Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, January 27, 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 Richard Loa
Director Raj Malhi
Director Michelle Royal

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Christopher Nordahl presented a handout to the Board and public, highlighting ongoing safety and compliance concerns with AV Transportation Services (AVTS).

Dwight S. thanked Dial-A-Ride and Microtransit for their service during the recent storm. He mentioned dispatch canceled some of his rides despite seeing the driver nearby. He also requested a bus stop near the American Red Cross on Ave P.

Walter Woodward praised Dial-A-Ride but noted that his gas-powered vehicle reservations are sometimes switched to electric vehicles without notice, despite his noted medical condition and request.

Timothy McLaughlin described severe mud and property damage from a recent storm that limited mobility. He praised the Los Angeles Transportation Department, overseeing the rebuilding of levees, clearing mud, and cleaning his property. The Chairman noted that the city of Palmdale and the Palmdale Water District are working to remove much of the silt and thanked them for their efforts.

Charlotte Baxter thanked the drivers for their service during the recent storm and noted that some of them need improvement.

David Abber expressed his gratitude to the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) for the Drive-Thru Food and Toy Giveaway. Additionally, he suggests putting route information at the bus stop in front of the AVTA location.

Fran Sereseres thanked Dial-A-Ride and Access Services for their services, shared personal news about the birth of a great-granddaughter, and her 83rd birthday.

SPECIAL REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR DIRECTION (SRP): During this portion of the meeting, staff will present information not generally covered under regular meeting items. This information may include, but is not limited to, budget presentations, staff conference presentations, or information from outside sources related to the transit industry. **Staff will seek directions as is necessary from the Board with regard to the following item(s).**

SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE

The representative was unable to attend.

SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE

The representative was unable to attend.

SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION OPERATORS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager, Genie Maxie, awarded Arthur Mack as November 2025 Operator of the Month and Jesus Sarria as December 2025 Operator of the Month.

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

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan awarded Keshandra Duffey as the November 2025 Operator of the Month. He will present the December award at next month's board meeting.

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

Mr. Minasyan presented the report and summarized the accomplishments for 2025. There were no further questions.

SRP 6 LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry delivered an extensive legislative update, covering several key topics: the federal budget continuing resolution is funded through January 30, FFY 2026 appropriations status, Safe and Affordable Transit Act of 2025, state budget allocations for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and Air Pollution Control Fund (APCF), state budget initiatives including Cap and Invest, High-Speed Rail, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), PEPRA, and federal surface transportation principles. Further, funding for the LA28 Olympics and FIFA World Cup is expected to be routed through the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA).

SRP 7 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025

Operations and Contracts Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez presented the report and gave an overview of 2025 accomplishments. The Board discussed reporting on the environmental impact savings from using electric vehicles instead of diesel buses, as well as the price if we did not use LCFS credits in 2025.

SRP 8 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025

MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty summarized the November and December reports on ridership, safety, complaints, and on-time performance. The Board recognized the great job achieved in November for the "no passengers pass-up." Mr. Moriarty gave a brief update on the accomplishments for 2025.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

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

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Ohlsen, the Board of Directors approves Consent Calendar Item CC 1 as presented by the following vote:

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

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025
Recommendation: Receive and file the Financial Reports for November and December 2025.

CC 3 FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY 2026) LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT(S) FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
Recommendation: Receive and file the FY 2025/2026 (FY 2026) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Monthly Reports for November and December 2025.

CC 4 2026 ANNUAL REVIEW OF AVTA'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) POLICY STATEMENT, MV TRANSPORTATION'S EEO PROGRAM, AND AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES' (AVTS) EEO POLICY STATEMENT
Recommendation: Review, update, and reaffirm AVTA's EEO Policy Statement, MV Transportation's EEO Program, and AVTS's EEO Policy Statement.

CC 5 PROPOSED AVTA LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES FOR 2026
Recommendation: Approve the Proposed AVTA Legislative Principles for 2026 as outlined in Attachment A.

CC 6 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG
Recommendation: Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for (November 13, 2025, through January 7, 2026).

CC 7 FINAL SINGLE AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Recommendation: Receive and File the FINAL Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2025.

CC 8 DRAFT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR PROPOSITION A DISCRETIONARY INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Recommendation: Approve the Draft Independent Auditor's Report (Attachment A) for Proposition A Discretionary Incentive Grant funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2025.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Ohlsen, the Board of Directors approves the Consent Calendar CC 2 through CC 8 and pulls Item CC 1.

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

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY 2026) MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry presented the staff report. The Board complimented the staff and had no further questions.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved the proposed FY 2026 Mid-Year Budget adjustments as presented.

