



Board of Directors

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March 5, 2024

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Dianne M. Knippel
County of Los Angeles

TDA Article 8 Hearing Board Chair
c/o Armineh Saint, Program Manager
Metropolitan Transit Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director

Richard Loa
City of Palmdale

RE: Fiscal Year 2023/2024 TDA Article 8 Unmet Needs Hearings

Director

Eric Ohlsen
City of Palmdale

Dear Ms. Saint:

Director

Raj Malhi
City of Lancaster

At the 2023 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 2023 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 FY25 projects.

Director

Michelle Flanagan
County of Los Angeles

Executive Director/CEO

Martin J. Tompkins

Responses to Public Testimony and Written Comments

Item #2.1, AVTA Route 1 leaves Palmdale Transit Center at 10:35 pm, five minutes before the last Metrolink train arrives (10:40pm): The new Metrolink train schedule doesn't arrive at 10:40pm any longer. Metrolink eliminated the 10:35pm train in their current schedule. This new schedule eliminates this issue.

Item # 2.2, AVTA Route 4 has an hour and half gap, which requires the use of two tickets: AVTA Route 4 currently runs on 60 minutes headways. AVTA's two-hour free transfers can be used in this situation. AVTA will review our two-hour free transfer policy to ensure that it meets the needs it was designed to meet.

Item #2.4, Add Antelope Valley Transit Authority 790 service on weekends. To fill the service gaps that currently Metrolink doesn't fulfill & expand service hours and lengths.: AVTA Route 790 is a commuter route designed to better connect commuters using Metrolink during the work week. AVTA commuter routes do not run on the weekends.

Service Improvements:

FY24 Projects:

AVTA also continues our efforts to replace all existing gas-powered service and support vehicles with EV, as funding sources and infrastructure become available. AVTA has received 16 of the 19 new electric paratransit vehicles on order.

AVTA is pleased to announce that AV Union High School District and Antelope Valley College have joined AVTA and LA Metro's GoPass program, providing bus passes to all students enrolled in high schools in AV Union High School District or enrolled at AVC. AVTA is continuing to encourage middle schools in the Antelope Valley to join this program. Currently, Lancaster School District has joined, and other middle school districts are evaluating the program.

AVTA has completed the installation of high-power wireless inductive chargers for our zero-emission buses at a new transit center at Antelope Valley College.

In January of 2024, AVTA completed 14 million electric service miles. In March of 2024, AVTA will mark a decade of electric service as we pass the ten-year mark of our first electric bus entering local service.

FY25 Projects:

In response to a suggested community need, AVTA is proceeding with 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.

AVTA continues to evaluate an "off-the-grid" charging solution using a solar farm and battery storage. AVTA is working with the City of Lancaster on this solution.

AVTA launched our Regional Transit Plan planning committee to identify and address transportation needs in the community and possible service improvements. This will result in service changes in the coming years. AVTA will place into service our first electric vehicle with a bariatric gurney and service capabilities for our Non-Emergency Medical Transport service.

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.

- To keep a close relationship with our riders (and potential riders), AVTA participates in community gatherings throughout our service area maintaining key partnerships with the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, and exhibiting at rural northern Los Angeles County town events and town councils.
- AVTA continues our 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 residents, especially veterans, seniors, those with disabilities, and students, to our transportation system and services.
- AVTA continues to 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 any questions, please contact me at (661) 729-2206.

Sincerely,



Martin Tompkins, Executive Director/CEO



City of
SANTA CLARITA

23920 Valencia Boulevard • Santa Clarita, California 91355-2196
Phone: (661) 259-2489 • FAX: (661) 259-8125
www.santa-clarita.com

March 5, 2024

Santa Clarita Valley Area
TDA Article 8 Hearing

Over the past year, the City of Santa Clarita has continued its efforts to promote public transportation and build the vital infrastructure needed to support public transit now, and in the future. Ridership aboard the City's local fixed-route service continued to increase, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, we continue to see ridership growth aboard the City's on-demand service known as Go! Santa Clarita.

In the 12 months since the last hearing, the City of Santa Clarita has accomplished a number of key milestones such as:

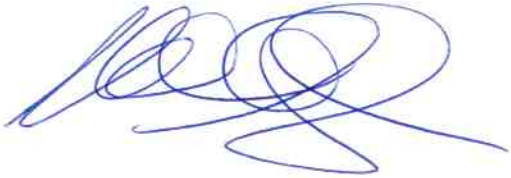
- Awarded the contract for the update of the City's Transit Development Plan. The City kicked-off the update in May 2023, and anticipate the completion of the update in the summer of 2024.
- Experienced ridership growth with local ridership, exceeding pre-pandemic levels
- Continued to experience ridership growth on the City's on-demand service, Go! Santa Clarita.
- Awarded the contract for the purchase of three zero-emission fuel cell electric buses
- Began the design of a hydrogen electrolyzer and fueling station at the City Transit Maintenance Facility. The 60 percent design plans have been completed, and we expect to start construction this summer.
- Celebrated the grand opening of the Vista Canyon Metrolink Station and Bus Transfer Station.
- Took delivery of five CNG powered local buses.
- Partnered with Access Services to apply for federal funding to offset the cost of purchasing zero-emission paratransit vehicles.
- Completed the installation of improved signage and QR codes at nearly 700 bus stop locations across the region.
- Expanded service to the FivePoint development, located north of Magic Mountain.

This is just a snapshot of what the City of Santa Clarita and Santa Clarita Transit has accomplished over the past 12 months.



In the coming year, the City of Santa Clarita and Santa Clarita Transit will continue to evaluate local, state, and federal funding opportunities for transit services, addressing the sole recommendation from the 2023 public hearings. Additionally, the City will work closely with our transportation partners as we strive towards our goal of providing effective and efficient service that improves the quality of life for all residents within the Santa Clarita Valley.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Adrian Aguilar
Transit Manager