



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**Tuesday, November 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 10:02 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Ohlsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:Present

Chairman Marvin Crist
Vice Chair Dianne Knippel
Director Raj Malhi
Director Michelle Royal
Director Eric Ohlsen
Alternate Director Laura Bettencourt

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Yea: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal,
Alternate Director Bettencourt

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC BUSINESS – AGENDIZED AND NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS:

Christopher Nordahl, an AV Transportation Services (AVTS) driver, reported to the Board that drivers are missing their 10-minute breaks and unpaid 30-minute meal periods due to issues with charging electric vans. He also mentioned that the air conditioning in the Lake Los Angeles break room has been broken for weeks, causing a heat stroke incident. These problems have been reported to AVTS Human Resources, the California Labor Commissioner, and Cal/OSHA. Mr. Nordahl urged the AVTA Board to direct AVTS to resolve these issues. Chairman Crist asked Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins to address AVTA's expectations with AVTS.

Eugene Hernandez called attention to the lack of bus benches and shelters in the Antelope Valley, exposing riders to extreme weather. He also questioned the impact of fare evasion, suggesting it wouldn't bankrupt the transit authority, and advocated free public transportation for all residents.

Timothy McLaughlin thanked the AV Transportation Services staff and addressed bus benches, noting they aren't needed everywhere. He advised wearing appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.

Fran Sereseres stated that she loves her job working with the city, and says payment comes in the form of smiles, and wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

SRP 1 Jack Danielson, a field representative for State Senator Valladares, announced that the legislature will reconvene on January 5, 2026. He also mentioned that the deadline to introduce new legislation is February 20. Legislative updates, including the latest legislative package for the year, will be shared in January and February, and we look forward to working with Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry.

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

Executive Director/CEO Martin Tompkins and MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty presented the Above and Beyond award to Operator Melissa Gonzalez.

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

MV Transportation Assistant General Manager Genie Maxie presented Ana Galeno with the Operator of the Month award.

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

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented Fernando Maldonado Diaz with the Operator of the Month award.

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

AV Transportation Services President Art Minasyan presented the report. The Board inquired about the definition of the CSA acronym; Mr. Minasyan explained that it refers to a Call Service Agent. Mr. Minasyan offered a Happy Thanksgiving greeting.

SRP 7 LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry provided an update on both state and federal matters. The key topics included the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program and the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA). Additionally, Ms. Vaccaro-Fry shared insights from the California Transit Association Conference (CTA), with key takeaways including a federal focus on fare evasion and discussions of the forthcoming surface transportation bill. Finally, updates were provided on the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 budget, the National Defense Authorization Act, and the preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup Games in Los Angeles. There were no further questions.

SRP 8 MAINTENANCE KPI REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2025

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

SRP 9 OPERATIONS KPI REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2025

MV Transportation General Manager Joseph Moriarty summarizes the October report on ridership, safety, complaints, and on-time performance. The Board is concerned about unsafe driving, discourteous operators, and unprofessional conduct. Mr. Moriarty explained that the unprofessional conduct was more than merely discourteous; an investigation revealed that the Operator was dealing with personal issues and did not follow training

protocols. Historically, discourteous operators have been a problem. After a service development academy for operators was conducted in October, there have been no recent valid complaints, indicating progress, and all previously reported incidents occurred before the training. The unsafe driving incidents included an operator cutting off another vehicle and an operator making an unsafe left turn. Mr. Moriarty's goal is to bring the numbers down. The Board inquired whether any commendations had been received and asked that it be reported next time.

SRP 10 2026 CALIFORNIA OPEN GOVERNMENT LAW UPDATES

General Counsel Allison Burns presented updates on the 2026 California Open Government Laws, including the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, and the Political Reform Act, which affect the Antelope Valley Transit Authority. Most provisions will take effect on January 1, 2026. The Chairman had questions about telecommunications and the "Just Cause" exceptions regarding privacy. Ms. Burns stated that we will use Zoom or Teams for telecommunications. To use the Just Cause exception (private remote attendance), a physical quorum (four members) must be present in the main room.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC):

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

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

Director Ohslen and Alternate Director Bettencourt stated that they were not present at the last board meeting and could not vote on item CC 1. Alternate Director Bettencourt stepped out of the room for the vote on Item CC 1 and for the recusal on Item CC 4.

