



Antelope Valley Transit Authority

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

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 Royal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Raj Malhi, Director Michelle Royal, Alternate Director Laura Bettencourt, Alternate Director Kathryn Mac Laren

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved the agenda, pulling item NB Item #2 - Consider Antelope Valley Transit Authority Board of Directors to Approve Membership in the First Public Hydrogen Authority (Fph₂).

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

Yays: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal, and Alternate Directors Bettencourt and Mac Laren

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC BUSINESS– AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Milcah White stated that the operators on local service are inconsistent in enforcing the policies and securing the riders.

Fran Sereseres expressed that using the bus services to meet with other seniors for lunch is a pleasure.

Sue White voiced concerns regarding rude operators, unclean seats, incorrect bus headsigns, and safety issues with the windows not opening. Chairman Crist has directed Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins to follow up with Ms. White to address these concerns.

Dwight Schneider said booking a ride with the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) services is difficult. A round-trip ride takes six hours, and the DAR app's communications are still inconsistent.

Walter Woodward commended the DAR operators and staff for their excellent service. However, he raised concerns about the delayed arrival procedures and the challenges of entering and exiting the bus when wheelchairs are onboard. He suggested removing the seat behind the driver to provide more room.

Timothy McLaughlin expressed his gratitude to the operators and staff but added that he has issues scheduling rides.

Charlotte Baxter thanked the DAR and MV Transportation staff for helping her with calls.

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

SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE

Thomas Moreno, State Senator Valladares' deputy field representative, presented updates on SB 2 Low-carbon fuel standard: regulations, and SB 563 State parks: Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation: grants: eligible applicants. Senator Valladares recently visited the border and will work with staff to schedule a tour of the AVTA facility.

SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE

The representative was unable to attend.

SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO EMMA CAMPOS, CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE II, FOR 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Customer Satisfaction Manager Carlos Lopez presented the award to Emma Campos, Customer Service Representative II, in recognition of 10 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Authority.

SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO AVTA EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH 2025

Senior Finance Manager Vianney McLaughlin presented Karim Illescas, Accountant I, with the Employee of the Month award.

SRP 5 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE AND OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH 2025

MV Transportation General Manager Thomas Conlon presented Arthur Noriega with the Operator of the Month award and Frank Dominguez with the Employee of the Month award.

SRP 6 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH 2025

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan stated he would present the March Employee of the Month award at the May board meeting since the recipient could not attend the meeting.

SRP 7 AVTS MICROTRANSIT AND DIAL-A-RIDE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT FOR MARCH 2025

Mr. Minasyan presented the report. The board discussed the continued issues with the DAR app and the EV lifts and recommended removing the seat, as suggested. Mr. Minasyan replied that he is working with the AVTA team to address the accessibility issue and is working on improving the DAR app. He will provide a status report next month.

SRP 8 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR APRIL 2025

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented an update on the California Air Resource Board (CARB) Low Carbon Fuel Standard, various assembly and senate bills, an Executive Order titled "Protecting American Energy from State Overreach," Fiscal Year 2025 concurrent budget resolution, budget committee hearings, and the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant opportunity.

SRP 9 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR MARCH 2025

Operations Contract Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez presented the report.

SRP 10 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR MARCH 2025

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented the report. The board discussed how the operators handled the four passenger disturbances. Ms. Maxie stated that the operators are trained to de-escalate the situation and request a deputy's assistance when necessary.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2025

On a motion by Director Royal and seconded by Director Malhi, the Board of Directors approved item number CC 1 as comprised by the following vote:

Vote: Motion carried (5-0-1-0)
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Mac Laren
Nays: None
Abstain: Alternate Director Bettencourt
Absent: None

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH 2025

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved item number CC 2 as comprised by the following vote:

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal, Alternate Directors Bettencourt and Mac Laren
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

CC 3 FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 (FY 2025) THIRD QUARTER LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (LASD) REPORT (JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2025)

Alternate Director Bettencourt stated that she needs to recuse herself since she works for the sheriff's department.

On a motion by Director Royal and seconded by Vice Chair Knippel, the Board of Directors approved item number CC 3 as comprised by the following vote:

Vote: Motion carried (5-0-1-0)
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Mac Laren
Nays: None
Abstain: Alternate Director Bettencourt
Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY 2026)

On a motion by Director Royal and seconded by Director Malhi, the Board of Directors nominated and elected Marvin Crist as Chairman and Dianne Knippel as Vice Chair for FY 2026.

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal, Alternate Directors Bettencourt and Mac Laren
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

NB 3 AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO CONTRACT #2020-20 WITH AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC.

Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins presented the staff report and thanked MV Transportation Inc. and AV Transportation Services for being great partners. Chairman Crist asked about the effects of reducing service hours and trips. Mr. Tompkins responded that it could impact ridership, and that he would have a better recommendation in 12 to 18 months after a thorough service review.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Malhi, the Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director/CEO or designee to execute Amendment No. 3 to Contract #2020-20 with AV Transportation Services, Inc. (AVTS) exercising the two one-year options at an annual rate increase for FY 2026 and FY 2027 for Dial-A-Ride and On-Request Microtransit services.

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

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal, Alternate Directors Bettencourt and Mac Laren

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NB 4 FY 2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry presented the staff report, adding that decreased revenues, increased expenses, specifically purchased transportation costs, and the loss of toll credit are contributing factors to using funds from our reserve account. Capital contributions will remain consistent at FY 2025 levels since the required number and types of buses may be reduced if service is reduced, and no buses are due for replacement until FY 2028.

Chairman Crist requested that Mr. Tompkins send a letter to the jurisdictions notifying them that their jurisdiction contributions would increase significantly, thereby alleviating the need to use reserve funds. Vice Chair Knippel and Alternate Director Bettencourt concurred with Chairman Crist's recommendation to increase the jurisdictional shares as soon as possible. Chairman Crist stated that the alternative direction is to send a request to the jurisdictions for new jurisdictional shares.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Alternate Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors approved providing an alternative plan to support the \$9 million cost issue for each jurisdiction as part of the budget plan presented in NB 4.

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

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal, Alternate Directors Bettencourt and Mac Laren

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

There were no reports or announcements.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

No miscellaneous business items were presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on May 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room, 42210 6th Street West, Lancaster, CA.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 27th day of MAY 2025.



Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



DeeAnna Cason, Executive Assistant

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