

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Vice Mayor Marvin Crist
Council Member Sandra Johnson

DATE: March 26, 2013

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

Recommendation:

Receive a report of the proceedings and issues discussed at the February 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 with Councilwoman Sandra Johnson as an alternate.

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

- **Attendance.** Director Tom Lackey from Palmdale was absent and Alternate Director Sandra Johnson attended for Ken Mann from Lancaster.
- **Public Hearing.** The Board received a report outlining the proposed changes to local transit routes 1, 6, 10, 14, Lake L.A. Express and commuter routes 785, 786, 787 and 790. There was much community outreach and many community meetings over the last two months to present and discuss the changes. Meetings took place in Lake Los Angeles, Palmdale, Lancaster and the University of Antelope Valley. With the exception of the Lake Los Angeles Express Route changes, the feedback from the stakeholders has been positive. The speakers shared many concerns regarding the Lake Los Angeles Express Route. The changes would have meant a minimum of an additional 15 minutes for passengers to travel between East Lancaster and Lake Los Angeles and transfer busses to complete the route. Some expressed concerns about the increased time when it is supposed to be an express route. Others were concerned about the increased difficulty of transporting their groceries since they take the express to Walmart regularly. There were also concerns with the reduced number of stops in Lake Los Angeles and the hardship that creates for some of the passengers. The Board approved all route changes except the Lake L.A. Express. The service changes are set to begin March 25, 2013.

- **Special Reports**

The Board received the FY12/13 Second Quarter Key Performance Indicators Report. Passenger boardings were up by 8% from December on local transit with revenues up by 4% year to date. Staff reported they feel fare evasion is occurring, and is looking into adding a key to the coin machines that tracks when someone has not paid the proper fare either through the TAP card or cash payments.

- **Contracts.** The Board approved Change Order #8 to the Webb Brothers Construction contract for Phase II AVTA facility construction for 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, to provide fiscal impact information regarding the delay of generating power to the SCE grid, and to report back on expected revenues from excess power generation.

- **Internal Procedures.**

- In response to the Board's request at the January Board meeting, staff presented the AVTA Procurement Outreach Program that outlines the commitment to promote and foster business diversity and inclusiveness when providing open, competitive procurement and contracting opportunities within the Antelope Valley. Outreach efforts include activities that reach out to local vendors to inform them of opportunities and the process to do business with AVTA.
- The Board approved the proposed Dial-A-Ride Policy Changes that reduce the reservation window for Dial-A-Ride trips from three days to two days; reduce the number of trips that can be made in a single day by a client from four to three and increase enforcement of this policy; and change the application of suspension for "no shows" from three per month to three in a rolling 30-day period. AVTA will inform riders of the intent to start enforcement of the no-show policy through reminders when passengers make appointments, notices on the vehicles and letters.

This item had been postponed from the January 2013 Board meeting with the direction to staff to provide additional information regarding dial-a-ride policies of other paratransit services in Southern California. Staff reported on their finding and will report back to the Board in six months with the trends for no-shows and late cancellations.

Also in January, the Board expressed concern about the cost of Dial-A-Ride. Based on reports from ALC, a total of 30,605 eligible passengers were transported in 2012 at a total cost of \$1,032,918 before costs of no shows. In addition to working with ALC, AVTA staff is also working with ACCESS to determine the number of AVTA dial-a-ride customers that are eligible for ACCESS.

- **Executive Director's Report.** The Executive Director reported:
 - A letter was sent to the Mayors of Lancaster and Palmdale requesting support for safety/fare evasion.
 - AVTA is joining a consortium to develop a bus specification for commuter busses that should help with consistency and costs.
 - The AVTA deputy is now riding on the busses, which has been received well by the passengers.