



For Immediate Release

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Lane Transit District

Vargas Elected to APTA Board Of Directors

EUGENE, Ore. --- (October 21, 2022) --- Caitlin Vargas, President of the Lane Transit District (LTD) Board of Directors, was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Public Transportation Association ([APTA](#)), during the organization's international meeting held in Seattle on October 8.

"I am honored to have been elected by the APTA membership to the organization's Board of Directors," Vargas said. "I look forward to representing LTD on a national level as we work to rebuild ridership, obtain funding to modernize transit services, and focus on important opportunities in public transit concerning climate change, equity, economic recovery, access, and growth."

Vargas was elected to serve a three-year term. She is joined on the APTA Board of Directors by newly appointed senior executives from transit systems in Houston, Louisville, Memphis, Portland, and Thousand Palms, California.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown originally appointed Vargas to the LTD Board of Directors in 2018 to represent Subdistrict 6-West Eugene. Professionally, Vargas spent the first part of her career working with the community's disadvantaged and homeless neighbors, and now works in economic development as the Startup Community Director with [Onward Eugene](#), where she helps underrepresented entrepreneurs launch their startup businesses. This year, Vargas pioneered a new pilot program in Oregon that provides respite childcare for women entrepreneurs. She is the co-host for the Women's Innovation Network.

Vargas was elected President of Lane Transit District's Board of Directors in her second year of board service and helped spearhead the agency's first-ever Strategic Business Plan. She has a lengthy list of volunteer committees and board of director membership that she serves on, including the Leadership Board for Relief Nursery, Board of Stewards for Looking Glass, and she is one of the founders of the Eugene Young Professionals program. In 2018, Caitlin was recognized as one of Eugene's "20 Under 40" award recipients for her civic involvement.

Vargas graduated with an MBA from Bushnell University and earned an undergraduate degree from Sonoma State University.

"Serving as an APTA board member is a conduit for our local community to have a voice in how the industry evolves and moves forward toward the future," says Vargas. "LTD provides me with a profound understanding of how transit brings value to a community, and with my new role at APTA, I now have the opportunity to bring thought leadership to the challenges facing today's public transportation industry."

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) is the only non-profit association in North America that represents all modes of public transportation, including bus, paratransit, light rail, commuter rail, heavy rail, intercity and high-speed passenger rail, and waterborne services. Over 1,500 member organizations are involved in diverse elements of the industry — from planning, designing, financing, constructing, and operating transit systems to the research, development, manufacture, and maintenance of vehicles, equipment, and transit-related products and services. Additionally, academic institutions, transportation network companies, transit associations, and state departments of transportation are APTA members.

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About Lane Transit District (LTD)

Lane Transit District (LTD) is a special district of the State of Oregon led by a seven-member volunteer board of directors appointed by Oregon's governor. LTD's budget is funded through a combination of fares, taxes paid by local employers and employees, and from state and federal sources. LTD lives its mission to connect our community by delivering more than 5 million annual passenger boardings from 30 fixed bus routes and two EmX Bus Rapid Transit lines. LTD's paratransit service, RideSource, provides more than 250,000 trips annually for people with disabilities and Medicaid recipients. More information about LTD is at www.LTD.org.