

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Vice Mayor Marvin Crist
Council Member Ken Mann

DATE: August 27, 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 July 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 July Board meeting:

- **Attendance.** Alternate Director Ken Mann attended for Director Sandra Johnson. All other members were present.
- **Special Report.**
 - The Board received a report on proposed service changes to Route 6/96, Route 7/97 supplemental service, Lake LA/99 supplemental service, and Routes 11/12 effective in October 2013. Since these are minor route changes, a public hearing is not required. The Board requested that staff schedule a public outreach meeting at the Palmdale Senior Center.
 - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Transit Security Services quarterly report was presented to the Board. Between April 1 and June 30, 2013, a total of 60 citations were written, three vehicles were towed and 11 arrests were made. All citations were issued based on public safety as it directly relates to the transit system and/or quality of life issues. These included citations for traffic issues including failure to adhere to posted signs, vehicle codes as well as public disturbances including open containers in public, truancy and minor with possession of tobacco paraphernalia.

- **Board Activities.** The Board held a Strategic Planning Workshop July 17, 2013 resulting in the following action items:
 - Explore a fully electric bus route to travel between Lancaster and Palmdale. Staff has been working with Metro to change the scope a previously approved \$1.8 million JARC grant for commuter buses that were ultimately funded from another source. The application will be revised to include two electric buses and associated charging infrastructure to operate along a route that connects with the two Metrolink stations, several social service agencies, and local businesses. JARC would fund 80% of the cost of equipment plus 90% of remaining amount (approximately \$100,000 or 5%) would be funded using local funds.
 - Work to develop a joint procurement consortium for purchase of electric buses that would include other transit agencies. AVTA would serve as the lead agency in putting together a joint procurement that would reduce the unit cost and administrative burden for all participants.
 - Include a feasibility study of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project as part of the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA). This would include suggested routing and stops, preliminary cost estimates, timelines and potential benefits.
 - Modify the Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) to remove all references to committees created by the AVTA Board of Directors, and remove and references to the Transit Advisory Committee from the JPA. This will allow greater flexibility and encourage improved communication amongst the jurisdictional staff and AVTA staff.

- **Budget.** The Board approved a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant application in the amount of \$11,366,093. If the agency is successful with its grant application, the funding will be applied toward the AVTA operating expenses, preventative maintenance, rolling stock replacement, support vehicles, and major facility equipment as identified in the 2014 AVTA Business Plan.

- **Policies and Procedures.** The Board approved a Social Media Policy that establishes standards for using social media tools as a valuable means of communicating with customers and community partners. Creating and maintaining social media accounts will allow the AVTA to explain and promote its services as well as update customers on detours, service interruptions, upcoming service changes, etc.

- **Closed Session.**
 - Public Employee Performance Evaluation (G.C. section 54957(b))
Title: Executive Director.
 - CS 2 Conference with Labor Negotiator (G.C. section 54957.6) Authority Negotiator: Norman L. Hickling, Board Chairman; Unrepresented Employee: Executive Director
 - CS 3 Conference with Legal Counsel- Existing Litigation G.C. section 54956.9(d)(1) and (4); People v. Jorge: Case no. BA405021 and People v. Floyd: Case no. BA405021