

"Package B" EZ Transit Pass Regional Program Participants Schedule of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used and EZ Pass Program Reimbursements

Year ended June 30, 2017 with Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance



Simpson & Simpson, LLP Certified Public Accountants

"Package B" EZ Transit Pass Regional Program Participants Schedule of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used, and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements

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Independent Auditor's Report On Compliance

To the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Report on Compliance

We have audited the compliance of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used, and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements of Beach Cities Transit, Burbank Local Transit, Foothill Transit, Glendale Beeline, Long Beach Transit, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Los Angeles World Airports, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Norwalk Transit, Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority, Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System, Santa Clarita Transit, and Torrance Transit (Package B EZ Transit Pass Regional Program Participants) for the year ended June 30, 2017.

Management's Responsibility

Management of the Package B EZ Transit Pass Regional Program Participants is responsible for the respective Participants' compliance with those guidelines.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these schedules based on our audits. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Los Angeles County EZ Transit Pass Regional Program Guidelines for Participating Agencies (Guidelines). Those standards and Guidelines require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the EZ Transit Pass Regional Program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Participants' compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Participants' compliance with those requirements.





Opinion on EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements

In our opinion, the Schedules of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used, and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements of Beach Cities Transit, Burbank Local Transit, Foothill Transit, Glendale Beeline, Long Beach Transit, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Los Angeles World Airports, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Norwalk Transit, Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority, Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System, Santa Clarita Transit, and Torrance Transit are materially correct and the EZ Transit Pass Regional Program Participants complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the Los Angeles County EZ Transit Pass Regional Program for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.

Other Matters

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed instances of noncompliance, which is required to be reported in accordance with the Guidelines, and which is described in the accompanying Summary of Findings and Management's Comments as Finding #2017-001. Our opinion on each EZ Transit Pass Regional Program Participant is not modified with respect to these matters.

The Participant's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Summary of Findings and Management's Comments. The Participant's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

The management of the Package B EZ Transit Pass Regional Program Participants is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered each Participant's internal control over compliance with the requirements that could have a direct and material effect on the EZ Transit Pass Regional Program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the requirements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of each Participant's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance under the requirements on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in



internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance under the requirements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with the requirements that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirement of the Guidelines. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Los Angeles, California

Simpson & Simpson

January 31, 2018

BEACH CITIES TRANSIT

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

Schedule of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used, and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements Years Ended June 30, 2017

			Reported Amount	Audited Amount		Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings EZ Transit Pass	[a]	_	23,658	 23,658		<u>-</u>
Average Fare Used EZ Transit Pass	[b]	\$_	0.8080	\$ 0.9090	\$_	0.1010
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursement EZ Transit Pass	$[a \times b = c]$	\$	19,116	\$ 21,505	\$	(2,389)
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue	[d]	_	-	 -		
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement	[c-d]	\$_	19,116	\$ 21,505	\$	(2,389)

Note:

The under-billing in EZ Transit Pass reimbursement caused by the actual average fare being higher than the average fare used to bill LACMTA. Beach Cities Transit prepared the average fare reconciliation to determine the actual average fare at the end of the fiscal year as required by the Guidelines. The final invoice will be submitted to the LACMTA after the issuance of this report. This is not a finding.

BURBANK LOCAL TRANSIT

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

			Reported Amount		Audited Amount		Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings	[a]			_			
EZ Transit Pass			14,353		14,353		-
Metrolink Pass		_	74,255	_	74,255	-	
Average Fare Used	[b]						
EZ Transit Pass		\$	1.00	\$	1.00	\$	-
Metrolink Pass		_	1.00	_	1.00	-	
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursement	$[a \times b = c]$						
EZ Transit Pass		\$	14,353	\$	14,353	\$	-
Metrolink Pass			74,255		74,255		-
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue	[d]	_	-	. <u>-</u>	-	-	
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement	[c-d]	\$_	88,608	\$_	88,608	\$	-

FOOTHILL TRANSIT

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

Schedule of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used, and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements Years Ended June 30, 2017

