



## Board of Directors

April 26, 2023

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Martin J. Tompkins

TDA Article 8 Hearing Board Chair  
c/o Armineh Saint, Program Manager  
Metropolitan Transit Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
RE: Fiscal Year 2016/17 TDA Article 8 Unmet Needs Hearings

Dear Ms. Saint:

At the 2022 TDA Article 8 Unmet Needs Hearing, the Board found that the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) had no unmet needs that could not be addressed through existing funding sources. During the 2022 Hearing, some comments regarding AVTA's services and facilities were received from the public and are addressed below, as well as updates on current service improvements and FY24 projects:

#### Responses to Public Testimony and Written Comments

##### **Item #1.2, Service voids in West and Southwest Palmdale:**

The areas of West and Southwest Palmdale are currently served through fixed-route service in Rancho Vista and Dial-a-Ride paratransit service in Anaverde. However, in response to the public comment received during the 2022 TDA Article 8 Unmet Needs Hearing, AVTA staff is currently conducting a study to ascertain if the service coverage is adequate for the area. The study includes a Title VI Equity Analysis, an online survey of residents during the month of February and a public meeting held on Saturday, February 4. The data from these efforts will be analyzed and if any adjustments are needed they will be presented to the Board of Directors along with any recommendations from staff.

It should be noted that AVTA had previously evaluated its services for these areas back in August 2017, and found that no adjustments were required at that time.

##### **Item #2.2, Line 1 on schedule:**

AVTA is currently reviewing its bus routes and analyzing the areas of higher ridership and needs. This is being accomplished as a part of our Regional Transit Plan (RTP), which was completed in June 2019. The restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic over 2020-2021 severely limited AVTA's ability to effectively implement the RTP; however, as ridership numbers return to pre-COVID levels, great strides are being made to address needs and improve mobility in all areas.

**Item #3.3, Improve bus shelters, enlarge canopy area and make them more accessible:**

AVTA's Planning Department maintains an inventory of all bus stops in the AVTA service area, including the stop location, routes served, amenities at the stop, etc. This inventory allows AVTA to better track the amenities currently installed and prioritize upgrades to stops that require improvement. During 2020-2022, 19 bus stops received improvements such as benches, trash cans, shelters, and/or concrete pads. Customer feedback plays a large role in our assessments and we strive to respond as quickly as possible when a need is brought to our attention.

**Item #3.4, Adjust bus stop signage to improve readability by individuals in the wheelchair:**

AVTA follows strict adherence to all laws, regulations and guidance related to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and contained in the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). All bus stop signs are currently in compliance with ADA per Section 703, Signs of the ADAAG. AVTA will promptly respond to any request or concern regarding a specific sign of any type to ensure its ongoing ADA compliance.

**Item #4.3, Improve crosswalk at 10th St West and Ave O-8:**

AVTA has relayed the information to the leadership of the City of Palmdale. Street improvements are not under the oversight of AVTA and we can only communicate the request of the passengers.

**Item #4.4, Bus pass discounts for homeless individuals:**

AVTA is an active participant and vigorous promoter of LA County Metro's LIFE Program (formerly Rider Relief Transportation Program). The LIFE (Low-Income Fare is Easy) program provides transit relief assistance to low-income individuals in Los Angeles County with discounts on bus passes. AVTA has partnered with the FAME Corporation on several occasions at sign-up events around the Antelope Valley to help people apply for the program.

**Item #5.2, Lancaster Metrolink station should open the gates much earlier:**

AVTA has relayed the information to the leadership of Metrolink. The rail service is not under the oversight of AVTA and we can only communicate the request of the passengers.

FY23 Service Improvements:

In 2022, AVTA made great strides in the expansion of its all-electric fleet by opening a satellite office and transit store in Lake LA, CA, with an added four (4) new EV chargers to support the electric paratransit vehicles used for the Dial-a-Ride and Microtransit services in that region. We also completed installation of two (2) new WAVE pads at Antelope Valley College. AVTA continues to review the Regional Transit Plan (RTP) which recommended action items that will need to be implemented to improve access to residents, increase mobility options, serve new employment centers, and health care facilities.

