



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

ONLINE ZOOM MEETING PER GOVERNOR'S ORDER N-29-20

Tuesday, January 26, 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 10:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present

Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Steve Hofbauer, Director Michelle Flanagan, Director Richard Loa, Director Raj Malhi

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Approve the agenda as comprised.

Moved by Director Loa, seconded by Vice Chair Knippel

Clerk of the Board Karen Darr conducted a roll call vote and stated the motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC BUSINESS – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Fran Sereseres called Ms. Darr on January 25, 2021 – stated the security guards at the Lancaster Metrolink Station unlock the gate 15 minutes before the train arrives, which restricts riders' access to the benches and restrooms. In addition, the restrooms are not being maintained.

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

SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR JANUARY

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry stated California Secretary of State Alex Padilla will be California's next United States Senator, filling the term vacated by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Ms. Fry provided an update regarding the State's Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022 Budget, FY 2021 Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) Funding Plan, Department of Transportation hearings and appointments, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act apportionments and previous and future grant opportunities. The Board discussed the Vehicle Miles Traveled tax.

SRP 2 OPERATIONS KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT

Chief Operating Officer Martin Tompkins presented the report. The Board directed Mr. Tompkins to provide the disciplinary actions taken by Transdev management on their operators who are passing up passengers and possible mitigating circumstances.

SRP 3 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT

Maintenance Compliance Manager Cecil Foust presented the report. The Board discussed the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) credits. The Board directed Mr. Foust to provide information showing a cost comparison between electric and diesel if diesel was currently \$5 per gallon.

SRP 4 COVID-19 COMPLIANCE

Executive Director Macy Neshati stated a claim was filed with the Los Angeles County Health Department and Cal OSHA alleging the Authority violated the following COVID-19 safety protocols: 1) Employees are not wearing masks in common areas; 2) Employer has not provided barriers such as Plexiglas between drivers and customers; and 3) Air is being recirculated so air filters must be MERV-13 or better. An environmental assessment was conducted with the official inspection report finding the Authority to be in compliance with no corrective or further action required. The Board complimented staff on their immediate and effective implementation of COVID-19 safety protocols.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

- CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2020**
Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2020.
- CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2020**
Receive and file the Financial Report for November and December 2020.
- CC 3 PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES FOR 2021**
Approve the Proposed Legislative Principles for 2021.
- CC 4 FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 (FY 2021) SECOND QUARTER LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (LASD) REPORT (OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2020)**
Receive and file the FY 2021 Second Quarter LASD report for the period covering October 1 through December 31, 2020.
- CC 5 ANNUAL REVIEW OF AVTA'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) POLICY STATEMENT, TRANSDEV'S EEO PLAN AND ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT MANAGEMENT'S (AVTM) POLICY STATEMENT**
Review, update, and reaffirm AVTA's EEO Policy Statement, Transdev's EEO Plan and AVTM's EEO Policy Statement.

Motion: Approve the Consent Calendar.

Moved by Vice Chair Knippel, seconded by Director Hofbauer

Ms. Darr conducted a roll call vote and stated the motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)
Ayes: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Hofbauer, Flanagan, Loa, Malhi
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 FY 2021 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry presented the staff report.

Motion: Approve the Proposed FY 2021 Mid-Year Budget adjustments.

Moved by Director Hofbauer, seconded by Vice Chair Knippel

Ms. Darr conducted a roll call vote and stated the motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NB 2 CONTRACT #2021-37 TO NEW FLYER OF AMERICA, INC. FOR ELECTRIC BUS CHARGING EQUIPMENT

Procurement and Contracts Officer Lyle Block presented the staff report. The Board discussed the charging equipment.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director/CEO to execute Contract #2021-37 with New Flyer of America, Inc., of St. Cloud, MN, for a one-year term not to exceed an amount of \$1,496,520.00, plus applicable sales tax.

Moved by Vice Chair Knippel, seconded by Director Hofbauer

Ms. Darr conducted a roll call vote and stated the motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NB 3 CONSENT TO SALE OF AVTA SUPPLIER WAVE

Mr. Neshati presented the staff report.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director/CEO to execute the “Request for consent to proposed merger with Ideanomics, Inc.” allowing the acquisition of WAVE to proceed.

Moved by Director Flanagan, seconded by Director Malhi

Ms. Darr conducted a roll call vote and stated the motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)
Ayes: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Hofbauer, Flanagan, Loa, Malhi
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

NB 4 DEDICATED BUS SERVICE TO THE FAIRGROUNDS FOR COVID VACCINATION

Mr. Tompkins presented the staff report.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to implement dedicated bus route from each of the transit centers to and from the fairgrounds to ensure that all citizens in the AVTA service area have access to this vital service. If Palmdale receives a vaccination “super site”, move two buses from their transportation area to that location.