		Reported Amount		Audited Amount		Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings	_		_			
LACMTA EZ Transit Pass [a]	Adult	230,356		230,356		-
	Senior	110,053	_	110,053		-
Silve	er Streak Adult	22,590		22,590		-
Silver	Streak Senior	13,497		13,497		-
Com	muter Express	63,303		63,303	_	-
Metrolink EZ Pass [b]	_	42,407		42,407	_	-
Average Fare Billed						_
LACMTA EZ Transit Pass [c]	Adult \$	1.55	\$	1.22	\$	0.33
	Senior	1.55	_	0.49	_	1.06
Silve	er Streak Adult	1.55	_	2.43		(0.88)
Silver	Streak Senior	1.55	_	1.23		0.32
Com	muter Express	1.55	. –	4.27	_	(2.72)
Metrolink EZ Pass [d]	_	1.05		1.05	_	
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursement						
LACMTA EZ Transit Pass [a x c=e]	Adult \$	357,052	\$	281,034	\$	76,018
	Senior	170,582		53,926		116,656
Silve	er Streak Adult	35,015		54,894		(19,879)
Silver	Streak Senior	20,920		16,601		4,319
Com	muter Express	98,120		270,304		(172,184)
	<u>-</u>	681,689	-	676,759	_	4,930
Metrolink EZ Pass [b x d=f]		44,527		44,527		-
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue [g]	-	_		_	_	_
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement [e + f - g]	726,216	\$	721,286	\$_	4,930

Notes:

- 1. In accordance with the Guidelines, Foothill Transit used the average fare of each EZ transit pass media (i.e., Adult, Senior, Silver Streak Adult, Silver Streak Senior, and Commuter Express) to request reimbursement from LACMTA.
- 2. For Metrolink EZ Pass, Foothill Transit used the average fare of local routes only consistent with the MOU, to request reimbursement from LACMTA.
- 3. The over-billing in EZ Transit Pass reimbursement was caused by the actual average fare being lower than the average fare used to bill LACMTA. Foothill Transit prepared the average fare reconciliation to determine the actual average fare at the end of the fiscal year as required by the Guidelines. The amount owed back to LACMTA will be submitted after the issuance of the report. This is not a finding.

GLENDALE BEELINE

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

			Reported Amount		Audited Amount		Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings							
EZ Transit Pass	[a]		9,739		9,739		-
Metrolink Pass	[b]	Routes 1 to 7	37,181	_	37,181		-
		Routes 11 to 12	104,192		104,192	_	
		_	141,373		141,373		-
Average Fare Used							
EZ Transit Pass	[c]	\$_	0.64	\$	0.64	\$	
Metrolink Pass	[d1]	Routes 1 to 7	0.50		0.50		_
	[d2]	Routes 11 to 12	1.00	_	1.00		-
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimburser	nent						
EZ Transit Pass	$[a \times c] = [e$	e]	6,233	\$	6,233	\$	-
Metrolink Pass	$[b \times d1] =$	[f1] Routes 1 to 7	18,591	_	18,591		-
	$[b \times d2] =$	[f2] Routes 11 to 12	104,192		104,192		-
		_	122,783		122,783	-	
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Reve	nue [g]	-	-		-		
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimburse	ment [e+f1-	+f2-g]	129,016	\$	129,016	\$	-

LONG BEACH TRANSIT

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

			Reported Amount		Audited Amount		Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings EZ Transit Pass	[a]	-	753,576	_	753,576		-
Average Fare Used EZ Transit Pass	[b]	\$_	0.96	\$_	0.96	\$_	-
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursement EZ Transit Pass	$[a \times b = c]$	\$	723,433	\$	723,433	\$	-
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue	[d]	_	(598,688)		(598,688)		
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement	[c-d]	\$	124,745	\$_	124,745	\$	-

LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (LADOT)

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

			Reported Amount		Audited Amount	Over (Under) Reported
LADOT Community DASH				_		
Passenger Boardings EZ Transit Pass	[a]	_	228,888		228,888	 <u>-</u>
Average Fare Billed EZ Transit Pass	[b]	\$_	0.42	\$_	0.42	\$
EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement EZ Transit Pass	[a x b=c]	\$	96,133	\$	96,133	\$ -
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue	[d]	_	-	. <u>-</u>	-	
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement	[c-d]	\$_	96,133	\$_	96,133	\$
LADOT Commuter Express Passenger Boardings EZ Transit Pass	[e]		187,789		187,789	-
Average Fare Billed EZ Transit Pass	[f]	\$_	2.29	\$	2.29	\$ -
EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement EZ Transit Pass	[e x f=g]	\$	430,037	\$	430,037	\$ -
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue	[h]	_	(251,870)	. <u>-</u>	(251,870)	
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement	[g-h]	\$_	681,907	\$_	681,907	\$

LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (LADOT)

