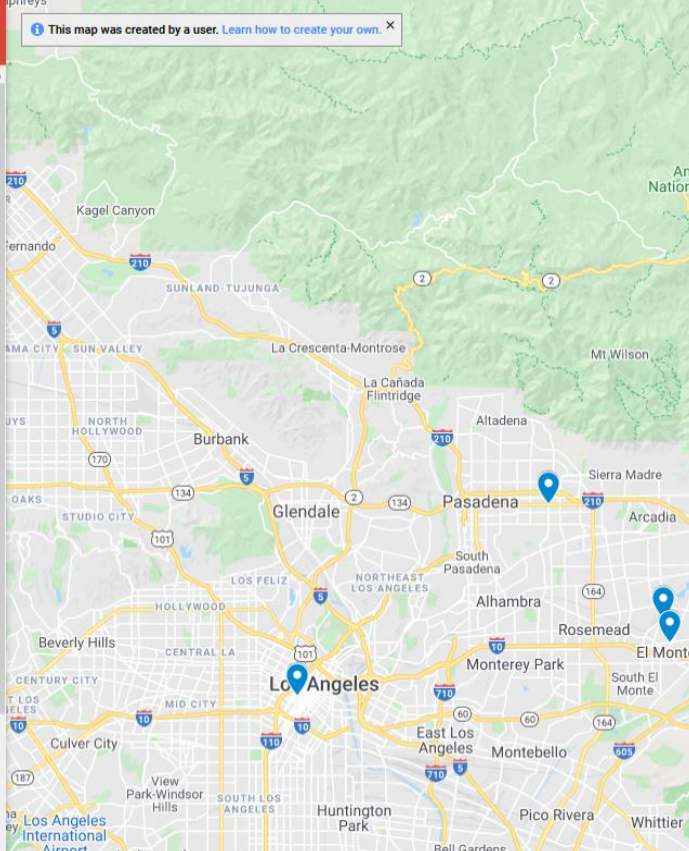
Plan ahead – you'll need an appointment to get vaccinated. Appointments might not be available at all locations. Need 53 views

SHARE

Vaccination sites you can reach on F...

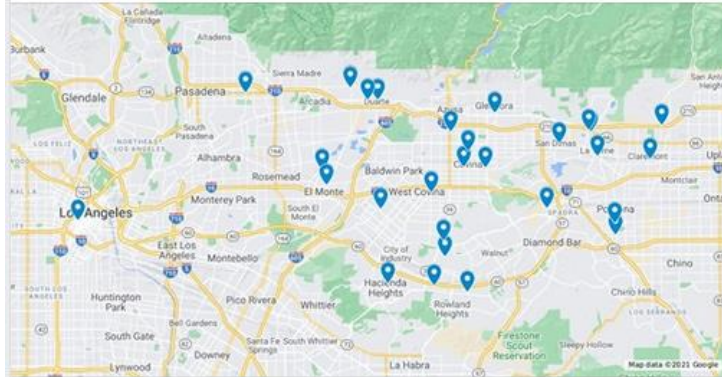
All items

- Cal Poly Pomona-Parking Lot B
- Vons Pharmacy #2155
- Pomona Fairplex
- Rite Aid Pharmacy #6338
- East Valley Community Health Cente...
- East Valley Community Health Cente...
- East Valley Community Health Cente...
- Albertsons Pharmacy #0594
- Albertsons Pharmacy #0601
- Pavilions Pharmacy #2200
- Service Center for Independent Livin...
- Vons Pharmacy #2832
- Rite Aid Pharmacy #5595
- Rite Aid Pharmacy #5585
- Rite Aid Pharmacy #5576
- Rite Aid Pharmacy #5591
- East Valley Community Health Cente...



Foothill Transit
56 mins 📍

Every one of these vaccination sites is just minutes away from a Foothill Transit bus stop. Plan ahead – you'll need an appointment to get vaccinated. Appointments might not be available at all locations. Need help using Foothill Transit? Visit us at foothilltransit.org or call us at 800-RIDE-INFO.



GOOGLE.COM

Vaccination sites you can reach on Foothill Transit - Google My Maps

👍 2 1 Share

➦ Share



Luz Borrero

Chief Administrative
Officer

Metropolitan Atlanta
Rapid Transit Agency
(MARTA)

Atlanta, Georgia

Luz Borrero has served as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) since January 2019. In her role, she has oversight of the Departments of Human Resources, Information Security, and Information Technology and the Offices of Diversity and Inclusion, Research and Analysis, and MARTA's Customer Service Center.

MARTA Overview

- Established in 1971, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) is among the largest transit agencies in the U.S., providing 95 percent of public transit trips in the metro Atlanta region with 110 fixed bus routes, 38 heavy rail stations, 2.7 miles of light rail, and on-demand paratransit services.
- MARTA provides 116.6 million passenger trips annually in Clayton, DeKalb, and Fulton Counties, and the City of Atlanta.
- MARTA is primarily funded by a one percent sales tax in Fulton, DeKalb, and Clayton counties and a 1 1/2 percent sales tax in the City of Atlanta.
- MARTA's \$1.1 billion (FY20) operating and capital budgets resulted in \$2.4 billion in economic output.
- MARTA employs over 4,400 people and has a police force with over 300 officers and protective specialists.



