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**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Tuesday, August 26, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room  
42210 6<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Eric Ohlsen, Director Raj Malhi, Director Michelle Royal, Alternate Director Laura Bettencourt

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Bettencourt

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**PUBLIC BUSINESS– AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:**

Charlotte Baxter expressed concerns about the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) app issues and reservations, commented on the efforts of the operators, and suggested adding a seatbelt behind the driver's seat in the DAR vehicle.

Fran Sereseres expressed concerns about the impact of the social security system on seniors.

Timothy McLaughlin commended the services provided by DAR and addressed concerns related to the High-Speed Rail project.

Walter Woodward reported positive experiences with Dial-A-Ride, highlighting the drivers have been on time, called before arriving, ensured timely arrivals at destinations, and expressed gratitude to the Board, dispatch personnel, and the drivers for listening and responding to user needs. He noted that EVs can be particularly challenging for seniors, as they often experience various ailments and pains caused by the vehicle's bouncing. He had to request a gas-powered vehicle for the trip home.

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

**SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE**

Jack Danielson, State Senator Valladares' field representative, provided an update, noting that the previous week marked the first session back for the Senate and Assembly. The primary focus was on redistricting; however, there has not been much action on the Senator's bill. We will have a thorough update on specific legislation next month.

**SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE**

Angela Allen, filed representative, reported an update on alternatives to the gas taxes for transportation revenue, fees, electric vehicle charging fees, special registration fees, state pilot programs, equity concerns, and personally thanked AVTA for the bus pass program for high school students.

**SRP 3 PRESENTATIONS TO FACILITIES MAINTENANCE WORKERS ARTURO RODRIGUEZ, RENE GONZALEZ, AND JAMES ANDERSON FOR 15 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE**

Facilities Superintendent Aric Colvin presented the award to Arturo Rodriguez, Rene Gonzalez, and James Anderson, Facilities Maintenance Workers, in recognition of 15 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Authority.

**SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR JULY 2025**

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented Ricky Collins with the Operator of the Month award.

**SRP 5 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR JULY 2025**

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented Diana Martinez with the Employee of the Month award.

**SRP 6 AVTS MICROTRANSIT AND DIAL-A-RIDE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT FOR JULY 2025**

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented the report.

**SRP 7 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025**

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry provided a legislative update on key state and federal transportation-related bills and policies. The discussion covered California's AB 445 concerning high-speed rail, the reauthorization of the cap-and-trade program, and a new state task force on sustainable communities. Federal topics include the upcoming surface transportation bill, budget appropriation discrepancies, and a new executive order aimed at streamlining grant processes.

**SRP 8 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR JULY 2025**

Operations Contract Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez presented the report.

**SRP 9 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR JULY 2025**

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented the report. The Board expressed dissatisfaction with the deferred maintenance repairs, which led to increased costs, as well as concerns about the increase in discourteous operators and accidents. They questioned the organizational culture and the effectiveness of repeatedly promising to retrain staff on basic courtesy. The Chairman noted that falsification in repairs reporting was described as a significant violation, emphasizing that such actions are considered lying, and questioned how lying can be retrained. The Board advised MV Transportation's leadership to take accountability, stressing that it's the leadership's responsibility to train and improve hiring practices.

Mr. Tompkins reported that 2,000 deferred defects were identified in the last quarter of 2024, allowing MV Transportation to correct those defects before penalties were applied. Although the deadline was met in January, expectations were that systems would be put in place to prevent recurrence. As of the first and second quarters of this year, defects increased to 218 despite initial efforts. AVTA staff audits revealed that some repairs were

incorrectly marked as repaired, although defects were still present. AVTA has applied penalties of \$274,000, stating these are federally funded AVTA assets, and if they are not operating correctly, it puts our riders and employees at risk. AVTA staff remains highly concerned and is closely monitoring MV Transportation's performance, while remaining cautiously optimistic.

MV Transportation's Regional Vice President, Lorraine Lopez, and Edvin Borrayo, Regional Director of Maintenance, recognized the need for retraining and enhanced customer sensitivity training. Ms. Lopez identified shortcomings in conducting and auditing inspections, noting that regular internal inspections were not consistently performed. Moving forward, they will conduct regular vehicle inspections to verify compliance and reinforce the importance of being transparent while reporting. Ms. Lopez stated that while they have always aimed for transparency, the recent falsification of inspection records was acknowledged as a significant violation of company policy. MV Transportation expressed dissatisfaction with this occurrence and outlined the necessary steps to rebuild confidence and trust to meet the expectations and standards set by AVTA. Mr. Tompkins will continue to enforce penalties as needed and report them to the Board for final decisions.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):**

**CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2025 -**

Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2025.

**CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY 2025 AND FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024/2025 FOURTH-QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT**

Receive and file the Financial Report for July 2025 and FY 2025 Fourth-Quarter Treasurer's Report, including Capital Reserve and Farebox Recovery information.

**CC 3 REVISED PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL**

At the July 2025 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved Resolution No. 2025-003, which revised the agency's Personnel Rules and Regulations manual. Upon further review by AVTA's general counsel, some proposed revisions were found to be incorrect or unnecessary. Staff recommends the Board of Directors accept changes to the Personnel Rules and Regulations manual as indicated.

**CC 4 FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY 2026) LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT (JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 31, 2025)**

Receive and file the FY 2025/2026 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for (July 1 through July 31, 2025).

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

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

### **NEW BUSINESS (NB):**

#### **NB 1 CONSIDERATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL VACANCY, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION EFFORTS REPORT IN COMPLIANCE WITH AB 2561 (GOVERNMENT CODE §3502.3)**

Chairman Crist opened the public hearing. Human Resource and EEO Manager Amber Johnson presented the background information and answered questions from the Board. The Chairman called for public comments, but none were made in person or electronically. The Chairman then closed the public hearing.

On a motion by Director Royal and seconded by Alternate Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors receive and file NB 1 as presented.

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

### **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):**

#### **RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO**

Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins provided an update on several projects, including service changes, the transfer of eight 60-foot articulated buses to Anaheim Transportation Network, the long-term solar project is moving forward, new security measures at the transit centers, and a task force strategy with the sheriff departments and K-9 Officer Maselli for fare evasion. The initial rollout will include car cards placed on the buses, detailing fare requirements and relevant penalty codes for violations, including assault on operators. Outreach will begin at the local school districts and high schools

to educate students on using the Go Pass program on weekends, rather than relying on courtesy rides. There is currently no evidence of habitual offenders. The Board approved Mr. Tompkins to start the process and do a press release.

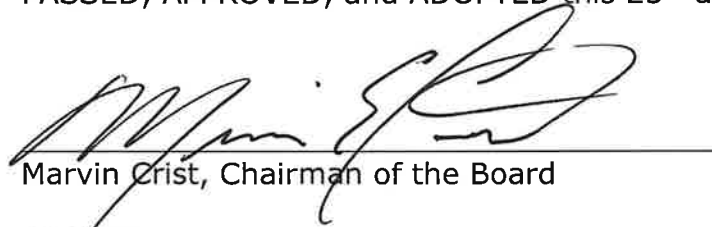
**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:**

There were no reports or announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT:**


Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on September 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room, 42210 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of SEPTEMBER 2025.



Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



DeeAnna Cason, 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 DeeAnna Cason, Board Clerk, at (661) 729-2232 to arrange a review of the recording.