Antelope Valley Transit Authority

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

Vice-Chair Knippel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present
Chairman Marvin Crist
Vice-Chair Dianne Knippel
Director Loa
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 Royal, the Board of Directors approved moving the Board Comments and Presentation to the beginning of the meeting and approved the agenda as presented.

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND PRESENTATION:

Marketing Director James Royal and Clerk of the Board/Executive Assistant DeeAnna Cason presented an award to Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins on behalf of AVTA's Board and Staff, recognizing his 40 years of service in transportation.

AVTA Board Director Richard Loa, Thomas Moreno (representing Congressman George Whitesides, Senator Suzette Martinez Valladares, Assemblymember Tom Lackey), Isla Garcia (representing Assemblymember Juan Carrillo), Chuck Bostwick (representing County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisor Kathryn Barger), Trolis Niebla, Lancaster City Manager, Drew Mercy, AV EDGE Executive Director, and others acknowledged Mr. Tompkins for his 40 years of service. Mr. Tompkins was very appreciative of being honored and thanked everyone for their support, and his family for attending.

PUBLIC BUSINESS – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Charlotte Baxter noted discrepancies between the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) app and the actual service time (e.g., showing 10:00 a.m. while the scheduled time was 9:42 a.m.) long wait estimates, and raised concerns about late arrivals. She also mentioned that the app's map tracking showed drivers taking circuitous routes, leading to delays, and one of her trips was over 22 minutes late in May. Ms. Baxter has not received a follow-up call about these issues. She also wanted to thank the drivers who do a great job, but the app needs improvement.

Fran Sereseres expressed her appreciation for the DAR service following her attendance at a meeting held at the soccer field. Upon noticing the gates closing, she recognized that she had miscalculated her designated pickup time and promptly contacted the service for confirmation. The DAR team responded efficiently, ensuring her timely transportation.

Timothy McLaughlin requested the removal or retraining of a Dial-A-Ride driver after a prior incident in which his wheelchair was not properly secured during transport. He also recounted an incident where a driver ignored his clear turning instructions on his property and responded disrespectfully. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he will not tolerate any disrespect from anybody on his property and issued a direct and explicit threat of violence. He stated that if drivers continue to disregard his instructions on his property, he will "start busting them in the mouth." He framed this not as a threat, but as a "guaranteed promise." Chairman Crist responded that he was putting him in a bad position, because you cannot threaten violence against the drivers. who are doing their job. The Chairman requested that AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan address the issues.

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 necessary from the Board with regard to the following item(s).**

SRP 1 SPECIAL REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE

Thomas Moreno, District Representative for Senator Suzette Martinez Valladares, updated the Board on legislative progress. Most bills from the House are in Assembly committees. SB 1080, County clerk: certification of records: signature, was signed by the Governor; it allows counties to verify signatures electronically, streamlining bureaucracy. No further updates at this time.

SRP 2 SPECIAL REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE

Rosalinda Ortega, Field Representative for Assemblymember Tom Lackey, indicated there were no updates to report at this time. The Chairman thanked her for attending and supporting the community.

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

MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty introduced Dispatch Manager Ebony Jones, who presented the award to Michael Craig.

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

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented the award to Husnain Naqvi.

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

Mr. Minasyan presented the report with no further questions.

SRP 6 LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATE FOR JUNE 2026

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented an update on key Assembly and Senate bills, the state budget, Cap-and-Invest program changes, and the High Desert Corridor project. She also covered CAL Enviroscreen, Caltrans allocations and agency funding, Equal Employment Opportunity streamlining, Service Transportation bill reauthorization, the Highway Trust Fund, and LA METRO Measure G, which would expand the LA County Board of Supervisors from five to nine.

SRP 7 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR MAY 2026

Operations and Contracts Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez presented the report.

SRP 8 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR MAY 2026

MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty presented the report with no further inquiries.

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 MAY 26, 2026
Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2026.

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY 2026
Receive and file the Financial Report for May 2026

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

CC 4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG
Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for May 13 through June 10, 2026.

CC 5 DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS (JULY – SEPTEMBER)
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 Director Loa and seconded by Alternate-Director Mac Laren, the Board of Directors approved item number CC 1, CC 2, CC 3, CC 4, and CC 5, as comprised, and pulled item CC 6 for further discussion.

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

CC 6 FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES FOR SUMMER 2027, INCLUDING PUBLIC FEEDBACK

The Board of Directors:

1. Review Public Feedback on the Proposed Service Changes; and
2. Schedule a public hearing to receive comments on the Proposed Service Changes at the July 28, 2026, Board meeting.

Planning Manager Geraldina Romo summarized the proposed service changes as adjusting service hours, increasing efficiency, and proactively addressing expected contract rate increases. Community outreach, including multiple town council meetings, was conducted to gather feedback. Director Loa noted significant concerns from Palmdale residents and questioned ongoing community input. Ms. Romo stated that AVTA is recommending holding a public hearing on July 28, 2026, Board meeting to gather further passenger feedback.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Knippel and seconded by Alternate-Director Mac Laren, the Board of Directors approved item number CC 6 with two accompanying recommendations: 1) Review public feedback on the proposed service changes; and 2) Schedule a public hearing to receive comments at the July 28, 2026, Board meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 FINANCE UPDATE - JUDY VACCARO-FRY

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented the report with no further questions.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Knippel, seconded by Director Malhi, the Board of Directors approved to receive and file the Finance Update.

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

NB 2 TITLE VI PROGRAM UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEARS (FY) 2026/2027, 2027/2028, 2028/2029

Planning Manager Geraldina Romo presented the report with no further questions.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Knippel, seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved AVTA's Title VI Program Update for FY 2026/2027 through FY 2028/2029 as required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and adopted Resolution No. 2026-002, adopting AVTA's Title VI Program Update.

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

NB 3 REVISED VACATION BENEFITS POLICY - MAXIMUM ACCRUAL -

Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins presented the report with no further questions.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Knippel, seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved the revised Vacation Benefits Policy (Attachment A).

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

NB 4 FTA DRUG & ALCOHOL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

Director of Operations and Planning Tisha Lane was prepared to present the report, and the Board complimented her on the report's compliance. Martin Tompkins congratulated Ms. Lane, the team, and the AVTA staff on the first FTA Drug & Alcohol Program audit.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Knippel, seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved to receive and file this report confirming that Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) is in full compliance with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Drug and Alcohol Testing Program, as required under 49 CFR Part 655 and 49 CFR Part 40.

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

CLOSED SESSION (CS):

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)

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 10:58 a.m.

RECONVENED TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to Public Session at 11:12 a.m.

REPORT BY LEGAL COUNSEL OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel Allison Burns stated that the Board had discussed CS 2 and gave directions to staff and legal counsel. There was no reportable action.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

The Board complimented Martin Tompkins on his 40 years of service in transportation and his great leadership and thanked his family and representatives for attending.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on July 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 JULY 2026.

Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

DeeAnna Cason

DeeAnna Cason, Clerk of the Board/Executive Assistant

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/Executive Assistant, at (661) 729-2206 to arrange a review of the recording.