To find out more, visit www.itsmarta.com

Vaccine Distribution

- In early January, MARTA implemented a voluntary employee vaccine registration process and partnered with the Fulton County Board of Health to refer prioritized frontline employees to State-approved vaccination sites. About 95 police officers and protective specialist were vaccinated in February, and on March 23, about 325 MARTA frontline employees received their first vaccine at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, a mass vaccination site.
- In February, MARTA began a partnership with DeKalb County and the DeKalb County Board of Health to deliver up to 300 vaccines a day at MARTA's Doraville transit station. Plans are under way to add a second vaccination site at the Indian Creek Station.
- In March, MARTA began working with Delta to provide a daily round-trip shuttle service for the public from our College Park Station to the Delta Flight Museum, a mega vaccination center.



Use of Federal Resources

MARTA was able to leverage the first tranche of CARES Act funding to:

- Acquire and provide PPE to all frontline employees.
- Purchase electrostatic sprayers to sanitize and disinfect buses, trains, garages and stations.
- Acquire and distribute over one million masks to customers.
- Purchase and install bi-polar ionization equipment in our facilities' air distribution systems to help purify the air and improve indoor air quality.



Fighting COVID-19 Through Partnerships

- MARTA is proud to partner with the Morehouse School of Medicine to expand information and education efforts for our employees.
- Morehouse School of Medicine, from the beginning of the pandemic, has worked actively to educate the community about the virus.
- Now, Morehouse School of Medicine is helping to educate the Atlanta region about the vaccine, as well as distribute the vaccine.
- Through our partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine we are implementing a COVID-19 town hall event for employees and have begun discussions about establishing vaccination sites at our headquarters and bus facilities.
- In addition, MARTA hopes to expand the partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine to reach communities that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 by providing access to the vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccinations
VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING
WITH Morehouse School of Medicine

TUNE IN TO MARTA'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL itsmartnews

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

MARTA General Manager and CEO, Jeffrey A. Parker invites **all MARTA Employees** to join a virtual town hall with top doctors from **Morehouse School of Medicine** who will share the latest information and answer questions about **COVID-19 vaccinations**. The event will be live-streamed and recorded for later viewing on MARTA's YouTube channel.

Dr. Lilly Immergluck
Professor and Physician Scientist
at Morehouse School of Medicine

Dr. Tabia Henry Akintobi
Community Health and Preventive Medicine
Professor and Associate Dean of Community
Engagement at Morehouse School of Medicine

We're still in this together.

|



Carolyn Gonot

Executive Director

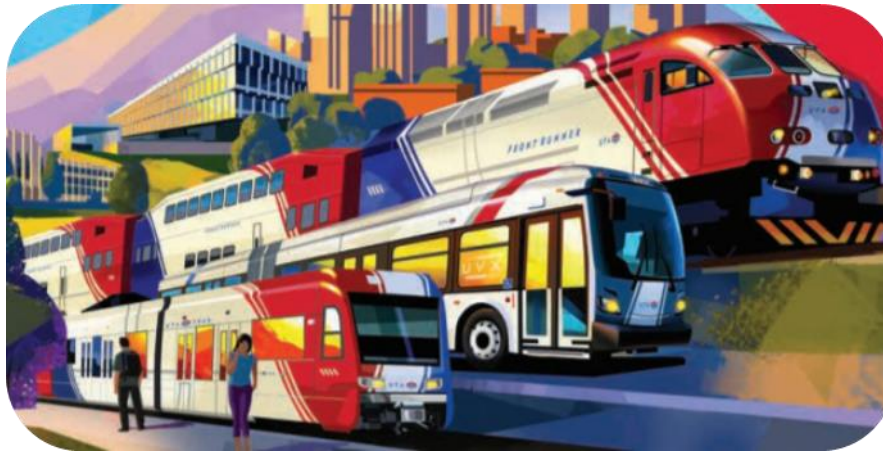
Utah Transit Authority
(UTA)

Salt Lake City, Utah

Carolyn Gonot joined UTA as Executive Director in August 2019. She leads over 2,600 employees, delivering bus, light rail, commuter rail, and paratransit services to Salt Lake City and the Wasatch region. Before joining UTA, Ms. Gonot had over 23 years at Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and held various executive management roles with responsibilities that ranged from planning and policy to major capital project delivery. As VTA's Chief Engineering and Program Delivery Officer, she delivered the \$2.4 billion, 10-mile BART Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension with a cost projecting \$100 million+ under budget.

UTA Service Region

- 2,600 employees
- 6 counties
- 1,400 sq. Miles
- 6 Health Districts
- 6 Operating Service Units
 - 3 Bus Units
 - 1 Light Rail
 - 1 Commuter Rail
 - 1 Special Services
- 12 Yards and Office Buildings



COVID-19 Vaccination Initiatives



- Pandemic Leave
 - Vaccination Leave
- Free Transit To Vaccination Appointments
- Joint UTA/ATU letter

Thank You!

This session has been recorded.

The presentation, recording, and transcript will be posted on FTA's website.

For FTA's COVID-19 resources, please visit <https://www.transit.dot.gov/coronavirus>.