



Antelope Valley Transit Authority

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

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

Vice Chair Knippel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present

Chairman Marvin Crist
Vice Chair Dianne Knippel
Director Raj Malhi
Director Michelle Royal

Absent

Director Eric Ohlsen
Palmdale Member

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel, seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved the agenda as comprised.

Vote: Motion carried (4-0-0-2)
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Director Eric Ohlsen, Palmdale Member

PUBLIC BUSINESS – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Josiah Blakeney raised concerns about the removal of the "Everybody Rides" policy due to fiscal losses, stating that AVTA has a spending issue rather than a loss from fare evasion, and suggested reconsidering those decisions and eliminating local transit fares to enhance service and increase customer satisfaction.

Jesse Blakeney questions the feasibility of fare enforcement given resource constraints. Bus routes are essential for people facing challenges such as homelessness, license issues, and difficulties managing personal items. Strict enforcement could lead to more confrontations and safety risks for the operators. Mr. Blakeney suggested reassessing fare enforcement and considering community needs.

Fran Sereseres thanked the Board, staff, and attendees for their efforts and reminded everyone to prioritize children's safety during Halloween.

Walter Woodward expressed gratitude to Dial-A-Ride (DAR) for accommodating his specific needs. Without DAR, these healthcare activities would not have been possible. He also praised the drivers and dispatch for their outstanding performance and demeanor, noting they are friendly, professional, and warm. Mr. Woodward also expressed appreciation to the Chairman, Vice Chair, Directors, and staff members.

Charlotte Baxter stated the charging station at Sierra Highway and J8 is currently non-operational and has been out of service for over a month due to copper wire theft, causing charging issues for vehicles. DAR drivers are commended for their politeness and courteous behavior on the road.

Timothy McLaughlin complimented the DAR drivers and staff for going above and beyond. He mentioned elevated concerns about public safety due to the government's food stamp lockdown targeting vulnerable shoppers for theft.

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

SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE

Jack Danielson, field representative for State Senator Valladares, introduced the new intern, Elston Stephenson, and expressed gratitude to Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins and staff for hosting the Senator's visit on October 8. The visit provided an opportunity to observe AVTA's operations, discuss its future needs, and collaborate with AVTA to draft advocacy letters to secure operating funds. The Senator's office conducts "Fix it Friday" three times a month to assist constituents with state agency issues. The next event is scheduled for November 12 at Jack's Place, located in Leona Valley, and a special thanks to Director Michelle Royal for securing the venue.

SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE

The representative was unable to attend.

SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION OPERATOR MELISSA GONZALEZ FOR GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Operator Melissa Gonzalez was unable to attend. This item will be presented at the November board meeting.

SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented Nicholas Buelna with the Operator of the Month award.

SRP 5 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented Jason Payne with the Operator of the Month award.

SRP 6 AVTS MICROTRANSIT AND DIAL-A-RIDE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented the report.

SRP 7 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2025

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry provided an update covering both state and federal matters. Key topics include the status of California state bills, a federal government shutdown, a new federal ruling affecting Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders who are non-permanent residents, and an E-bus recall regarding certain New Flyer and Motor Coach Industries (MCI) buses for battery fires; it does not affect AVTA's current fleet. The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) is proposing to amend its drug-testing program regulation to add fentanyl and norfentanyl to its drug testing panels for safety-sensitive employees.

SRP 8 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Operations and Contracts Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez presented the report.

SRP 9 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty summarizes the September report, which covers ridership, safety, complaints, and on-time performance. The Board questioned the three incidents of unsafe driving. Mr. Moriarty addressed each incident: an operator made a false start at an intersection light; the second involved an operator who made a lane change to avoid an accident; and the third involved an operator who failed to reduce speed approaching the intersection and made a hard break. Mr. Moriarty introduced the new Maintenance Manager, Logan Brenden.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2025.

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

Receive and file the Financial Report for September 2025.

CC 3 FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY 2026) LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT (SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025)

Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 (FY 2026) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for (September 1 through September 30, 2025).

CC 4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG

Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for (September 10 through October 15, 2025).

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

Vote: Motion carried (4-0-0-2)

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

Abstain: None

Absent: Director Eric Ohlsen, Palmdale Member

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 REVISED ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY FOR SAFETY-SENSITIVE EMPLOYEES

Human Resources and EEO Manager Amber Johnson presented the report.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors Adopt Resolution No. 2025-006 (Attachment A), adopting the Authority's Revised Drug and Alcohol Policy for Safety-Sensitive Employees. Once approved, the revised policy will be distributed to affected employees and implemented with appropriate training and communication provided.

Vote: Motion carried (4-0-0-2)
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Malhi, Royal
Abstain: None
Absent: Director Eric Ohlsen, Palmdale Member

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO MARTIN TOMPKINS

Mr. Tompkins provided an update on the fare evasion enforcement plan. On October 30, he will be out on the platform with the Lancaster Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Maselli. Citations are expected to be issued the following week after receiving the Metro tablets to check TAP cards for compliance.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

There were no reports or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on November 25, 2025, 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 NOVEMBER 2025.



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, Board Clerk, at (661) 729-2232 to arrange a review of the recording.