

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Vice Mayor Marvin Crist
Council Member Sandra Johnson

DATE: July 23, 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 June 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. Vice Mayor Marvin Crist serves as the Vice Chair and Council Member Sandra Johnson serves as a Director on the AVTA Board for the City of Lancaster.

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

- **Attendance.** All members were present.
- **Public Comment.** Staff read an e-mail request from Mr. Josh Gross dated June 24, 2013. Mr. Gross is an employer in Beverly Hills whose employees ride the AVTA commuter busses. He requested the Board consider adding one later departure and one later return trip for Commuter Bus 786 to accommodate employees who work in the area and consider adding an east San Fernando Valley bus line, similar to the 787 line that would service points of interest east of the 405 freeway. The Board Directed staff to research the request and respond in writing.
- **Special Report.**
 - The Board presented outgoing Director Mann a plaque of commendation for his service on the Board since 2011.
 - Staff presented a report to the Board on hybrid bus fuel savings of \$121,849 over a six-month period or 15% savings as compared to an all diesel fleet. The AVTA started receiving the new Gillig Hybrid buses in September 2012, with all 15 on site by the end of October 2012. Staff indicated the hybrid fuel economy is better than expected at 5.76 mpg as compared to diesel buses at 3.899 mpg.
 - The Board received updates on legislation including:

- The Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Federal Fiscal Year 2014 is expected to be funded at the same level as FY2013 at approximately \$97.5 million for the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) State and Local Grants account for rail and public transportation security grants.
 - Assembly Bill 160 (Alejo), if passed, would effectively exempt transit labor from provisions of the Public Employee Pension Reform Act (PEPRA).
- **Contracts.**
 - The Board approved an amendment to the Moore and Associates contract for Mobility Management Services in the amount of \$75,000 which will extend the project by 12 months. The total contract of \$180,000 is funded through a Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant administered through Los Angeles Metro intended to develop a coordinated transportation system that provides accessible and affordable transportation to seniors, persons with disabilities, and low-income residents throughout the service area.
 - The Board approved a reciprocal agreement for mutual support through the California Transit Mutual Assistance Compact (Transmac). This agreement establishes mutual assistance with other transit providers, emergency management agencies and legal counsels in California in the event of an emergency.
 - The Board approved a contract to Avail Technologies for an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) in an amount not to exceed \$2.5 million using various grant funding. This system will allow for better data and analysis as well as improved customer service. The system includes automatic passenger counting by detecting the direction the passenger is moving when entering/leaving the bus while also geocoding the bus stop. Interactive maps will show bus location, status and arrival times that can be accessed at bus stops, on the web, and even on smartphones. The dispatch desktop function allows for real time data and information to be shared between dispatch, drivers and the public for efficient and improved communications.
 - The Board approved a contract with Vinsa, Inc for Insurance Broker of Record and FY14 insurance policies.
- **Board Activities.** The Board appointed and confirmed Norm Hickling as the Chair and Marvin Crist as the Vice Chair of the AVTA Board of Directors. Both will serve in these positions for the next four years per Resolution No. 2012-2018 adopted August 28, 2012.

- **Budget.** The Board adopted the FY14 Business Plan and Short Range Transit Plan including:
 - A balanced operating budget of \$23.2 million for both revenue and expenditures
 - A \$0.5 million year-end operating reserve balance
 - A capital spending plan of \$8.3 million, supported by a projected carryover of \$8.1 million from FY13, plus new FY14 funding of \$8.7 million under the auspices of MAP-21
 - An ending capital reserve balance of \$2.3 million after draws supporting the planned FY14 fleet replacement

For additional highlights, please see attached AVTA Board Agenda Item OB1.

- **Closed Session.**
 - Public Employment (G.C. section 54957)
Title: General Counsel to AVTA
 - Conference with Labor Negotiator (G.C. section 54957.6)
Authority Negotiator: Norman L. Hickling, Board Chairman
Unrepresented (potential) employee: General Counsel to AVTA
 - Public Employee Performance Evaluation (G.C. section 54957(b))
Title: Executive Director.
 - Conference with Labor Negotiator (G.C. section 54957.6)
Authority Negotiator: Norman L. Hickling, Board Chairman
Unrepresented Employee: Executive Director
 - Conference with Legal Counsel- Existing Litigation
G.C. section 54956.9(d)(1) and (4)
People v. Jorge: Case no. BA405021
People v. Floyd: Case no. BA405021

Attachment:

AVTA Board of Directors Agenda Item OB1