Moved by Director Hofbauer, seconded by Director Malhi

Ms. Darr conducted a roll call vote and stated the motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)
Ayes: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Hofbauer, Flanagan, Loa, Malhi
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO MACY NESHATI

- Recognized employees Carlos Lopez Arucha and Cecil Foust for 10 years of service.
- Announced the Employee of the Second Quarter for FY 2021 is Carlos Lopez Arucha.

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW AND UPCOMING PROJECTS IN 2021

2020 Significant Accomplishments:

- By the end of 2019, and four years of declining ridership, AVTA began to see a modest increase in ridership. That was until the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic outbreak hit and ridership took a 69% drop and has yet to recover. The Authority's focus changed overnight from implementing its growth strategy, as outlined in the Regional Transit Plan completed in early 2020, to "virus-proofing" our agency. A Task Force was immediately created to implement protocols to safeguard the health and safety of AVTA's team of bus operators, maintenance and administrative staff, and riding public. Comprehensive information regarding the safety measures the Authority implemented are included in SRP 4.
- In March, we quietly transitioned our local fleet to 100% electric, making AVTA the first and largest all-electric transit fleet in North America. This occurred with no fanfare as we were in the early stages of responding to the pandemic.
- We passed a historic milestone of three million zero-emission miles driven on June 23, 2020.
- We passed a historic milestone of four million zero-emission miles driven on December 11, 2020.
- Retrofitted entire fleet with driver protection barriers.
- The Board approved negotiating a contract with Duke Energy to build a solar field to make the Authority self-sufficient.
- Completed two WAVE en-route charging stations, one at South Valley Clinic and the second at the Lancaster Metrolink Station. Construction of a fifth station began at Antelope Valley College.
- We added eight electric 27-foot vans and began a parallel Micro-Transit service covering the Routes 50, 51, and 52 territory.
- We selected a new Dial-A-Ride contractor bringing our Dial-A-Ride service to a local provider thereby delivering over \$1 million annually to the local AV economy.
- We teamed up with the Teamsters Union, AV Chevrolet, the City of Lancaster, the City of Palmdale and a distinguished list of local sponsors

to host three food drives including a Christmas food give away that included turkeys, hams and combined our annual Stuff-a-Bus toy give-away.

- We built a world-class wellness center, the Marvin E. Crist Wellness Center, utilizing a portion of our first LCFS credits. The center will stand as a permanent “Thank You” to every member of the AVTA family for their hard work and dedication to our zero-emission fleet.

The following table provides a quick comparison of ridership levels leading up to and including the 2020 COVID-19 impact:

	Local	Commuter	Total
2018	2,075,512	280,985	2,356,497
2019	2,090,779	284,694	2,375,473
2020	1,052,670	99,522	1,152,192

** Data for each year from January 1st to December 31st.

Upcoming Projects in 2021

- Our first priority remains operating our system safely as we continue to navigate the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Between May and December of this year, we will receive the 24 MCI buses that will complete our fleet of all electric vehicles.
- We will complete our land acquisition for the solar field.
- The final Power Purchase Agreement with Duke Energy will be executed.
- We are in our final option year with our contract with Transdev. Staff will issue a Request for Proposals for the contracted service with a target of awarding in August and the new contract effective on January 1, 2022.
- Pending confirmation of adequate funding, we need to execute our maintenance bay expansion of three bays added to the North side of our current facility.
- Complete the AVC charging terminal.
- Complete the reconfiguration of vehicles awarded to us via the BUILD grant and place orders to ready our fleet for a post COVID recovery.

- Add two level three chargers in the Lake Los Angeles area to support the growth of our Micro-Transit program.
- Continue to evaluate ridership and determine the need to implement phases of the Regional Transit Plan.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

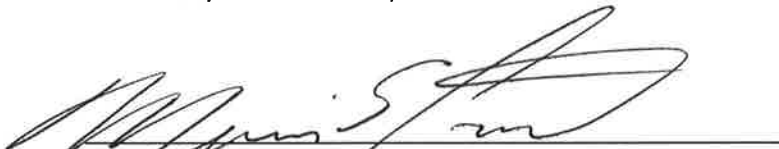
The Board thanked Ms. Vaccaro-Fry for her consistent pursuit of finding grants and Mr. Neshati for his great vision and leadership.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m. in memory of Palmdale Mayor Steve Hofbauer’s mother Marilyn Hofbauer. Marilyn was devoted to her family, a treasured friend to many and passionate community member. Those who knew her will remember her love for art and music.


The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on February 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 23rd day of FEBRUARY 2021



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.