On a motion by Director Royal and seconded by Director Malhi, the Board of Directors approved Item number CC 1 as presented by the following vote:

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Director Ohlsen, Alternate Director Bettencourt

Absent: None

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

Receive and file the Financial Report for October 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 First-Quarter Treasurer's report, including Capital Reserve and Farebox Recovery information.

Item CC 2 was pulled for discussion by Eugene Hernandez.

Alternate Director Bettencourt returned to the room after the motion on item CC 4.

Mr. Hernandez had a brief discussion about the bus benches.

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

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

Yea: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohslen, Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Bettencourt

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

CC 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2026

Approve the Board of Directors meeting calendar for 2026.

CC 4 FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 (FY 2026) LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT (OCTOBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2025)

Receive and file the FY 2025/2026 (FY 2026) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for (October 1 through October 31, 2025).

Alternate Director Bettencourt recused herself from the vote.

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

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

Yea: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal

Nay: None

Abstain: Alternate Director Bettencourt

Absent: None

CC 5 DESTRUCTION OF AVTA RECORDS

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.

CC 6 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LOG

Receive and file the Marketing and Communications Log for (October 16 through November 12, 2025).

On a motion by Vice Chair Knippel, seconded by Director Royal, the Board of Directors approves the consent calendar, pulling the item numbers.

CC 1, CC 2, and CC 4.

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

Yea: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Bettencourt

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS (NB):

NB 1 Draft Audited Financial Statements and Statement on Auditing Standards No. 114 for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Chief Financial Officer Judy Vaccaro-Fry introduced Ryan Nielsen, Auditor at Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation, who outlined the FY 2025 audit process. Mr. Nielsen anticipates AVTA's financial statements will receive an unmodified (clean) opinion, the highest assurance level. Due to the federal government shutdown, the final federal grants report is delayed pending approval of the compliance supplement. Once received, the final report will be issued. Mr. Nielsen confirmed they would notify the Board upon receipt of the letter. The Board inquired about similar audits, and Mr. Nielsen confirmed auditing many agencies, praising the AVTA team's competence and responsiveness. The Board thanked staff for their excellent performance since 2008.

On a motion by Director Royal and seconded by Alternate Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors approves the Draft Audited Financial Statements (Attachment A) and the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 114 (Attachment B) for the Year Ended June 30, 2025, as presented.

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

Yea: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal, Alternate Director Bettencourt

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NB 2 CONTRACT #2026-06 TO STERTIL-KONI USA, INC. FOR TWO INGROUND LIFTS

Director of Contracts and Procurement Cecil Foust presented the report.

On a motion by Vice Chair and seconded by Director Malhi, the Board of Directors approve to Authorize the Executive Director/CEO to execute Contract #2026-06 with Stertil-Koni USA, Inc. through the Sourcewell Contract #121223-SKI for the removal of three lifts, purchase and installation of two inground lifts, and ground repair, for an amount not to exceed \$1,396,660.53, including applicable sales tax, as presented.

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

Yea: Chairman Crist, Vice Chair Knippel, Directors Ohlsen, Malhi, Royal, Alternate Bettencourt

Abstain: None

Absent: None

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (RA):

RA 1 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO MARTIN TOMPKINS

Chairman Crist asked Mr. Tompkins who is responsible for installing new bus stops. Mr. Tompkins replied that it is the agency's responsibility, based on ridership demand and local jurisdiction advice. Contrary to previous comments, stops and benches have been installed recently in Palmdale and Lancaster; there has not been a four-year gap. Installations are funded through TDA Article 8 and other resources.

Mr. Tompkins reported that the FTA conducted an intensive Drug and Alcohol Audit covering internal processes at AVTA and the contractors MV Transportation and AV Transportation Services. Preliminary feedback was positive, with the report expected in six weeks, and we will bring it to the Board. He mentioned the upcoming Strategic Planning Workshop in January, focusing on service changes and potential reductions. The FTA solar package has been submitted for final approval for the solar farm. A reminder: the AVTA Drive-Thru Food and Toy Giveaway event is scheduled for Saturday, December 20, 2025. Additionally, AVTA received the AIRE Award from AVAQMD and thanked the Board and staff for their vision years ago. Mr. Tompkins wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – NON-AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS:

The board members wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crist adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on January 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 JANUARY 2026.



Marvin Crist, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



DeeAnna Cason
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.