

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Vice Mayor Marvin Crist
Council Member Sandra Johnson

DATE: February 25, 2014

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 January 2014 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 January Board meeting:

Attendance. Lancaster City Councilman Ron Smith served as an alternate AVTA Board member in Director Sandra Johnson's absence.

Special Report.

- Los Angeles Metropolitan District High Desert Corridor Project Manager, Robert Machuca, presented information regarding the HDC project; a multi-modal link between State Route (SR)-14 in Los Angeles County and SR-18 in San Bernardino County. He provided details pertaining to the project area, environmental impact report schedule, mode options, and outreach efforts. The Board briefly discussed this item.
- WAVE, Inc. Chief Development Officer Wesley Smith presented details regarding Wireless Advanced Vehicle Electrification (WAVE) technology and the proposed delivery schedule for the AVTA's electric bus demonstration project. The Board briefly discussed this item.
- AVTA staff provided a status update of the electric bus demonstration project. The Board discussed the locations of the charging stations and typical charge time.

Contracts.

- The Board approved a contract to Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc for federal advocacy services for a five-year term in the amount of \$4,000 per month plus authorized expenses estimated at \$2,000 per year. Total annual expenses are estimated at \$50,000. The contract includes a 30-day termination for convenience clause.
- The Board awarded a contract to Pinnacle Petroleum, Inc for bulk fuel supply and delivery for a maximum five-year term in an annual amount not to exceed \$3,500,000.

Internal Policies

- The Board approved a cell/smart phone stipend policy. The payment of stipends for personal cell/smart phones will replace the expense incurred by AVTA for providing cell phones. This is expected to result in a cost savings which will be determined after the transition is made. Only key staff that must have a cell/smart phone to perform their job function will be given a stipend.
- The Board approved an amendment to the conflict of interest code and resolution no. 2014-001 which is in accordance with the Political Reform Act, California Government Code Section 81000. The amendment reflects changes to staff job titles and addition of several positions.

Legislative updates

- The Board received and filed the proposed 2014 AVTA legislative principles. In response to the Board's inquiry, staff confirmed Board approval would be requested prior to the AVTA's support or opposition of any proposed legislation.
- The Board voted to support the introduction of legislation by State Senator Steve Knight that would allow the AVTA to install digital advertising bus signs as part of a demonstration project for the State of California.

Old Business

- The Board considered recertification of the October 2013 AVTA Board authorization to purchase 12 clean diesel buses from Gillig Corporation. After a lengthy discussion, the Board voted to continue the item for 30 days. In the meantime, the Board directed staff to work with our local vendor to look at options for procuring 12 electric buses; look at the timeline; identify what type of procurement is necessary (i.e., leasing, an option, etc.); and make sure that the overall cost is a net zero to the AVTA. The discussion surrounded why the staff had not reached out to the local vendor to learn about the various procurement options available for electric bus purchases. The Lancaster Board members questioned why staff had not moved forward with this already since they received direction to do so at last July's Board Strategic Planning Meeting. The Lancaster Board members also reiterated the importance of working with our local vendors. It is the Board's desire to keep the jobs local and increase the local economy whenever possible within the guidelines of the law. The Board also directed staff to enlist the assistance of the federal advocacy group (previously mentioned in the contracts approved by Board) to assist with the federal requirements that might restrict this process of moving quickly towards electric bus purchases.

Executive Director's Report

- Staff is finalizing an application for \$560,000 to the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District for AB2766 Funds to fund architectural and engineering costs associated with the WAVE inductive chargers.
- Staff is working with the Southern California Association of Governments and the lobbyist to prepare an application for LoNo Funds. This program was carved out of the FTA Section 5312 federal funds to apply toward the incremental cost difference between electric buses and diesel buses. The application is due March 10, 2014.