



Special Meeting of the Board of Directors – Strategic Planning Workshop
Friday, January 16, 2026
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 Eric Ohlsen 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 Kathryn Mac Laren

Director Richard Loa arrived at 10:25 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

There were no public speakers.

AVTA Staff and General Counsel in Attendance:

Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins, Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry, Director of Operations and Planning Tisha Lane, Director of Contracts and Procurement Cecil Foust, Planning Manager Geraldina Romo, General Counsel Allison Burns.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

DI 1 SERVICE CHANGES – STRATEGIC PLANNING

Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins announced that service changes are necessary to maintain a balanced budget, and absent route adjustments, fiscal stability cannot be achieved. The hourly rate is expected to increase with the upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) for Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Tompkins stated the upcoming proposal to reduce service hours from 187,000 to 163,000, saving approximately \$4 million while improving efficiency and retaining all core routes.

The Board reaffirmed the requirement to maintain a balanced budget, and if a balanced budget cannot be achieved, options include reducing services or securing additional funding; cuts may be scrutinized by LA County Metro and others. In addition, the Board discussed jurisdictional cost and Article 8 TDA unmet needs funding.

Planning Manager Geraldina Romo presented the Proposed Service Changes, covering ridership, microtransit analysis, key performance metrics, and cost calculations. The summary of changes included:

- **Route 1**
Adjusts the start and end times of trips for all seven days of the week and reduces peak frequency to 30 minutes on weekdays and 45 minutes on Saturday.
- **Route 2 and 3**
Adjusts start and end times of the trips for all seven days of the week and reduces peak frequency to 35 minutes.
- **Route 5**
Modifies running times to incorporate service to the Kaiser Permanente butterfly building; frequency adjusts from 70 to 80 minutes.

- **Routes 11 & 12**
Based on suggestions from the Planning Committee, Route 12 will now absorb a western portion of Route 11. This will balance the miles between the routes, support interlining, and improve running times on Route 11.
- **Route 50 and 51**
Will combine and become the new Route 19. This route will service Lake Los Angeles and allow service to both Lancaster and Palmdale. Northbound, the route will terminate at Avenue J and 20th Street East; southbound, the route will terminate at South Valley Transit Center and will travel at a 90-minute frequency.
- One round-trip on commuter routes 785 and 787 is proposed for elimination.
- **The next step and preliminary timeline:**
 - Board approval to move forward with public outreach (January 2026)
 - Public outreach efforts (completed by the end of April 2026)
 - Incorporate public feedback from the community (end of June 2026)
 - Present recommendations to the Board for approval (July 2026)
 - Release Request for Proposal RFP (October 2026)
 - Bids due (January 2027)
 - Review bids and conduct interviews (February 2027)
 - Staff report with contract recommendations (March 2027)
 - Award new contract (April 2027)
 - New contract starts (July 2027)

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

General Counsel Allison Burns noted that each Board member received a hard copy of the Brown Act, as required by the statutory amendments enacted last year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m. to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on January 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room, 42210 6th Street West, Lancaster, CA.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 24th day of FEBRUARY 2026.



Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



DeeAnna Cason, Clerk of the Board

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