Antelope Valley Transit Authority

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, July 28, 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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Malhi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present
Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice-Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Richard Loa, Director Raj Malhi, Director Michelle Royal, Alternate-Director Kathryn Mac Laren

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Director Loa 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 Loa, Malhi, Royal, Alternate-Director Mac Laren
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

PUBLIC BUSINESS – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Dwight Schneider expressed worries about the potential for severe flooding in Lake Los Angeles when the super El Niño is expected to occur in the fall. He noted that, while all the roads had been repaired following the previous flood, the upcoming weather event could pose significant challenges for the community. Another topic he raised was an issue reported by a female rider. She spoke with Dwight about an incident involving a male driver. Mr. Schneider highlighted the importance of addressing rider concerns and ensuring safety. He also pointed out the necessity for more accurate information in the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) app. He encouraged everyone present to take two round-trip rides using the app—one with microtransit and one with DAR. He emphasized these experiences would demonstrate the need for app upgrades to improve functionality and reliability.

Fran Sereseres warned about the heat and noted the county is distributing individual air conditioners, possibly at senior centers, and recommended checking on neighbors and dog walkers.

Timothy McLaughlin expressed his gratitude to the drivers.

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 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 OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE 2026

MV Transportation Dispatch Manager Ebony Jones presented the award to Debra Williams.

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

Quality Assurance Manager Amalia Rodriguez presented the award to Rene Morales Ramirez.

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

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented the report with no further questions.

SRP 6 LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATE FOR JULY 2026

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry provided an overview of significant Assembly and Senate bills as well as key points from the state budget act. Federal updates covered topics such as the Office of Management and Budget, the Surface Transportation Bill, and funding opportunities. Regional updates included Transportation Development Credits and details regarding the Metrolink timeline, future services, and budget considerations.

SRP 7 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR JUNE 2026

Operations and Contracts Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez delivered the report. The Board asked whether any other agency in the industry had achieved 20 million miles. Mr. Sanchez responded, confirming that our agency is unique in operating exclusively electric vehicles.

SRP 8 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR JUNE 2026

MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty presented the report. The Board inquired about passenger injuries.

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 JUNE 23, 2026
Recommendation: Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2026.

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE 2026
Recommendation: Receive and file the Financial Report for June 2026.

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

CC 4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG
Recommendation: Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for June 11 through July 8, 2026.

CC 5 LA COUNTY RENEWAL OF LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING – JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2027, TRANSIT LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director/CEO to renew the Letter of Understanding with the LASD for transit law enforcement services for July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027, as outlined in the letter to Sheriff Robert Luna.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING (PH):

PH 1 PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES FOR JULY 1, 2027

Chairman Crist opened the public hearing for the proposed service changes. Planning Manager Geraldina Romo presented the report. No public comments were received, and the public hearing was closed.

On a motion by Alternate-Director Mac Laren and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved the final recommendation on the proposed service changes for July 1, 2027.

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

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 CONTRACT #2026-10 TO BROWN ARMSTRONG ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION, FOR CPA FINANCIAL AUDITING SERVICES

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 Authorize the Executive Director/CEO to execute Contract #2026-10 for CPA financial auditing services to Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation, Bakersfield, CA, for three years with two one-year optional renewal periods.

Vote:	Motion carried (6-0-0-0)
Yeas:	Chairman Crist, Vice-Chair Knippel, Directors 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 10:45 a.m.

RECONVENED TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to Public Session at 11:00 a.m.

REPORT BY LEGAL COUNSEL OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel Allison Burns stated that the Board had discussed CS 1 and CS 2 and gave directions to staff and legal counsel. There was no reportable action.

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO MARTIN TOMPKINS

Mr. Tompkins provided a summary of the fare evasion meeting held with school districts, Los Angels Sheriff Department both Palmdale and Lancaster stations, and the Lancaster Police Department. He noted that shared data indicated positive results for both local and commuter lines. However, several behavioral and training concerns were identified and need to be addressed. Many students are not tapping their GoPass cards when boarding buses, and they often enter through the rear door if both doors are open, which prevents an accurate headcount. Additionally, the "Fare Evasion" button on the farebox is often selected in error instead of the "GoPass" button, distorting fare evasion statistics. Antelope Valley Union High School requested photos or videos of offenders to help identify students and involve parents. The primary focus will now be collaborating with high schools and LA Metro to organize travel training assemblies to improve rider behavior, encourage proper card usage, enforce no rear-door entry, ensure correct farebox button selection, reach out to Palmdale Aerospace Academy schools to address student conduct reported by the Palmdale Sheriff's department, and provide joint training by staff and school officials at schools, bus stops, and transit centers.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

There were no reports or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on August 25, 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 25th day of AUGUST 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.