Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, September 22, 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 10:05 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Malhi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent
Director Richard Loa

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 (5-0-0-1)
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice-Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal, Alternate-Director Mac Laren
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Director Loa

PUBLIC BUSINESS – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Bruce Reichenbacher could not attend the meeting and emailed the Clerk of the Board his comments, which the Board members received, about AVTA bus service. His email stated that West Avenue K between 30th and 60th Street West has no service, and that the area between Avenue I and Avenue L West is also unserved. He contacted customer service to request bus service to 40th Street West and Avenue K, where new housing has been built, and suggested moving one route from Avenue I or L to Avenue K. He also noted that Avenue K and 42nd Street West have a sidewalk on the north side but not the south side; even providing westbound service would improve residents' access.

Jay F. Gypsy warned that proposed changes to bus routes 50/51 could prompt him to leave the area. He criticized full fares, poor route quality, safety concerns on the Lancaster side, and bus stops in Lake Los Angeles that are far from residents' homes: "It's closer to get to the store than it is to get to the bus." He cautioned that inadequate service and exposure to violence could eventually lead to a serious incident. Mr. Gypsy proposed an hourly express and local loop connecting Owen Memorial Park, Lake Los Angeles, and Palmdale. When the Board asked whether his remarks constituted a threat, he clarified, "Oh no, it was a representation."

Walter Woodward thanked the Board and staff for their great work. He wanted to acknowledge Amalia Rodriguez for assisting him when he needed it and thanked the AV Transportation Services (AVTS) staff for all that they do.

David Abber thanked the AVTA staff for their assistance and said that last month one of the drivers caused a safety issue while driving, emphasizing how important safety is. He also proposed that drivers should get tips.

Dwight Schneider described a cascade of failures originating directly from the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) and Microtransit app, making the service unreliable and impractical. Key failures include scheduling and routing inaccuracies, operational inefficiency, and billing errors. About two years ago, he explicitly requested basic, high-value communication features in the app, such as "call me, I'm ready for pickup." These features, which would directly solve the pickup inefficiency problem, have not been implemented; he has raised concerns about the app at Board meetings and in emails and wants to know how they will be resolved. Also, Route 50 passes right by his home; however, the bus stops are two miles away in either direction, and he has requested that a bus stop be added at 130th Street East.

Timothy McLaughlin thanked the AVTS staff and drivers for their respect, professionalism, and support.

Fran Sereseres expressed her deep appreciation for DAR services and the AVTS drivers and staff, and she enjoys coming to board meetings. The Chairman asked about her letter to Metrolink, as he needs it for the October hearing. He emphasized the importance of rider feedback in evaluating service quality, identifying problems, and determining what is working well. The annual TDA Article 8 hearing was also noted as a formal process for gathering riders' needs.

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

SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE

Thomas Moreno, representing Senator Suzette Valladares, reported that the district secured more than $10 million through trailer budget bills, including $1.3 million for the Antelope Valley, with support from Assemblymembers Tom Lackey, Juan Carrillo, and John Harabedian. The Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Unified School District also received $75,000 for clean-drinking-water infrastructure. The Senator's team continues engaging with the district by honoring community leaders and organizations, including five Hispanic leaders during Hispanic Heritage Month and Kids Feeding Kids as nonprofit of the month. The Board thanked the Senator for supporting law enforcement and remaining active in the community.

SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE

Anna Zarley reported that the Antelope Valley Freeway is nearing completion. The Assemblymember, who is termed out this Year, is having a successful year. The Governor signed Gabriel's Law (AB 2304), which concerns social workers. Assemblymember Tom Lackey and Senator Valladares' office secured $20,000 for the LASD VIDA program in Lancaster and Palmdale. Assemblymember Tom Lackey, John Harabedian, and Senator Suzette Valladares also secured funding for the city of Hesperia and its Parks and Recreation Department following last Year's flooding.

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

MV Transportation Dispatch Manager Ebony Jones presented the award to Gerardo Cortez.

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

Quality Assurance Manager Amalia Rodriguez presented the award to Sandra Tovar.

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

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented the report and noted that AVTS had successfully conducted a secret-rider program several years ago. The company continues to assess service quality through multiple methods, carefully considers all feedback, and uses it to guide improvements in collaboration with AVTA. He also acknowledged that evaluations by known individuals would be ineffective because they might receive different treatment.

SRP 6 LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry presented a legislative update covering Assembly and Senate bills. She highlighted AB 113, the Budget Bill Jr., which would authorize several appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 state budget. The bill appropriates $230 million for the zero-emission transit capital program, thereby fully honoring the state's commitment under SB 125 for that fiscal Year.

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry thanked legislators, including Assemblymember Tom Lackey, Senator Suzette Valladares, and Congressman Whitesides, for submitting the requested support letters. She will provide a detailed review of AB 1820, concerning electric vehicle charging station permit fees, at next month's meeting. The Chairman asked about the bill and requested that the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) be informed.

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry also reported that Operations and Contracts Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez has been appointed to two California Transit Association (CTA) committees: Operations and Fleet Maintenance and Zero-Emission Transition. She was also appointed to the newly consolidated California Transit Association Legislative Committee, which addresses state and federal matters.

The FTA ICAM grant application was submitted to the Federal Transit Administration's Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Pilot Program. Additional updates addressed the Clean Air Act waiver, NEPA implementation, the regional CAP and Invest Funding Opportunity, FY 2027 Visionary Seed Fund, and a systemwide recap of average ridership by World Cup game.

SRP 7 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR AUGUST 2026

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

SRP 8 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR AUGUST 2026

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

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2026
Recommendation: Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2026.

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

CC 3 FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 (FY 2027) LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2026
Recommendation: Receive and file the FY 2026/2027 (FY 2027) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for August 2026.

CC 4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG
Recommendation: Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for (August 13 through September 9, 2026).

CC 5 DESTRUCTION OF AVTA RECORDS
Recommendation: 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 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 Malhi, Royal, Alternate-Director Mac Laren
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Director Loa

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 SENATOR VALLADARES' BUDGET/GRANT AWARD

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry announced that AVTA received a $250,000 grant secured by Senator Suzette Valladares through the 2026 Budget Act. The funding will convert electrical infrastructure from A/C to D/C power for electric vehicle charging. Vice-Chair Knippel thanked the Senator and noted that the bill also provided Antelope Valley College with $200,000 to help rebuild its sports complex.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved to accept, receive, and file the Budget Award Update.

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

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 11:04 a.m.

RECONVENED TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened the Public Session at 11:49 a.m.

REPORT BY LEGAL COUNSEL OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

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

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO MARTIN TOMPKINS

Mr. Tompkins provided a brief solar farm timeline update, congratulated the Chairman on receiving the AVAQMD Pete Knight Achievement in Reducing Emissions (AIRE) award, noted his top 25 finish at the Lancaster Car Show, and mentioned the Raiders' 2–0 record.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

There were no reports or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on October 27, 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 27th day of OCTOBER 2026.

Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

D 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.