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**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

**10:00 a.m.**

Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room

42210 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, California

[www.avta.com](http://www.avta.com)

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Crist called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Director Ohlsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present

Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Eric Ohlsen, Director Richard Loa, Director Michelle Royal, Alternate Director Ken Mann

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

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

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Loa, Royal, Alternate Director Mann

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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

Charlotte Baxter noted that a routing hazard exists at Avenue I and 14th Street West, where some Dial-A-Ride (DAR) drivers are bypassing the closure, posing a safety risk. She also commended several drivers for their politeness, assistance with boarding and alighting, and proper wheelchair securement.

Timothy McLaughlin thanked the drivers and dispatch team for their efforts. Mr. McLaughlin also raised concerns about vehicles failing to stop at the intersection of 15th Street and Avenue H, endangering pedestrians. He suggested installing stop signs at the rear of the EV vans, like those on school buses, to improve safety.

Fran Sereseres asked about AVTA's transportation plans for attendees traveling from Antelope Valley to the Los Angeles Olympic events.

Chris Nordahl indicated that there are safety concerns and personnel issues associated with AVTS.

Ronald Scott praised the drivers and dispatchers and recommended extending DAR services to 24 hours, or at least until midnight, mirroring Access Services.

**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 from the Board as necessary regarding the following item(s).**

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

Thomas Moreno, District Representative for Senator Suzette Valladares, reported on SB 1161 (Economic impact analysis: State Air Resources Board); further details will be provided next month.

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

Angela Allen, Field Representative for Assemblymember Tom Lackey, reported on several bills: AB 1685 (Driving Privilege: points), AB 1686 (DUI: felonies), AB 1687 (Driver's licenses: revocation), and AB 1421 (Vehicles: Road Usage Charge Technical Advisory Committee).

**SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2026**

Presentation was not provided.

**SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER 2025, AND JANUARY 2026**

AV Transportation Services Quality Assurance Manager Amalia Rodriguez awarded Fabiola Lopez Camarillo as December 2025 Operator of the Month and Raymond Ramcharam as January 2026 Operator of the Month.

**SRP 5 AVTS DIAL-A-RIDE AND MICROTRANSIT KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026**

Operations Manager Henry Beausejour presented the report, and there were no further questions.

**SRP 6 LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2026**

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry provided updates on several topics, including state budget trailer bills, AB 1421 (Road Usage Charge), and AB 1244 (Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Program). She also covered California High-Speed Rail, the FFY 2026 federal budget status, the Highway Trust Fund, and updated Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. Additionally, she mentioned that Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA), as a direct recipient of Lancaster-Palmdale Urbanized Area (UZA) funds, was awarded a \$16.4 Bus and Bus Facilities grant on behalf of Access Services to construct an operations and maintenance facility in Lancaster. AVTA will primarily oversee the grant administration of this project and will be responsible for submitting the necessary documentation on behalf of Access Services. Further, AVTA will receive \$600,000 over the life of the project toward administrative activities. The new facility is expected to benefit seniors and people with disabilities.

**SRP 7 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026**

Operations and Contracts Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez presented the report, and there were no further questions.

**SRP 8 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026**

MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty presented the report, and there were no further questions.

**CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):** Consent items may be received and filed and/or approved by the Board in a single motion. If any member of the Executive Board wishes to discuss a consent item, please request that the item be pulled for further discussion and potential action.

**CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2026, AND JANUARY 27, 2026**

Approve the Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2026, and the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2026.

**CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026 AND FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025/2026 SECOND QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT**

Receive and file the Financial Report for January 2026 and FY 2026 Second-Quarter Treasurer's Report, including Capital Reserve and Farebox Recovery information.

**CC 3 FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY 2026) LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026**

Receive and file the FY 2025/2026 (FY 2026) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for January 2026.

**CC 4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG**

Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for (January 7 through February 10, 2026).

**CC 5 AMEND THE AGENCY'S CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE**

Approve the amendment of the Agency's Classification and Salary Schedule to reclassify the Transit Ambassador position to the Operations Analyst position.

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

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

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Loa, Royal, Alternate Director Mann

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**NEW BUSINESS (NB):**

**NB 1 FISCAL YEAR 2027 JURISDICTIONAL OPERATING CONTRIBUTIONS**

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented the Fiscal Year 2027 jurisdictional operating contributions report, which is based on audited data from Fiscal Year 2025. The report included a detailed breakdown of contributions by mode, a five-year financial outlook, assumptions, and funding considerations. The Chairman offered a brief history of funding. He summarized the contribution policy, noting that if contributions had included an annual increase (for example, 3%), the current shortfall might have been

avoided. Ms. Vaccaro-Fry concurred, stating her belief that this would have made a difference. She also highlighted that purchased transportation costs nearly doubled from 2018 to 2025, and unfortunately contributions did not keep pace with rising expenses. Despite the agency's efforts to optimize toll credits, maximize eligibility, and search for savings, costs have continued to escalate. To address these challenges, the agency secured significant grant funding, with most of it allocated to capital expenses. However, operating grants are not available, resulting in a "capital-rich, operating-poor" situation. The TDA Article 8 allocations were also considered in this context.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Chairman Crist, the Board of Directors approves operating contributions for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2027 AVTA Operations and Maintenance Budget.

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

## **NB 2 ROLLING STOCK REPLACEMENT - CAPITAL NEEDS FORECAST**

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented the Fleet Replacement Plan and financial outlook through 2035. The Board discussed eliminating the High Desert Clean Connector project due to escalating costs and operational challenges. Additionally, the Board agreed that staff should consult with Assemblymember Carrillo's office to determine whether additional funding is available for the project.

The Board directed staff to determine this year's funding requirements promptly, present them to the Board, and establish an annual process for setting jurisdictional amounts, with city managers involved.

On a motion by Chairman Crist and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors directed the Executive Director/CEO to pause implementation of the High Desert Clean Connector project and to bring it back if additional funding becomes available.

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

**NB 3      CONTRACT #2026-08 TO J.A. URBAN INC. FOR THE MAINTENANCE BAY UPGRADE PROJECT**

Contracts and DBE Administrator Francynn R. Tobar presented the staff report.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director/CEO to award and execute Contract #2026-08 with J.A. Urban, Inc. for the Maintenance Bay Upgrade project at the AVTA facility for an amount not to exceed \$439,817.61, including applicable taxes.

Vote:      Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Yeas:      Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Loa, Royal, Alternate Director Mann

Nays:      None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**NB 4      CONTRACT #2026-09 TO STERTIL-KONI USA FOR PLATFORM LIFT**

Director of Contracts and Procurement Cecil Foust presented the staff report.

On a motion by Director Royal and seconded by Vice Chair Knippel, the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director/CEO to execute Contract #2026-09 with Stertil-Koni USA, Inc. through the Sourcwell Contract #121223-SKI for the removal of the current platform lift, purchase and installation of replacement, and ground repair for an amount not to exceed \$520,125.61, including shipping and applicable sales tax.

Vote:      Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Yeas:      Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Loa, Royal, Alternate Director Mann

Nays:      None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**NB 5 FIFTH AMENDMENT TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO MARTIN TOMPKINS' EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved the Fifth Amendment to Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins' Employment Agreement.

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

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):**

There were no reports or announcements.

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

There were no reports or announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on March 24, 2026, 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH 2026.



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