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

(Continued)			Reported Amount		Audited Amount		Over (Under) Reported
(Continued)	ul. Doss	-	Amount	_	Amount		Reported
LADOT Community DASH - Metroli Passenger Boardings	<u>_</u>						
EZ Transit Pass	[a]	_	278,012	. <u> </u>	278,012		
Average Fare Billed EZ Transit Pass	[b]	\$	0.46	\$	0.46	\$	
LZ Hansit i ass		Ψ_	0.70	Ψ_	0.70	Ψ	
EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement EZ Transit Pass	[a x b=c]	\$	127,886	\$	127,886	\$	-
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue	[d]	_	-		-		
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement	[c-d]	\$_	127,886	\$_	127,886	\$	
LADOT Commuter EXPRESS - Metr	olink Pass						
Passenger Boardings EZ Transit Pass	[e]	_	142,378	_	142,378		
Average Fare Billed EZ Transit Pass	[f]	\$_	2.03	. \$ _	2.03	\$	
EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement EZ Transit Pass	[e x f=g]	\$	289,027	\$	289,027	\$	-
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue	[h]	_	-		-		
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement	[g-h]	\$_	289,027	\$_	289,027	\$	
Total - All LADOT		\$_	1,194,953	\$_	1,194,953	\$	-

LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS (LAWA)

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

			Reported Amount		Audited Amount	Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings EZ Transit Pass	[a]	_	9,362	-	9,362	 -
Average Fare Used EZ Transit Pass	[b]	\$_	8.22	\$_	8.22	\$
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursement EZ Transit Pass	$[a \times b = c]$	\$	76,956	\$	76,956	\$ -
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue	[d]	_	-		-	
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement	[c-d]	\$_	76,956	\$	76,956	\$

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

Schedule of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used, and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements Years Ended June 30, 2017

			Reported Amount		Audited Amount	Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings	[a]	_				
EZ Transit Pass			48,556		48,554	2
Metrolink Pass			5,119		5,119	-
Average Fare Used	[b]					
EZ Transit Pass		\$	0.2258	\$	0.2418	\$ (0.0160)
Metrolink Pass		_	0.2258		0.1900	 0.0358
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimburseme	nt [a x b = c]					
EZ Transit Pass		\$	10,964	\$	11,740	\$ (776)
Metrolink Pass			1,156		973	183
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenu	e [d]	_	-		-	
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimburseme	ent [c-d]	\$ _	12,120	\$_	12,713	\$ (593)

Note:

The under-billing in EZ pass reimbursement and the over-billing in Metrolink pass reimbursement was due to the fact that the City initially submitted one combined invoice for both EZ pass and Metrolink to LACMTA . The City performed the year-end reconciliation to determine the actual average fare for the year for both the EZ pass and Metrolink services appropriately; however, the City was not aware that LACMTA wanted each service to be billed separately. At the time when the City re-submitted the invoice to LACMTA, the City applied an average rate for the combined services. This resulted in an-overbilling of the EZ pass and underbilling of Metrolink. The net underbilling is the remaining portion of EZ pass, which has not been billed to date. The City will submit the final invoice to LACMTA subsequent to the issuance of this audit report. This is not a finding.

NORWALK TRANSIT

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

			Reported Amount		Audited Amount	Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings	[a]			_		
EZ Transit Pass			61,683		61,683	-
Metrolink Pass		_	29,831		29,831	 -
Average Fare Used	[b]					
EZ Transit Pass		\$	0.98	\$	0.98	\$ -
Metrolink Pass		_	0.98		0.98	 -
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursemen	nt [a x b =	c]				
EZ Transit Pass		\$	60,449	\$	60,449	\$ -
Metrolink Pass			29,234		29,234	-
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenu	e [d]	_	-		-	
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimburseme	ent [c-d]	\$_	89,683	\$	89,683	\$ -

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

Schedule of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used, and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements Years Ended June 30, 2017

			Reported Amount	Audited Amount		Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings	[a]	-			-	
EZ Transit Pass		_	5,050	5,162	_	(112)
Average Fare Used	[b]					
EZ Transit Pass		\$_	1.76 \$	1.83	\$	(0.07)
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursemer EZ Transit Pass	nt [a x b =c]	8,888	9,446		(558)
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenu	e [d]	=	<u>-</u>		-	
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimburseme	ent [c-d]	\$	8,888 \$	9,446	\$	(558)

Note:

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority under billed the LACMTA EZ Pass program due to their use of a lower average fare than the actual average fare for the year ended June 30, 2017. See Finding #2017-001.

PASADENA AREA RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

			Reported Amount		Audited Amount	Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings	[a]	•				
EZ Transit Pass			24,548		24,548	-
Metrolink Pass		_	9,180	_	9,180	
Average Fare Used	[b]					
EZ Transit Pass		\$	0.65	\$	0.65	\$ -
Metrolink Pass		_	0.65		0.65	 -
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursement [a x b =c]						
EZ Transit Pass		\$	15,956	\$	15,956	\$ -
Metrolink Pass			5,967		5,967	-
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue [d]			-		-	-
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement [c-d]		\$	21,923	\$	21,923	\$ -

SANTA CLARITA TRANSIT

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

Schedule of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used, and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements Years Ended June 30, 2017

