



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, August 25, 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 Royal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present

Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice-Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Richard Loa, Director Raj Malhi, Director Michelle Royal

Absent

Director Eric Ohlsen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Vote: Motion carried (5-0-0-1)

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice-Chair Knippel, Directors Loa, Malhi, Royal

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Director Ohlsen

PUBLIC BUSINESS – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Dwight Schneider stated that at the previous board meeting, he challenged board members to take a ride on Dial-a-Ride (DAR) and Microtransit using the app. He stated, "The only way to know how it works is to see for yourself and see how awkward it is."

Charlotte Baxter thanked the AV Transportation Services (AVTS) staff and drivers for doing a great job assisting her in the past month and noted that the numbers on the side of the vans are easy for passengers to read. She also mentioned that she prefers gas-powered vehicles over electric vehicles in hot weather. In addition, she mentioned that DAR needs more drivers and more vehicles due to high demand.

Jay F. Gypsy criticized local transit operations and called for addressing persistent bus delays. Drawing on personal travel delays between Lake LA and Palmdale, where the bus was running an hour late on an hour-long run, Mr. Gypsy outlined legal liability concerns, vehicle battery management issues, and specific modifications for local bus routes. Mr. Gypsy proposed a free-fare rule to waive all fares on any bus running 10 minutes or more behind schedule to expedite passenger boarding and keep the bus moving.

Timothy McLaughlin shared positive feedback about the AVTS team, who have been exceptionally helpful.

David Abber, a regular bus rider, recently faced several issues that staff resolved quickly. He shared an experience with a verbally abusive passenger who was initially not allowed to board because of not having a spill-proof container for their drink but later got on the bus and broke rules by smoking. Mr. Abber suggested stronger security measures and emphasized the importance of clear communication from bus operators about arrival times to enhance the overall passenger experience.

Fran Sereseres reported a recent incident she experienced on the Metrolink train. The train stopped in Acton due to police activity for approximately 30-40 minutes. The train then continued to Palmdale and instructed all the passengers to disembark; the reason given was that the engineer had reached their overtime limit. Vouchers were provided for passengers who could walk, but wheelchair users were told the next train would be in 2 to 2.5 hours. Ms. Sereseres' phone died, and she could not contact DAR, but an AVTA driver offered a ride to Lancaster via a longer, one-hour route; Ms. Sereseres praised the AVTA driver's helpfulness. The Board Chairman requested that Ms. Sereseres present a written account of the Metrolink incident, and he will present it at the North County Transportation Coalition (NCTC) board meeting to demand an explanation from Metrolink. Ms. Sereseres also mentioned that the last Metrolink train from Lancaster leaves at 6:11 a.m., with no service again until 12:11 p.m. The Chairman noted Metrolink reduced trains by 23% in Lancaster due to budget cuts, even though it is the second-most-used route.

The Chairman responded to the concerns regarding local services, pointing out that they run on a restricted budget and have a limited number of buses. The present operations are regarded as the most efficient and effective available. Fare prices remain low at \$1.50, with discounts for seniors and veterans. Although higher prices

might improve service, the Board is currently avoiding such increases. A 10-minute bus delay is often due to earlier incidents on the route, not solely the driver. The Chairman addressed Mr. Schneider's question about Board members using the DAR app to ride on the buses, noting that if everyone accepted the challenge, it would reduce resources for others in the community. The organization depends on public input to identify issues which are then discussed with the CEO.

SPECIAL REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR DIRECTION (SRP):

SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE

Thomas Moreno, District Representative for Senator Suzette Martinez Valladares introduced their new District Representative, Jennifer Lima, who presented an update on Assembly and Senate bills.

SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE

The representative was unable to attend.

SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO KAREN CONRAD, FIELD SERVICES SUPERVISOR, FOR 10 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE

Planning Manager Geraldina Romo presented the award to Field Services Supervisor Karen Conrad for 10 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Authority.

SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR JULY 2026

MV Transportation Dispatch Manager Ebony Jones presented the award to Carl Booker.

SRP 5 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR JULY 2026

Quality Assurance Manager Amalia Rodriguez presented the award to Patricia Rodriguez.

SRP 6 AVTS DIAL-A-RIDE AND MICROTRANSIT KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT FOR JULY 2026

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented the report, and the Board asked about the two safety complaints reported and what contributed to the reduction in rides.

SRP 7 LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATE FOR AUGUST 2026

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented a summary of key Assembly and Senate bills, with particular emphasis on AB-844, the Replacement Tire Efficiency Program. When the Board asked whether the bill applied to buses, Ms. Vaccaro-Fry said it might and would investigate further. She also discussed Grant Opportunities, CalEnviroScreen 5.0, Opportunity Zones, the Federal Fiscal Year 2027 Continuing Resolution, the FTA Online Tool Transit Moves America, the 21st Century Road to Housing Act, and several funding opportunities: 1) Low- or No-Emission Buses, 2) Bus and Bus Facilities Program, and 3) Bus Safety, Accessibility, and Innovation Program.

SRP 8 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR JULY 2026

Operations and Contracts Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez presented the report, and the Chairman inquired about the higher rate at the Dianne Knippel Center.

SRP 9 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR JULY 2026

MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty presented the report and was praised for the great job on improving the passenger pass-ups and overall improvement of the service.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2026

Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2026.

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY 2026 AND FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025/2026 FOURTH QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT

Receive and file the Financial Report for July 2026 and FY 2025/2026 Fourth-Quarter Treasurer's Report, including Capital Reserve and Farebox Recovery information.

CC 3 FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 (FY 2027) LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 2026

Receive and file the FY 2026/2027 (FY 2027) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for July 2026.

CC 4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG

Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for (July 9 through August 12, 2026).

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

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

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY26) FOURTH QUARTER CAPITAL RESERVE REPORT (APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 2026)

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry introduced the Capital Reserve Update and stated this will be incorporated as a quarterly CC item in the future.

On a motion by Director Loa and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved to receive and file the attached FY26 Fourth Quarter Capital Reserve Report for the period covering April 1 – June 30, 2026.

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

NB 2 INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

Director of Operations and Planning Tisha Lane presented the report, and there were no further questions.

On a motion by Director Royal and seconded by Vice-Chair Knippel, the Board of Directors approved the updated Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) for agency-wide implementation.

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

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented on behalf of Martin Tompkins and noted that he presented on a panel for SCAG; other presenters included Foothill and AC Transit. Martin's presentation covered the agency's journey to go green, our fleet, and what that looks like. Martin did an excellent job representing the agency.

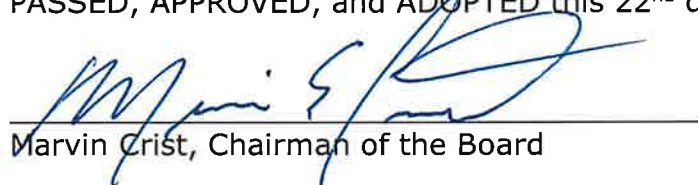
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

There were no reports or updates.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on September 22, 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 22nd day of SEPTEMBER 2026.



Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



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.