

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AVTA Prepares for Possible Driver Work Stoppage

Lancaster, CA – Antelope Valley Transit Authority has crafted a contingency plan to keep local, commuter and Dial-a-Ride buses operating in the event of a possible work stoppage, which could begin as early as Monday morning.

While a work stoppage would impact AVTA bus service significantly, operations contractor Veolia anticipates being able to provide a reduced schedule for its commuter and fixed-route services. The number of trips on local transit routes could be reduced up to 70 percent on the first day of a work stoppage, and commuter routes by 50 percent. The contractor anticipates adding more service as resources become available. Dial-A-Ride service would also be impacted due to the reduced availability of drivers.

Unionized employees represented by the Teamsters are expected to vote Sunday afternoon on a contract proposed by their employer, Veolia Transportation. If the proposal is not approved, the union members may then vote on a possible work stoppage. Pending the outcome, AVTA will post schedule information on its website, avta.com. The site will be updated frequently to keep our valued customers informed.

Should a work stoppage take place, AVTA will continue to operate all of its commuter bus routes, although service frequency may be reduced initially. The trips that will be running are:

- Route 785 (to Los Angeles) – Runs 1, 3, 4, and 6 in both the morning and afternoon.
- Route 786 (to Century City) – Runs 1 and 3 in both the morning and afternoon.
- Route 787 (to San Fernando) – Runs 1, 3, 5, and 7 in both the morning and afternoon.

In preparation for the potential work stoppage, Antelope Valley transit riders are encouraged to identify alternatives to taking the bus, such as carpooling, Metrolink, or other transit providers. Customers who do ride the bus during this period may face increased wait times, potential delays, and crowded conditions.

There are a number of other travel options available. More information can be obtained directly from the respective service provider.

- Metrolink (metrolinktrains.com; 800-371-5465) – the Antelope Valley line connects Palmdale and Lancaster with Los Angeles Union Station. Connections to the Ventura County line (serving the San Fernando Valley) can be made at the Downtown Burbank station.
- Santa Clarita Transit (santaclaritatransit.com; 661-294-1287) – Route 795 connects Palmdale and Lancaster with Santa Clarita; additional routes connect Santa Clarita to North Hollywood, Downtown Los Angeles, Century City, and Warner Center.
- Los Angeles Metro (metro.net; 323-466-3876) – Metro provides bus, subway, and light rail service throughout the Los Angeles area. Use their online trip planner to find routes and services that connect to where you need to go.
- Access Services (asila.org; 800-827-0829) – Access Services provides Dial-A-Ride service throughout Los Angeles County and may be able to help AVTA customers whose Dial-A-Ride trips have been cancelled or delayed.

“Our customers are our first concern, and we regret the inconvenience that would be caused if a work stoppage happens,” stated AVTA Executive Director Julie Austin. “We feel this action is avoidable, and we are working very hard to minimize any potential impact on our customers’ daily activities.”

Antelope Valley Transit Authority provides public transportation services to the Antelope Valley. Information about schedules, fares, and the potential driver work stoppage can be obtained online at avta.com or by calling (661) 945-9445.

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