

**MEMORANDUM  
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Vice Mayor Marvin Crist  
Council Member Sandra Johnson

DATE: January 27, 2015

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

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**Recommendation:**

Receive a report of the proceedings and issues discussed at the November 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 November Board meeting:

**Present.** Vice Chairman Marvin Crist acting Chairman  
Alternate Director Fred Thompson (Director Tom Lackey absent)  
Director Steve Hofbauer  
Director Dianne Knippel  
Director Sandra Johnson

**Absent.** Chairman Norm Hickling

**Legislative Update.** Director of Communications Wendy Williams discussed the Cap and Trade funding opportunities, guidelines for which should be released in mid-January. Ms. Williams indicated that staff intends to seek funding to cover the additional upfront costs associated with electric bus procurement, as well as funding to support the infrastructure needs.

**Award Contract to "G" Crew for Labor Compliance Services.** The Board of Directors authorized the executive director to execute a contract for on-going labor compliance services to "G" Crew. This contract will not exceed \$ 125,000 over a five year period, and will apply to public works improvement projects only.

**Receive and File the Route to Success Operational Plan.** The Route to Success is a comprehensive operational analysis and ten year plan which looks at optimizing service to all jurisdictions. The Board directed AVTA staff to work with city and county staff regarding changes within their jurisdiction, and to obtain input from the technical and community stakeholders, particularly retail, medical, and school personnel before bringing specific recommendations to the Board for approval.

**Fare Restructuring Recommendations.** Director of Communications Wendy Williams presented an existing conditions report and fare restructuring proposals for commuter and local transit service. Information was provided regarding free ride programs and half fare proposals for seniors and disabled customers. The Board discussed the recommended fare proposals, staff's plan for public outreach, and the Rider Relief Transportation Program. Vice Chairman Crist suggested staff meet with the jurisdictions to discuss subsidy options for the discount fare scenarios. This item was continued to the January 27, 2015 meeting so that staff could comply with Vice Chairman Crist's directive.

**Approve the Draft CAFR and Single Audit of Federal Awards.** Senior Manager Tom Huey of Windes, Inc., AVTA's audit firm, presented a summary of the audit results. He anticipates no exceptions to the audited financial statements or findings in the single audit report. The Board congratulated the financial team on a successful audit.

**Approve the Purchase of Eight Clean Diesel Buses from Gillig Corporation.** The original agenda item requested approval of the executive director to execute a contract for the purchase of eight clean diesel buses. The Board discussed the procurement of clean diesel buses versus electric buses. Vice Chairman Crist and Director Johnson stated that the Board made previous commitment to purchase electric buses. A substitute motion was presented by Director Johnson that would authorize the executive director to process a Request for Proposals for the purchase of four to eight electric buses, which would include the WAVE technology charging systems. This motion was seconded by Director Knippel. The motion to authorize the executive director to process a Request for Proposals for the purchase of four to eight electric buses, which would include the WAVE technology carried (3-2-0-1), with Vice Chairman Crist and Directors Knippel and Johnson voting in favor and Directors Hofbauer and Alternate Director Thompson voting against the motion.

**Director's Report.** Director Johnson congratulated Assemblyman Tom Lackey and Congressman Steve Knight on their recent election victories.