



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, March 24, 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 10:02 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 Raj Malhi, Director Michelle Royal

Director Ohlsen's son, Rocky, was in attendance as a guest.

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, Loa, Malhi, Royal

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Timothy McLaughlin noted that DAR drivers are valued for their assistance and connection, and the dispatch team is helpful, though phone wait times can be lengthy. He mentioned that the new phone system now includes call notifications in addition to text alerts.

Dwight Schneider states that he has tried booking DAR and Microtransit rides through the app, even three days in advance at midnight, but hasn't been successful. He was informed that his concerns were not considered valid. When rides are available, they often require him to be away from home all day, which does not suit his remote work needs. Additionally, he suggested implementing service updates for DAR and Microtransit—covering breakdowns and interruptions—parallel to those used for local bus service, as the lack of such updates makes planning difficult.

Walter Woodward thanked the Board for stable pricing on DAR services amid high fuel costs. He raised issues with difficult booking procedures, early drop-offs that leave him waiting outside clinics, and delayed return pickups of up to two hours.

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

Fran Sereseres expressed uncertainties about Metrolink's decision to temporarily suspend the 9:11 a.m. train service at the Antelope Valley Lancaster station for seven weeks, a move the Board said was due to old and new, faulty equipment.

Charlotte Baxter mentioned that it has been difficult recently to book a ride for DAR services; she tried for two hours.

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

Anna Zarley, Assemblymember Lackey's district field representative, mentioned that this is Mr. Lackey's final year in office. The assemblymember's team is keeping an eye on three bills, with two being especially important because they focus on transportation: AB 2552 (Transportation Mitigation), which addresses the impacts of transportation

projects, and AB 128 (a Budget Committee Bill) that gives Caltrans more flexibility in funding the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). There was also a brief discussion about poor communication with Caltrans regarding the operational failure on the Antelope Valley (14) Freeway.

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

Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented the January Operator of the Month award to Jamie Monteil and the February award to Kristy Harris.

SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Quality Assurance Manager Amalia Rodriguez presented the Operator of the Month award to Sanuuese Fuifui.

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

Mr. Minasyan presented the report, followed by Board questions about complaint handling. Director of Operations and Planning Tisha Lane explained AVTA's process: they investigate complaints, assess validity, and follow up with passengers. She noted no complaints about booking rides three days in advance but will investigate. The Board emphasized that they define valid complaints, encouraged formal submissions, and assured all feedback is valued.

SRP 6 LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATE FOR MARCH 2026

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry reported several important transportation planning and funding updates: Proposed state Assembly and Senate bills; correction to AB 1783; new programs for disadvantaged communities using CalEnviroScreen; progress on high-speed rail; an ongoing USDOT vs. CARB lawsuit over regulations; federal excise tax changes; SCAG's regional resilience toolkit; Los Angeles Metro's Fiscal Year 2027 formula allocation; delayed federal funding data for Fiscal Year 2026, causing uncertainty; and no FTA timeline for Fiscal Year 2027 budget planning.

SRP 7 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Operations and Contracts Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez presented the report. The Board inquired about the use of AI technology in evaluating the report and whether its implementation could be considered for future reporting processes.

SRP 8 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented the report. The Board addressed concerns about the passenger drop-off area and acknowledged MV Transportation's progress on operator conduct and reduced passenger pass-ups.

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 FEBRUARY 24, 2026
Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2026.

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026
Receive and file the Financial Report for February 2026.

CC 3 FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY 2026) LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026
Receive and file the FY 2025/2026 (FY 2026) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for February 2026.

CC 4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG
Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for (February 11 through March 11, 2026).

CC 5 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.

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, Malhi, Royal
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 CONSIDERATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL VACANCIES, 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 Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, 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, Loa, Malhi, Royal
Abstain: None
Absent: None

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):


RA 1 REPORT BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – JUDY VACCARO-FRY

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry stated the Executive Director/CEO is on vacation and reminded the Board about the April 25, 2026, Antelope Valley College Foundation Wine Walk.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on April 28, 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 28th day of APRIL 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 a recording.