			Reported Amount	Audited Amount		Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings		[a]				
LACMTA EZ F	Pass Commuter		21,397	21,397	_	
LACMTA EZ F	Pass Local		16,327	16,327	_	_
Metrolink EZ P	ass Local		80,714	 80,714		-
Average Fare Used		[b]				
LACMTA EZ F	Pass Commuter	\$	2.93	\$ 2.93	\$	-
LACMTA EZ F	Pass Local		0.98	1.07		(0.09)
Metrolink EZ P	ass Local		0.96	 1.07		(0.11)
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimburs	ement	[a x b=c]				
LACMTA EZ F	Pass Commuter	\$	62,693	\$ 62,693	\$	-
LACMTA EZ F	Pass Local		16,000	17,470		(1,470)
Metrolink EZ P	ass Local		77,485	86,364		(8,879)
Total Transit Fa	re Reimbursemer	nt	156,178	 166,527		(10,349)
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Re	venue	[d]	(23,870)	 (23,870)		
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbur	sement	[c - d] \$	132,308	\$ 142,657	\$	(10,349)

Note:

The under-billing in EZ Transit Pass reimbursement was caused by the actual average fare being higher than the average fare used to bill LACMTA. Santa Clarita Transit prepared the average fare reconciliation to determine the actual average fare at the end of the fiscal year as required by the Guidelines. The final invoice will be submitted to the LACMTA after the issuance of this report. This is not a finding.

TORRANCE TRANSIT

EZ Transit Pass Regional Program

Schedule of EZ Transit Pass Passenger Boardings, Average Fare Used, and EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursements Years Ended June 30, 2017

	_	Reported Amount		Audited Amount	Over (Under) Reported
Passenger Boardings	[a]				
EZ Transit Pass		132,130		132,130	-
Metrolink Pass	-	3,699	_	3,699	
Average Fare Used	[b]				
EZ Transit Pass	\$	0.77	\$	0.79	\$ (0.02)
Metrolink Pass	-	0.77	_	0.79	 (0.02)
EZ Transit Pass Fare Reimbursement [a x b =c]					
EZ Transit Pass	\$	101,740	\$	104,383	\$ (2,643)
Metrolink Pass		2,848		2,922	(74)
Less: EZ Transit Pass Sales Revenue [d]		(24,946)	_	(24,946)	 -
Total EZ Transit Pass Reimbursement [c-d]		79,642	\$	82,359	\$ (2,717)

Note:

The under-billing in EZ Transit Pass reimbursement was caused by the actual average fare being higher than the average fare used to bill LACMTA. Torrance Transit prepared the average fare reconciliation to determine the actual average fare at the end of the fiscal year as required by the Guidelines. The final invoice will be submitted to the LACMTA after the issuance of this report. This is not a finding.

Finding #2017-001 – Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority (PVPTA)

Condition:

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority (PVPTA) invoices LACMTA on a monthly basis using prior year's average fare. The PVPTA recalculates average fare at the end of the fiscal year based on actual revenue and boardings for the fiscal year as required by the EZ Pass Guidelines. However, PVPTA did not reconcile the actual EZ Pass boardings for the year to the monthly EZ Pass boardings used to bill LACMTA. During the audit, we noted some discrepancies in the monthly EZ Pass boardings, which were not correctly reconciled at year end. Therefore, the EZ Pass boardings were incorrect for some billings. As a result, fiscal year 2017 reimbursement was under reported by \$558. This is a repeat finding from the prior fiscal year.

Criteria:

Per EZ Pass Guidelines, Section D (3), it states that each agency will submit to LACMTA at the end of the current fiscal year actual boarding counts. At the end of the fiscal year, the agency will reconcile the average fare or average cash fare based on actual revenue and boardings. Payments will be adjusted based on the reconciled average fare or average cash fare. Alternatively, operators may choose to update the average each month using actual revenue and boardings data for that month's invoice.

Cause:

The PVPTA did not correctly perform the year-end reconciliation process as required by the Guidelines.

Effect:

The PVPTA under-billed LACMTA EZ Transit program by \$558.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority establish procedures to ensure that it accurately reconciles the average fare or average cash fare based on actual revenue and boardings and submit an adjusted invoice to LACMTA at the end of each fiscal year.

Management's Comments:

In August 2017, the PVPTA did calculate an average fare for EZ Pass Boarding for FY 2017. This was done by requesting from Cubic a P100 report showing EZ Pass boarding for the entire fiscal year. We did not, however, invoice LACMTA for the actual boarding shown on the P100 form for FY 2017, which was slightly higher then the total of monthly EZ Pass invoices submitted to LACMTA.

For Fiscal Year 2018, PVPTA will calculate the average EZ Pass fare and invoice LACMTA for any variances in the total number of EZ Pass boarding compared to the individual monthly invoices submitted to LACMTA during the previous year.