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**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Tuesday, July 22, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room

42210 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, California

[www.avta.com](http://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:**

Chairman Marvin Crist, Vice Chair Dianne Knippel, Director Eric Ohlsen, Director Michelle Royal, Alternate Director Laura Bettencourt, Alternate Director Lauren Hughes-Leslie

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Royal, Alternate Directors Bettencourt, Hughes-Leslie

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**PUBLIC BUSINESS– AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:**

Carlos Lopez, Customer Service Manager, spoke on behalf of Thomas Aguinaga and expressed his concern about the equipment for the local bus service not functioning correctly, as well as experiencing negative issues with the Dial-a-Ride (DAR) reservation department.

Walter Woodward mentioned that the delays in rides have improved; however, operators are still not providing updates on their arrival times, and there was a delay in service when a customer did not have the correct change to pay for the ride.

Timothy McLaughlin observed concerns regarding the need to make a reservation, experiencing a 15-minute wait to reach an operator, and commended the drivers for their excellent performance.

Charlotte Baxter complimented the DAR drivers and staff for their services and the route five operator for his assistance.

Fran Sereseres expressed gratitude to the board members, AVTA, and AVTS staff for their dedicated services.

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

#### **SRP 1 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR SUZETTE VALLADARES' OFFICE**

Jack Danielson, State Senator Valladares' field representative, stated that the legislature is on recess and will return on August 18, and provided an update on SB 296, as amended, by Archuleta. Property taxation: the exemption for disabled veteran homeowners is on the Assembly suspense file and will be heard again next year, SB 571, as amended, by Archuleta. Emergencies: Crimes are back on the assembly agenda and are scheduled to be heard in December. They are finalizing the details for their open house and will send out invitations. The Chairman stated that Senator Suzette Valladares should be present at the meeting.

#### **SRP 2 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER TOM LACKEY'S OFFICE**

Assemblymember Tom Lackey addressed fiscal challenges, transportation funding issues, and the importance of political collaboration. Key topics included budgetary discipline, the viability of the high-speed rail project, the introduction of the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) funding mechanism, and the need for nonpartisan cooperation. The discussion also highlighted risks, including budget imbalances, uncertain transportation investments, and the potential burden of the proposed VMT tax on suburban and rural communities. Assemblymember Lackey emphasized the significance of public transportation, noting its critical role in our culture, and mentioning that his district spans over 18,000 square miles.

Director Ohlsen replied to Assemblymember Lackey's remarks about the High-Speed Rail project, emphasizing that voter approval mandates legislative action. He noted delays increase costs. Lackey countered, highlighting the project's enormous expense.

**SRP 3 PRESENTATION TO CECIL FOUST, DIRECTOR OF CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT, FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins presented the award to Cecil Foust, Director of Contracts and Procurement, in recognition of 15 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Authority.

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

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented Antwan Moore with the Operator of the Month award.

**SRP 5 PRESENTATION TO AV TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (AVTS) OPERATOR OF THE MONTH FOR MAY AND JUNE 2025**

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented Luis De La Torre with the Operator of the Month award for May and Hilda Valencia with the Operator of the Month award for June.

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

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented the report. The Chairman requested that Mr. Minasyan address the complaints received from the speakers.

**SRP 7 LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR JULY 2025**

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry provided an update on the state's pending bills for the Assembly and Senate, including AB 1089, the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act, AB 1250, paratransit: recertification of eligibility, upcoming California Air Resources Board (CARB) hearings, NEPA regulations, FY 2026 federal Appropriations, Secretary Duffy's letter to all recipients of U.S. DOT funding, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors has unanimously elected Supervisor Barger as second vice chair. Director Ohlsen stated that it is unfortunate that the cost overrun of the High-Speed Rail is concerning.

**SRP 8 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR JUNE 2025**

Operations Contract Compliance Manager Joseph Sanchez presented the report, stating that the Authority is currently billed at summer rates.

**SRP 9 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR JUNE 2025**

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented the report. The board discussed on-time performance and complimented the fact they had only one passenger pass-up; however, the number of discourteous operators is increasing. MV stated they are monitoring the operators and need to make some schedule changes to improve oversight.

**CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):**

**CC 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2025**

Approve the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2025.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved item number CC 1 as comprised, by the following vote:

Vote: Motion carried (4-0-2-0)  
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Royal  
Nays: None  
Abstain: Alternate Directors Bettencourt, Hughes-Leslie  
Absent: None

**CC 2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE 2025**

Receive and file the Financial Report for June 2025.

**CC 3 FY 2025 FOURTH QUARTER LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (LASD) REPORT (APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2025)**

Receive and file the FY 2025 Fourth Quarter Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Report for the period covering April 1 through June 30, 2025.

**CC 4 AMEND AUTHORITY'S CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE TO RECLASSIFY RECORDS MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT POSITION INTO ONE POSITION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/RECORDS MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN**

Approve amending the Authority's Classification and Salary Schedule to reclassify the Records Management Technician and Executive Assistant position into one position, Executive Assistant/Records Management Technician.

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel and seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approved items number CC 2, CC 3, and CC 4 as comprised by the following vote:

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)  
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Royal,  
Alternate Directors Bettencourt, Hughes-Leslie  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

### **NEW BUSINESS (NB):**

#### **NB 1 AMEND THE PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL**

Human Resource and EEO Manager Amber Johnson presented the report.

On a motion by Director Royal and seconded by Alternate Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors Adopt Resolution No. 2025-003 (Attachment A), updating the Authority's Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual. Once approved, the updated manual will be distributed to all employees and implemented, accompanied by appropriate training and communication.

Vote: Motion carried (6-0-0-0)  
Yeas: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Royal,  
Alternate Directors Bettencourt, Hughes-Leslie  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

### **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):**

#### **RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO**

There were no reports or announcements.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:**

Alternate Director Hughes-Leslie complimented the team on their presentations and encouraged them to keep striving for excellence.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

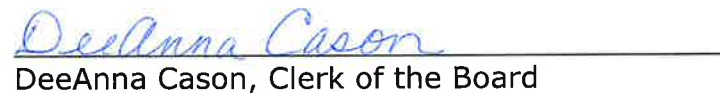
Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on August 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room, 42210 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST 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.