



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

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:

Director Loa led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present

Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Richard Loa, Director Eric Ohlsen, Director Raj Malhi, Director Michelle Flanagan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion by Director Loa and seconded by Vice Chair Knippel, the Board of Directors approved the agenda as comprised.

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

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Loa, Ohlsen, Malhi, Flanagan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PUBLIC BUSINESS– AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Milcah White thanked the Board for acknowledging her concerns and appreciates the improved communication regarding the changes with Metrolink and Amtrack.

James Stovenal shared his concerns about the fare evasion on the buses. He thanked the Board Members for keeping the free fare program for the veterans and hoped it would continue.

Charlotte Baxter asked when the Dial-A-Ride electric vehicles would arrive and where

they would be located and charged overnight. Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins replied that the AVTA had received all 19 vans. The vans will be charged at the AVTA and Lake Los Angeles facilities. She added that she enjoys seeing the operators being recognized on the 10th Street West and 17th Street West billboards.

Ms. Baxter also asked about transportation to the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds evacuation center during an emergency. Chairman Crist responded that the routes would be re-routed depending on the emergency.

Fran Sereseres stated that Access Services is not dropping passengers off at the Hunter building at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. She also mentioned that at the Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board voted to provide the city of Palmdale money for improvements to Palmdale Blvd. and 40th St. E. and wants to know if the Supervisors are doing anything for the city of Lancaster. The Chairman responded that Supervisor Kathryn Barger does assist Lancaster.

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

SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SCOTT WILK’S OFFICE

Thomas Moreno, District Representative for Senator Scott Wilk’s office, reported on California’s \$73 billion budget deficit, Senate Bill (SB) 996 Comprehensive sexual health education and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention education, which will require all school districts in the state of California to allow parents to have their middle school or high school students opt-out of sex education classes, and SB-1004 Income taxes: exclusions: wildfires, which will allow anyone affected by the wildfire areas from 2020 on to be exempt from settlement taxes.

Vice Chair Knippel stated that Senator Scott Wilk visited the AV College and discussed a potential bill he is working on to create a partnership with Cal State Universities in Victor Valley and Antelope Valley.

SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY’S OFFICE

Pamela Balch, District Director for Assemblymember Tom Lackey’s office, reported on California’s budget deficit, Assembly Bill (AB) 2645 Electronic toll collection systems: information sharing: law enforcement, and AB 3060 Pupil transportation: transportation network companies: Public Utilities Commission: safety standards: exemption.

SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO FRANCYNN TOBAR, CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATOR, FOR 10 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE

Procurement and Contracts Officer Cecil Foust presented Francynn Tobar with an award for 10 years of service to the AVTA.

SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO AVTA EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2024

Mr. Foust presented the Employee of the Month award for January 2024 to Francynn Tobar.

SRP 5 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE AND OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2024

MV Transportation General Manager Juan Antonio Lopez presented the Operator of the Month award for January 2024 to Mustapha El Sous.

SRP 6 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2024

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented the Employee of the Month award for January 2024 to Alicia Taylor.

SRP 7 AVTS MICROTRANSIT AND DIAL-A-RIDE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024

Mr. Minasyan presented the report.

SRP 8 LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND FINANCE UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented information regarding the PEPRRA and 13(c) litigation, 2023-24 state legislative session, proposed transit-related bills, legislative leadership changes, continuing resolutions for the FY 2023-2024 federal budget, Buses and Bus Facilities Program grant opportunity, bus manufacturing challenges, and the retirement of FTA Administrator Nuria I. Fernandez.

SRP 9 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024

Maintenance Compliance Analyst Joseph Sanchez presented the report. The Board discussed the fleet costs per mile – fleet average. Mr. Sanchez clarified that operating energy and maintenance costs per mile do not rely on ridership to generate results as the mileage is set and the fleet travels via fixed routes. Therefore, ridership is not a variable that needs to be

considered for jurisdictional contributions. The mileage the vehicles travel is the most significant variable in the calculations.

SPR 10 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024

Mr. Lopez presented the report. The Board discussed complaints. The Chairman requested ridership numbers industrywide on all modes of transportation and how they have increased their ridership.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2024

Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2024.

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024 AND FY 2024 SECOND QUARTER TREASURER AND CAPITAL RESERVE REPORT

Receive and file the Financial Report for January 2024 and the FY 2024 Second Quarter Treasurer and Capital Reserve Report.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Ohlsen, the Board of Directors approved the Consent Calendar as comprised.

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

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Loa, Ohlsen, Malhi, Flanagan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 SOLE RESPONDENT CONTRACT #2024-23 WITH CIRCULATING AIR, INC. FOR AIR CONDITIONING AND CONTROLLER REPLACEMENT

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Ohlsen, the Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director/CEO to award Sole Respondent Contract #2024-23 to Circulating Air, Inc. for the installation of air conditioning units and controller replacement at AVTA's primary facility for an amount not to exceed \$392,018.00 plus any applicable taxes.

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

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Loa, Ohlsen, Malhi, Flanagan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

Mr. Tompkins reported on the jurisdictional shares meeting with Ms. Vaccaro-Fry, Director of Los Angeles County Public Works Mark Pestrella, and Los Angeles County Deputy Director Steve Burger. The discussion included mileage, costs, and AVTA's needs. Several data points were reviewed, and we are working through the correct allocation of revenues and expenses per mode and jurisdiction. A specific review of Route 790 will be addressed.

They discussed Option #6, which would have the City of Palmdale providing 33%, the City of Lancaster providing 34%, and Los Angeles County providing 31%. Los County staff agreed to provide 26.5%. The County needs to obtain the commuter ridership data because they believe the calculation should be based on population instead of total miles. They will provide census population data for unincorporated areas within the cities and on the east side (unincorporated Los Angeles County). The census data will help bridge the gap from 26.5% to 31%, bringing us closer to closing the gap after applying \$7 million of AVTA's federal allocation. Mr. Tompkins clarified that he believes it should be an even split of one-third per jurisdiction. Los Angeles County's share will be higher after the review of the census population data. Although Mr. Tompkins and the Board think it should be calculated by mileage, Los Angeles County staff is formulating their numbers by population.

Vice Chair Knippel added she and Director Flanagan had a kick-off discussion with Mr. Pestrella and Mr. Burger. The whole issue was miles versus ridership. They discussed that the increased population in the unincorporated areas, increased ridership, and increased support from Access Dial-A-Ride show there is a share required to help support AVTA.

Chairman Crist added that Los Angeles County pays Santa Clarita \$3.2 million for 200 county miles compared to paying \$600,000 to AVTA for 1,200 county miles, which is a disparity.

Vice Chair Knippel responded that the topic was addressed with a county representative who stated that Santa Clarita has not done as well to manage their business as AVTA. Chairman Crist stated we are being penalized for being efficient.

The County keeps kicking the can down the road, and every time, the County changes participants. Vice Chair Knippel responded that she and Director Flanagan met with Mr. Pestrella, who is at the top of the Public Works organization. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the delay and wants this issue resolved immediately.

Chairman Crist stated this issue has been going on for six years and costs AVTA at least \$1 million per year plus what the County should have been paying AVTA. If they can give Santa Clarita \$3.2 million for 200 miles and AVTA only \$600,000 for 1,200 miles, there is room for them to provide one-third of the cost.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

No miscellaneous business items were presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m. to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on March 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room, 42210 6th Street West, Lancaster, CA.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 26th day of MARCH 2024.



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 Karen Darr, Clerk of the Board at (661) 729-2206 to arrange to review a recording.