



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room
42210 6th Street West, Lancaster, California
www.avta.com

OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Crist called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Alternate Director Kathryn Mac Laren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present

Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Steve Hofbauer, Director Raj Malhi, Director Michelle Flanagan, Alternate Director Kathryn Mac Laren

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Approve the agenda as comprised.

Moved by Vice Chair Knippel, seconded by Alternate Director Mac Laren

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Ayes: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Hofbauer, Malhi, Flanagan, Alternate Director Mac Laren

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Cindy Ferrand – spoke about issues with the Microtransit service and the difficulty passengers in wheelchairs have accessing the bus stop located at Avenue N and 162nd St. E. Chief Operating Officer Martin Tompkins will address Ms. Ferrand's issues.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2021

Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2021.

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2021

Receive and file the Financial Report, including Quarterly Treasurer, Capital Reserve and Farebox Recovery information, for October 2021.

CC 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2022

Approve the Board of Directors meeting calendar for 2022.

CC 4 AUTHORITY'S CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE

Approve amending the Authority's Classification and Salary Schedule to include the Project Manager position.

Motion: Approve the Consent Calendar.

Moved by Vice Chair Knippel, seconded by Director Malhi

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Ayes: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Hofbauer, Malhi, Flanagan, Alternate Director Mac Laren

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

CLOSED SESSION (CS):

PRESENTATION BY LEGAL COUNSEL OF ITEM(S) TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION:

General Counsel Allison Burns presented the items to be discussed in Closed Session.

CS 1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)

Significant exposure to litigation (two potential cases)

CS 2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)

Consideration of whether to initiate litigation (one potential case)

CS 3 Public Employee Appointment – Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54954.5(e) and 54957(b))

Title: Executive Director/CEO

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 10:09 a.m.

Director Richard Loa arrived at 10:18 a.m. and replaced Alternate Director Mac Laren during the Closed Session discussions.

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to Public Session at 10:32 a.m.

REPORT BY LEGAL COUNSEL OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel Burns stated the Board discussed CS 3 and gave direction to legal counsel. There was no reportable action.

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

General Counsel Burns presented the staff report recommending an employment contract with Martin Tompkins as Executive Director/CEO. Mr. Tompkins thanked the Board and AVTA staff and stated he looks forward to the opportunity. Chairman Crist thanked Executive Director/CEO Macy Neshati for all he has done for AVTA and Antelope Valley community.

Motion: Approve the terms and conditions and authorize the Chairman to execute the Executive Director/CEO Employment Agreement.

Moved by Director Hofbauer, seconded by Director Flanagan

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Ayes: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Hofbauer, Loa, Malhi, Flanagan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

SPECIAL REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR DIRECTION (SRP):

SRP 1 DRAFT AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SINGLE AUDIT REPORT OF FEDERAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry introduced Thomas Young, Partner at Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation, who explained the audit process and presented the results of the Draft Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report of Federal Awards for the Year Ended June 30, 2021. He noted there were no audit findings or other issues. The Board discussed the number of transit agencies and other types of industries the firm audits.

Motion: Approve the Draft Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report of Federal Awards for the Year Ended June 30, 2021.

Moved by Director Hofbauer, seconded by Vice Chair Knippel

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Ayes: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Hofbauer, Loa, Malhi, Flanagan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

SRP 2 PRESENTATION OF CALIFORNIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION'S SMALL OPERATORS TRANSIT AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2021 TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Director/CEO Macy Neshati stated that on November 2, 2021, the California Transit Association presented the Antelope Valley Transit Authority with the Transit Agency of the Year Award for 2021 during their Fall Conference & Expo in Sacramento, CA. The Transit Agency of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding program or service that demonstrates innovative concepts, effective problem-solving techniques, or promotes a positive image of transit in the community. Mr. Neshati accepted the award on behalf of AVTA. Chairman Crist expressed his appreciation to Mr. Neshati and staff for this outstanding accomplishment.

SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE II DIANE TUMINARO ACKNOWLEDGING HER RETIREMENT

Mr. Neshati and Customer Satisfaction Manager Carlos Lopez Arucha conveyed their gratitude to Customer Service Representative II Diane Tuminaro for all she has done for AVTA during her tenure. Mr. Arucha

presented a plaque to Ms. Tuminaro acknowledging her retirement and 14 years of dedicated and exemplary service to AVTA.

SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN GLORIA DELGADO FOR 10 YEARS OF DEDICATED AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented an award to Accounting Technician Gloria Delgado acknowledging her ten years of dedicated and exemplary service to the Agency.

SRP 5 PRESENTATION TO TRANSDEV OPERATOR AND EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER 2021

Transdev General Manager Denis Jackson presented awards to the Operator of the Month Allison Kinison and the Employee of the Month Aitor Urionabarrenechea.