FY24 Projects:

In response to a suggested community need, AVTA is evaluating plans for a new route connecting the Antelope Valley to the Victor Valley. The proposed route, the High Desert Connector, would run between Lancaster/Palmdale transit centers and the Victor Valley Transit Center.

We will also continue focusing our efforts to replace all existing gas-powered service vehicles with EV, as funding sources and infrastructure become available.

Community Outreach Efforts:

AVTA is dedicated to serving the community and to providing excellent customer service. Community outreach is a high priority goal and we continually seek to improve our efforts.

A key element in implementing the RTP is ongoing outreach to a community advisory group, consisting of key stakeholders within the community.

Our community outreach and travel training programs continue to educate and connect our local residents, especially veterans, seniors, those with disabilities, and students, to our transportation system and services.

AVTA continues outreach to the local business community, by providing services to help address the transportation needs of local businesses and their customers.

AVTA continues to promote our Non-Emergency Medical Transport program to the health care service providers in the Antelope Valley. We also provide transportation assistance to health fairs for those who are low-income and/or homeless, to connect them with the vital services that are offered there.

AVTA values the input of our customers and stakeholders and continues to take a proactive approach to address the transit needs in the Antelope Valley. If have you questions, please contact me at (661) 729-2206.

Sincerely,



Martin J. Tompkins, CEO/Executive Director  
Antelope Valley Transit Authority



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

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April 26, 2023

Santa Clarita Valley Area  
TDA Article 8 Hearing

As the region recovered from the pandemic, the City of Santa Clarita continued its efforts to promote public transportation and build the vital infrastructure needed to support public transit now and in the future. Because of this continued effort, the only recommendation that resulted from the 2022 TDA Article 8 hearings was for the City to continue to evaluate funding opportunities for transit services.

In support of this recommendation, the City has applied for multiple federal grants to fund the City's transition to a zero emission fleet and make public transit a viable alternative to the automobile.

In the twelve months since the last hearing, the City of Santa Clarita has accomplished a number of key milestones such as:

- Applied for and were awarded a \$300,000 federal grant to update the City's Transit Development Plan
- Experienced ridership growth with local ridership exceeding pre-covid levels
- Continued to experience ridership growth on the City's on demand Go! Santa Clarita service.
- Awarded a contract for the purchase of two zero emission fuel cell electric buses
- Awarded a contract for the design and construction of a hydrogen electrolyzer and fueling station at the City Transit Maintenance Facility
- Completed construction of the Vista Canyon Metrolink Station.
- Took delivery of two CNG powered commuter buses
- Partnered with Access Services to apply for federal funding to offset the cost of purchasing zero emission local transit and dial-a-ride buses
- Issued a request for proposal to update the City's Transit Development Plan.
- Completed the installation of 57 solar powered display units that provide real-time bus arrival information at key bus stop locations.
- Installed a UV sanitation system in every bus in the Santa Clarita Transit fleet

These are just a few of the City of Santa Clarita and Santa Clarita Transit's accomplishments over the past 12 months.

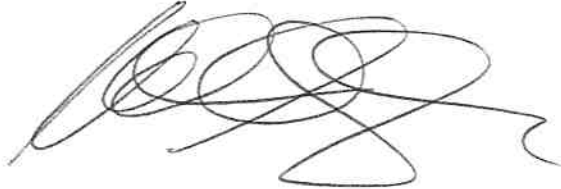


In the coming year, Santa Clarita Transit will:

- Continue to operate the weekend Beach Bus Service during the summer
- Conduct extensive community outreach to assess demand for transit services in the Santa Clarita Valley
- Seek state and federal funding to offset the cost of transitioning to a Zero emission fleet
- Award a contract for three fuel cell buses.

The City of Santa Clarita will continue to address the transit needs of our residents while working closely with our transportation partners. Our goal is to provide effective and efficient service that improves the quality of life for all residents within the Santa Clarita Valley.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Aguilar', with a stylized, looping flourish extending to the right.

Adrian Aguilar  
Transit Manager