

**MEMORANDUM  
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Vice Mayor Marvin Crist  
Council Member Ken Mann

DATE: February 12, 2013

SUBJECT: **Report on the Activities of the Board of Directors for the Antelope Valley Transit Authority**

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**Recommendation:**

Receive a report of the proceedings and issues discussed at the January 2013 regular Board of Directors meetings of the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA).

**Background:**

The Antelope Valley Transit Authority is a distinct government entity created under a joint powers authority agreement between the City of Lancaster, the City of Palmdale, and Los Angeles County that provides public transit services. Council members Marvin Crist and Ken Mann serve on the AVTA Board for the City of Lancaster.

The following significant events took place at the January Board meeting:

- **Attendance.** All Directors were present.
- **Oath of Office.** Director Hofbauer, representing Palmdale, took the Oath of Office and became the newest member of the Board.
- **Special Report.**
  - The Board received the FY2012-13 Second Quarter LA County Sheriff's Report presented by Sheriff Department representatives. The Board inquired how often deputies are policing the buses and how the department handles security on the Metrolink. After some discussion about why the deputy is not riding the busses, the Chairman stated that the Board's concerns regarding safety on the bus routes are not a criticism against the deputy or the Sheriff's Department. His office receives calls from citizens who feel that public transportation is unsafe. Whether it is strictly the citizens' perception and not based on reality, a better job must be done in communicating and educating the community. The Board suggested using Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) to conduct bus ride observations. Executive Director, Julie Austin, noted that staff had already contacted the VOP and that they had expressed an interest in assisting AVTA.

- Staff updated the Board on the outreach efforts and public meetings for potential service modifications. Discussion surrounded the feedback received for the route serving the University of Antelope Valley and the service they offer between their campuses. A public hearing is set for the next Board meeting on February 26, 2013 at 10:00am.
- **Contracts.**
  - The Board approved amendment to Webb Brothers Construction contract for Phase II AVTA facility construction which includes replacement of the transformer for AVTA's solar power. The Board discussed the Authority's risk exposure with Southern California Edison (SCE) due to the length of time the application process could take and the fiscal impact of delaying generating power to the SCE grid. The Board expressed their concern that the transformer replacement issue was not brought to them earlier in the project. Ms. Austin noted that this expense would have been incurred by the Authority regardless; however, she concurred that the issue was not addressed in a timely manner.

The Board directed staff to provide information regarding all amendments and change orders associated with the project and to provide fiscal impact information regarding the delay of generating power to the SCE grid.

- By split vote, with the two Lancaster Board Members voting against it, the Board approved the award of a sole-source contract to Farber Specialty Vehicles (located in Ohio) for a mobile command unit. Staff noted that due to the fact that only one bid was received and the funding expires March 31, 2013, staff is recommending a sole source contract be awarded to Farber Specialty Vehicles.

The Board expressed their dissatisfaction regarding staff's lack of communication with the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff's Departments and the delay of releasing the bid package, which will cause the Authority to spend funds out of the state instead of locally. Vice Chairman Crist invited Les White, representative from the Sheriff's Department and Search and Rescue Team, to address the Board and provide specifications for a command unit his team could complete.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Crist and second by Board Member Ken Mann to reject all bids. The Board continued to discuss the bid process, the single bid submitted, and the feasibility of rebidding the project. The original motion failed with only the two members from Lancaster in favor and an alternative motion was made to award the \$108,468 contract to Farber Specialty Vehicles. This alternate motion passed with four Board members in favor and the two Lancaster members voting against it.

The Board also directed staff to present a report at the February 26, 2013 Board meeting regarding the Authority's bid and outreach process and email the Board and Transit Advisory Committee members to obtain vendor contact information prior to the solicitation of all bid requests.

- **Internal Procedures.**
  - Staff proposed a Dial-A-Ride Policy Change. The Board discussed the following issues: 1) the number of unique riders and associated costs; 2) transporting clients to transportation hubs to access local and commuter transportation; 3) reducing the reservation window from three days to two days instead of next day service; 4) consequences and enforcement for no shows; 5) the number of trips that can be made in a single day by a client; and 6) the impact of delaying approval of the policy changes for a month. Staff was requested to obtain a client list from Access Services to see if there are duplicate riders; confirm that the target population is being reached and receiving detailed program information; and research whether AVTA can receive medical reimbursements for non-emergency transport services. The Chairman recommended that the item be brought back at the February Board meeting and directed staff to coordinate with Director Cano to determine if there are riders who use both Access and Dial-a-Ride Paratransit services.
  - The Board approved the AVTA Legislative Principles for 2013. The Board briefly discussed the value of California Transit Association membership and exploring partnerships and funding opportunities with Metrolink.
  - The Board approved the AVTA Revised Personnel Regulations Manual. The Board briefly discussed how medical marijuana is addressed in the alcohol and drug abuse section of the revised manual, noting that AVTA follows federal law on this issue and that any alcohol or drug-induced impairment on the job would not be tolerated.
  
- **Closed Session.** The Board was updated by Legal Counsel regarding existing litigation (California Government Code Section 54956.9(a)). Case: Holland, Roemer v. AVTA (Case No. BC470695).