



Antelope Valley Transit Authority

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, February 25, 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 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Director Ohlsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present

Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Eric Ohlsen, 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 Ohlsen, the Board of Directors approved the agenda as comprised.

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Mac Laren

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC BUSINESS– AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Fran Sereseres spoke about Metro's On the Move Riders Program.

Thomas Aguinaga thanked Customer Service Representative Mindy Mesec for helping him get home. He also raised concerns about fare evasion and the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) service taking him to the wrong location. Chairman Crist directed Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins to instruct staff to take extra time when assisting Mr. Aguinaga with his transportation services.

Charlotte Baxter voiced concerns about the operators fastening the yellow safety belts in the DAR vans incorrectly and needing them to stop closer to the curb to allow for easier ramp deployment. She suggested adding a safety strap for passengers to hold on to. Chairman Crist directed Mr. Tompkins to send a memo to all operators regarding the importance of securing the passengers' safety belts.

Dwight Schneider spoke positively about the recent improvements to the DAR services and app. He suggested upgrading the DAR app to include a feature that notifies passengers when their trip will not arrive within the scheduled window and adding a button that allows drivers to contact passengers directly. Mr. Schneider inquired if the On-Request Microtransit Service could go directly to the Metrolink stations.

Tim McLaughlin thanked the DAR operators and staff for providing him with excellent customer service. He believes the EV vans take too long to charge, and the middle seat should be removed.

Milcah White spoke about discourteous DAR operators, issues with the app, and adjusting the Metrolink schedule on holidays.

Walter Woodward spoke about passengers having difficulty passing wheelchairs when they obstruct the aisle, the seat belts in the rear of the vans, and delayed arrival procedures (bumping).

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

SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE

Jack Danielson, State Senator Valladares' field representative, reported that Senator Valladares was appointed to the Transportation Committee.

SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE

The representative was unable to attend.

SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO AVTA EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2025

Safety and Facilities Manager Sean Elmore presented Marcus Dorris, Facilities Maintenance Technician I, with the Employee of the Month award.

SRP 4 PRESENTATION TO MV TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE AND OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2025

MV Transportation General Manager Thomas Conlon presented Erma Joyce with the Operator of the Month award and recognized Sandra Ortiz as the Employee of the Month, who was unable to attend the meeting.

SRP 5 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2025

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented Brian Petterson with the Employee of the Month award.

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

Mr. Minasyan presented the report. He acknowledged the concerns mentioned by the speakers. He will be working with VIA on improving the DAR app. Chairman Crist stated that changes need to be made to the delayed arrival procedures (bumping). Mr. Minasyan suggested that passengers book the ride according to their drop-off time instead of their pickup time. He will direct the dispatchers to educate the passengers.

SRP 7 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry reported on the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee informational hearing held on February 6, 2025, various state legislation bills, new appointments to the California Air Resources Board and California Transportation Commission, FFY 2024/2025 continuing resolution, the nomination of Marcus Molinaro as the next administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, and the swearing in of Sean P. Duffy as the Secretary of Transportation, whose first act was signing a memorandum to reset the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. This reset will reduce fuel standards that have increased car costs and eliminate the electric vehicle mandate. Ms. Vaccaro-Fry clarified the impact of the CAFE standards on AVTA.

SRP 8 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR JANUARY 2025

Maintenance Compliance Analyst Joseph Sanchez presented the report.

SRP 9 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR JANUARY 2025

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented the report, adding that staff is monitoring the rise in passenger pass-ups and enforcing disciplinary actions when needed. Ms. Maxie detailed the complaint regarding the unsafe driving incident.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2025

Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2025.

CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2025 AND FY 2025 SECOND QUARTER TREASURER AND CAPITAL RESERVE REPORT

Receive and file the Financial Report for January 2025 and the FY 2025 Second Quarter Treasurer and Capital Reserve Report.

CC 3 AMEND AUTHORITY'S CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE

Approve amending the Authority's Classification and Salary Schedule to reclassify the Director of Operations and Maintenance to Director of Operations and Planning.

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

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Mac Laren

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO CONTRACT #2021-52 WITH MV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC. FOR ONGOING FIXED-ROUTE SERVICES

Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins presented the report.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Malhi, the Board of Directors approved Amendment No. 3 to Contract #2021-52 with MV Transportation Services, Inc. for ongoing fixed-route services.

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

Yeas: Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Mac Laren

Nays: Chairman Crist

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NB 2 FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 (FY 2025) MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. Vaccaro-Fry presented the staff report. The Board discussed the revised revenues and expenses compared to the original budgeted revenues and expenses.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Malhi, the Board of Directors approved the proposed FY 2025 Mid-Year Budget adjustments.

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Mac Laren

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO MARTIN TOMPKINS

Mr. Tompkins announced that Tisha Lane was promoted to Director of Operations and Planning, and Joseph Sanchez was promoted to Operations and Contract Compliance Manager.

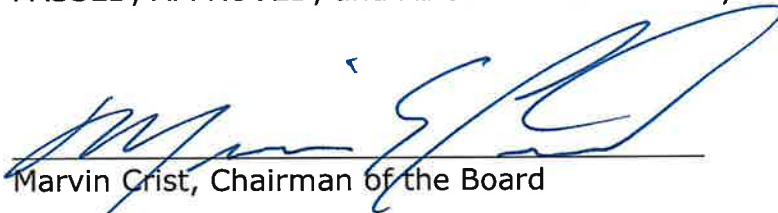
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

No miscellaneous business items were presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m. to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on March 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 MARCH 2025.



Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



DeeAnna Cason, 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 Karen Darr, Clerk of the Board, at (661) 729-2206 to arrange to review a recording.