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

NB 2 CONTRACT #2026-07 TO TONEMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESTROOM RENOVATION PROJECT

Director of Contracts and Procurement Cecil Foust presented the report.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved to authorize the Executive Director/CEO to execute Contract #2026-07 with Toneman Development Corporation for the renovation of the administrative restroom for an amount not to exceed $234,630.66, including applicable sales tax.

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

NB 3 PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES

Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins presented the report. The Board stated that the presentation was posted, provided details at the Strategic Planning Workshop, and looks forward to planning for the future. There were no further questions.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Malhi, the Board of Directors receive and file the Proposed Service Changes and Improvements and directed staff to seek public input on the proposed adjustments as outlined.

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

CLOSED SESSION (CS):

General Counsel Allison Burns stated they were pursuing the provisions of the Brown Act to enter closed session to discuss agenda items CS 1 through CS 3. The Chairman would like the Chief Financial Officer, Judy Vaccaro-Fry, to be present in the closed session during CS 3.

PRESENTATION BY LEGAL COUNSEL OF ITEM(S) TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION:

CS 1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)
Significant exposure to litigation (two potential cases)

CS 2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)
Consideration of whether to initiate litigation (one potential case)

CS 3 Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54954.5 (e) and 54957(b)
Title: Executive Director/CEO

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION:

The Board of Directors recessed to closed session at 11:01 a.m.

RECONVENED TO PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board of Directors reconvened to Public Session at 11:33 a.m.

REPORT BY LEGAL COUNSEL OF ACTION TAKEN IN THE CLOSED SESSION:

General Counsel Allison Burns stated the Board had discussed Item CS 3 and gave directions to staff and legal counsel. There was no reportable action.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO MARTIN TOMPKINS

Mr. Tompkins stated the 2025 accomplishments listed below could not have been achieved without the Board's support and leadership, and without General Counsel Allison's legal guidance. Additionally, he thanked AVTA, MV Transportation, and AV Transportation Services' staff for all that has been achieved. Great job, everyone.

AVTA Drive-Thru Food and Toy Giveaway:

- Collected $80,000 from the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale ($40,000 each) to purchase Butterball turkeys; distributed 2,700.
- The Teamsters and local food banks distributed 2,100 food boxes and served more than 2,100 vehicles.
- Collected $300 in onsite cash donations and $50,000 through 29 toy sponsors ($5,000 increase from 2024).
- Successfully obtained $18,000 in trade donations from sponsors.
- AV Sheriff's Boosters donated 400 bicycles valued at $50,000.
- We express our gratitude to the City of Lancaster, the City of Palmdale, Los Angeles County, the Teamsters, the Sheriff's Boosters, the volunteers, and our Marketing Director, James Royal.

Customer Service:

- Handled over 98% of 114 plus calls.
- Assisted over 2,000 customers at the AVTA lobby window, processed transactions totaling $225,000.
- Conducted 17 travel training sessions and assisted 147 community members.
- Issued 59 senior TAP cards and generated 85 new Dial-A-Ride clients
- Processed 1,700 new applications for Dial-A-Ride, TAP, senior passes, and veteran passes.

Finance:

- Received clean results for the annual financial audits.
- No question costs identified in any grant reviews.
- Completed the MTA audit for E-Pass and submitted Proposition A compliance requirements.
- Transitioned payroll processing to ADP.
- Updated the purchase order closure process.

Operations:

- Implemented a fare-evasion campaign with local law enforcement and high schools, decreasing evasion activity and slightly increasing farebox recoveries.
- Increased commuter ridership by 31%.
- Operational improvements were achieved as follows: a 5% increase in schedule adherence, a 37% improvement in road calls, and a 69% increase in average miles between road calls. Dial-A-Ride saw a 58% reduction in preventable accidents, an 8.9% rise in ridership, and a 10% increase in completed trips.

Marketing - Community Outreach/Partnership & Sponsorship:

- Attended 100-plus community events (outreach and travel training), a 10% increase over the previous year.
- Formed partnerships with AV Fair, AV Edge, City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, and AV Alta to promote transit services at lower costs.
- Sponsored and staffed a booth at the AV Fair.
- Hosted Senator Suzette Valladares for a facility tour and discussion of federal legislative needs.
- AVTA received the "Aire Award" from the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District's Governing Board.
- Increased bus advertising revenue by nearly $200,000 to $649,000, resulting in $220,000-plus in revenue shared with AVTA.

Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments:

Mr. Tompkins is proud to announce that he has completed two years as President of the AV Edge, awarded contracts to the Procurement and Contracts department, and had numerous facility upgrades completed. There were several additional accomplishments, but with respect to the Board's time, he wanted to end by saying thank you to the team, thank you for a great 2025, and he looks forward to a much greater 2026.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

Board member Knippel expressed gratitude for supporting the AVC Annual Wine Walk. The Chairman congratulated Director Eric Ohlsen on becoming Palmdale's mayor.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m. to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on February 24, 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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