Antelope Valley Transit Authority

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, September 23, 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

Alternate Director Mac Laren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present
Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Eric Ohlsen, Director Raj Malhi, Director Michelle Royal. Alternate Director Kathryn Mac Laren

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Malhi, 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 Mac Laren
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

PUBLIC BUSINESS– AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Timothy McLaughlin provided feedback on the Dial-A-Ride service. He expressed significant appreciation for the helpfulness of specific staff members at AV Transportation Services (AVTS) and the punctuality of drivers but also noted long waiting times on the phone.

Charlotte Baxter extends her gratitude to the AV Transportation Services staff and drivers for addressing the scheduling issues she encountered with the Dial-A-Ride app during her morning rides. Additionally, she highlights security concerns at the AVTA Electric Charging Station located at Sierra Highway and J8 and expresses concerns regarding the High-Speed Rail project.

Fran Sereseres commended the Dial-A-Ride drivers and inquired about the placement of the tracks and the schedule of the High-Speed Rail project. The Board confirmed that the High-Speed Rail will have separate tracks from Metrolink, with an opening planned for mid-2030.

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

SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE

Jack Danielson, field representative for State Senator Valladares, presented an update on the legislative package. Three bills are pending with the governor: SB 571, Emergency Crimes; SB 376, Incomplete Gift Nongrantor Trusts, Personal Income Tax Law; and SB 402, Health Care Coverage for Autism. The Homes for Heroes Act and Underground Power Lines bills will be reconsidered in January.

SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE

Angela Allen, Field Representative for Assemblymember Tom Lackey, could not attend the meeting.

SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST 2025

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented Jamil Mortis with the Operator of the Month award.

SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST 2025

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented Geyme Guzman with the Operator of the Month award.

SRP 5 AVTS MICROTRANSIT AND DIAL-A-RIDE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025

Mr. Minasyan presented the report. The Board briefly discussed the complaints.

SRP 6 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry summarizes the legislative and program updates at the state level, noting that several bills have passed both houses of the legislature. Key state updates include a leadership change at the California Air Resources Board and the introduction of the new Cap and Invest program, which introduces funding risks for specific transit projects. At the federal level, the primary concern is the potential for a government shutdown after September 30, which could result in delayed federal appropriations. The proposed Buffer Act and specific AVTA funding from SB 125 and TIRCP were also discussed.

SRP 7 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025

Operations and Contracts Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez updated the Board on fleet performance, covering mileage, maintenance, and energy costs. He noted a temporary rise in maintenance expenses due to deferred defects. The Board inquired about the increase in the MCI fleet's maintenance costs from $0.24 to $0.73 per mile. Mr. Sanchez explained that this was due to numerous expensive defects, as these units were mostly out of service last year; however, he expects the costs to stabilize.

SRP 8 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025

MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty summarizes the August report, which covers ridership, safety, complaints, and on-time performance. The Board raised concerns if a corporate culture problem is the potential issue due to poor results for the second consecutive month, which needs to be addressed. Mr. Moriarty identified an execution problem; the message being taught to operators is not resonating or translating into consistent performance. A third-party consulting firm will be brought in to evaluate the team from a 30,000-foot view and help refine messaging and practices. This review will occur at local, regional, and corporate levels due to shared concerns.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2025
Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025.

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025
Receive and file the Financial Report for August 2025.

CC 3 DESTRUCTION OF AVTA RECORDS
In accordance with AVTA's Record Retention Policy, authorize the destruction of the on-site records (paper, electronic, audio, photographic, etc.) detailed on the Records Destruction list.

CC 4 FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY 2026) LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT FOR (AUGUST 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025)
Receive and file the FY 2025/2026 (FY 2026) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for (August 1 through August 31, 2025).

CC 5 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG
Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for (August 26 through September 9, 2025).

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, 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 Mac Laren
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-004, AUTHORIZING FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE OF GOOD REPAIR PROGRAM TOWARD TRANSIT CENTER SECURITY CAMERA AND LIGHTING PROJECT

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry first presented an incorrect staff report and financial information. She later corrected it, and the Board re-voted on the item.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors re-voted to adopt Resolution No. 2025-004, authorizing FY 2025/2026 funds, in the amount of $520,428, from the California State of Good Repair Program toward the Transit Center Security Camera and Lighting Project.

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

NB 2 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-005, AUTHORIZING FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TOWARD TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry presented the staff report.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors adopt Resolution No. 2025-005, authorizing FY 2024/2025 funds, in the amount of $1,425,734, from the California State Transit Assistance Program toward Transit Operations.

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

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO MARTIN TOMPKINS

Mr. Tompkins provided updates on several key topics. Coordination with law enforcement agencies regarding fare evasion is progressing, with the Lancaster Police Department and Los Angeles County K-9 deputy both prepared to issue citations once the program is rolled out. Outreach efforts are underway with the Antelope Valley Union School District to address student behavior and the proper use of the GoPass program. Plans include reporting back to the Board and publishing an article in the Valley Press by the end of October. Chairman Crist inquired about measures being taken in the city of Palmdale to combat fare evasion. Mr. Tompkins explained that the LA County K-9 deputy will primarily assist in Palmdale, while the Lancaster Police Department will assist with Lancaster. He will also reach out to the Palmdale and Lancaster stations for their assistance. Mr. Tompkins also attended a General Managers' meeting in Los Angeles and a two-day meeting at the Metro Regional Summit Convention Center to discuss transportation participation for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. Due to geographic separation from the host events and insufficient charging infrastructure, AVTA and Santa Clarita Transit are unlikely to participate. Additionally, the AVTA Drive-Thru Food and Toy Giveaway event is scheduled for Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the AVTA location. This event will be held in partnership with the Teamsters, the Los Angeles Food Bank, the City of Lancaster, and the City of Palmdale.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

Chairman Crist proposed creating a bus bridge with Metrolink to transport incoming passengers from Acton or Palmdale to the Lancaster station. If the Lancaster Metrolink station closes, the council will likely address this in October. Vice Chair Knippel appreciated Fran Sereseres' "no grumpy's" expression. Director Royal suggested that the marketing department utilize social media to encourage the youth to use the GoPass on evenings and weekends.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on October 28, 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 28th day of OCTOBER 2025.

Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

DeeAnna Cason

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.