AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

2026 LGBTQIA+ Resource Group Meeting
APTA EXPO/TRANSform Conference
Hilton Chicago
720 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605
Salon A3 (Lower Level)
Sunday, October 4th 1:00 – 2:00pm CT

AGENDA

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (1:00 P.M.)
- Justin Leighton, WSTA and Chair, APTA LGBTQ+ Resource Group
- Chad Ballentine, Spare and Vice Chair, APTA LGBTQ+ Resource Group
- Brian Alberts, Sr. Director, APTA and Co-Staff Advisor, LGBTQ+ Resource Group
- Introductions around the room: Please state Name, Title and Agency/Organization
- Passing around potential roundtable topics for discussion

II. EXPO/TRANSFORM CONFERENCE (OCT 4-7) (1:10 P.M.)
- "We All Belong" Campaign (inc. Ribbons for We All Belong & Safe Space)
- Session on LGBTQ+ Leadership – Tues, Oct 5th 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. CT
- LGBTQIA+ Reception – Tues, Oct 5th 6:30-8:00 p.m. CT

III. NEW LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ON THE COMMITTEE/RESOURCE GROUP (1:15 P.M.)
- Secretary election – will take place in Fall or Winter 2026-2027

IV. RESOURCE GROUP NEWSLETTER (1:20 P.M.)
- Published in 2024/2025, would like to start back up again
- Reach out to Mitch Wood at MWood@apta.com if you have any topics you'd like to include

V. ROUNDTABLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION (1:25 P.M.)
- What does LGBTQ+ inclusion look like in transit in 2026?
- LGBTQ+ Rider and Employee Safety. What should agencies be doing about rider harassment, threats, hate incidents, and employee safety?
- Recruiting—and Keeping—LGBTQ+ Transit Professionals. Beyond Pride logos, talking about benefits, recruitment, mentorship, employee resource groups, frontline culture, facilities, uniforms, policies, supervisor training, and career advancement.
- Frontline LGBTQ+ Employees: Are We Hearing Their Voices?
- Trans and Nonbinary Employees in Transit Operations. Make this practical rather than ideological: uniforms, restrooms and facilities, employee records, customer interactions, operator IDs, names, and workplace transitions.
- LGBTQ+ Mentorship and the Transit Leadership Pipeline. This could actually produce something tangible: establish an informal APTA LGBTQ+ mentoring network pairing executives/mid-career professionals with people earlier in their careers.
- Using AI Technology to define LGBTQ+ resources.

VI. LGBTQ+ RESOURCE GROUP MOVING FORWARD – NEXT STEPS FOR GROUP (1:45 P.M.)
- ERG Subcommittee update – Kristin Thompson, Metro Transit
- Sponsorship from APTA Business Members (for receptions, events, etc.)
- Thoughts on Events/Calls in Fall/Winter 2026-2027 (Teams call with group)
- Next in person meeting: Mobility Conference: Apr 18-21, 2027 in Seattle, WA (Sun, 4/18)
- What Should the APTA LGBTQ+ Resource Group Actually Do? Identify 2–3 concrete priorities for 2027.

VII. OPEN FORUM/OTHER LGBTQIA+ TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION/ WRAP UP (1:55 P.M.)