SRP 6 PRESENTATION TO ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER 2021

AV Transit Management President Art Minasyan presented an award to the Employee of the Month Diego Mendez.

SRP 7 MICROTRANSIT AND DIAL-A-RIDE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT

Mr. Minasyan presented the report.

SRP 8 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2021

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry presented an update regarding AVTA's allocation from the Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Program, California's budget surplus, Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) Pause, Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Drive To Zero program, pending federal resolutions, Proposition A audit results, LA Metro's fare-less system, LACMTA's Public Safety Advisory Committee's vote to defund law enforcement from Metro, AVTA's proposed Bus Pass Program for Homeless Students, AVTA's funding request from FTA's American Rescue Plan and the status of AVTA's submitted grants. The Board briefly discussed PEPRA and AVTA's proposed Bus Pass Program. Chairman Crist noted the positive impact AVTA has made on the environmental since transitioning from a diesel fleet to an all battery-electric fleet.

SRP 9 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT

Director of Operations and Maintenance Esteban Rodriguez presented the report. The Board discussed passenger injuries, pass-ups and the “Stop at All Stops” policy. Mr. Jackson detailed the various strategies and disciplinary measures Transdev management utilizes to remedy passenger pass-ups. The Board directed Transdev management to revert to the “Stop at All Stops” policy.

SRP 10 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT

Maintenance Compliance Manager Cecil Foust presented the report.

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 2 LETTER OPPOSING THE DEFUNDING EFFORT FOR LA METRO POLICING

Mr. Neshati presented the staff report. The Board discussed the importance of continuing LA Metro policing.

Motion: Authorize the Chairman of the Board to submit a letter to the Metro Board expressing AVTA's concerns regarding the defunding effort and our opposition.

Moved by Director Hofbauer, seconded by Director Loa

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Ayes: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Hofbauer, Loa, Malhi, Flanagan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

Mr. Neshati stated that it has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Agency’s executive director adding it has been the highlight of his career.

He noted the following accomplishments:

- Fully electrified our local fleet in March 2019 without the usual fanfare since the country was in a pandemic.
- Implemented the Microtransit service.
- Purchased property in Lake LA to serve as a charging depot and operators’ breakroom.

- Used Low Carbon Fuel Standard credits to build a world-class wellness center.
- Completed the commuter coach purchase to become North America's first all-electric fleet by the end of December 2021.
- Began the 3-bay expansion of our maintenance facility.
- Began the process of land acquisition and contract negotiations to build our own solar farm and charge off the grid.
- Received an award from the California Air Resources Board for leadership in zero-emission adoption.
- Received the Transit Agency of the Year Award for 2021 from the California Transit Association.
- Received a "no findings" result in our annual financial audits during my tenure.
- Received a perfect "no findings" result in our Federal Transit Administration's triennial audit.
- Undertook the following actions since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Provided a vaccination bus service to the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds.
 - Provided shuttle service from the field hospital at Antelope Valley Hospital to their remote parking area.
 - Donated thousands of facemasks to local hospitals, high schools and UCLA Medical Center.
 - Sponsored three food drives in partnership with the Teamsters and Antelope Valley Chevrolet.
 - Provided free vaccinations during the third food drive.
 - Supported locally owned and operated restaurants by providing breakfast and lunch to AVTA and Transdev employees for several months during the peak of the pandemic thereby keeping them safe and limiting their exposure to public places.
 - Most importantly, implemented stringent sanitizing and disinfecting measures to keep our staff, operators, technicians and the riding public safe. Although the inevitable positive COVID-19 test occasionally popped up, THERE WAS NEVER AN OUTBREAK!
 - Received letters commending our efforts from the local Teamsters management, Los Angeles County Department of Health and our contractor, Transdev.

In closing, I am indebted to my colleagues who continue to work tirelessly to help make AVTA great. I am indebted to this amazing Board for your vision, leadership, guidance and faith that allowed us to share in that vision and be part of bringing the battery-electric bus project to fruition.

Below is what 6 million electric miles signifies:

- ✓ Approximately 1.5 million gallons of diesel fuel have been saved.
- ✓ Equates to a net savings of \$1,950,000 in fuel costs after paying for electricity.

- ✓ Represents a carbon footprint reduction of more than 30 million pounds of CO2 and 112,000 pounds of particulate matter.

Although THANK YOU seems too small, these are the only words I know to sum up my gratitude to this Board that has allowed me to serve. I leave you in the capable hands of my friend and mentor Martin Tompkins. Chairman Crist applauded Macy for all he has done for staff and the Agency.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

The Board wished everyone a Happy Holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on January 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room, 42210 6th Street West, Lancaster, CA.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 25th day of JANUARY, 2022



Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



Karen S. Darr, Clerk of the Board

Audio recordings of the Board of Directors Meetings are maintained in accordance with state law and AVTA's Records Retention Policy. Please contact the Clerk of the Board at (661) 729-2206 to arrange to review a recording.