

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Vice Mayor Marvin Crist
Council Member Sandra Johnson

DATE: June 24, 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 May 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 April Board meeting:

Attendance. All Directors were in attendance.

Altoona Testing on BYD Electric Bus. Executive Director Julie Austin shared that the Altoona Testing was favorably completed on the BYD electric bus. The Altoona Bus Testing Program was set up by the FTA to ensure better reliability and in-service performance of transit buses, and is a requirement for federal transit funding. BYD will receive their certification in approximately 4 – 6 weeks.

Salary Range and Classification Study. A classification and compensation study was completed by an independent consultant, Koff & Associates. The study evaluated 12 comparator agencies. The results showed that AVTA staff salaries, as a whole, were about 2.8% below market. The consultant made recommendations that included a few title changes and minor salary range changes, which became effective June 1.

Authorization to Seek Public Input on Fare Restructuring. The Board authorized staff to solicit public input of several fare restructuring scenarios. Both local and commuter fares were reduced in 2009 when the TAP card was introduced. The fare reductions were intended to be temporary; however the promotional fares were never eliminated. Metrolink has increased their fares twice during this time, which has increased ATVA's commuter ridership. In order to sustain the level of demand, the Board directed staff to explore revenue opportunities, including fare restructuring, which will allow expansion to accommodate the increases in ridership.