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Martin J. Tompkins

March 04, 2025

TDA Article 8 Hearing Board Chair  
Juan Miranda, Program Manager  
Metropolitan Transit Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: Fiscal Year 2024/2025 TDA Article 8 Unmet Needs Hearings

Dear Mr. Miranda:

At the 2024 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. The hearing provided no new recommendations, and no public comments were received. Listed below are updates on FY 24/25 projects and Bus Stop Improvements.

### **FY24 Projects:**

AVTA is pleased to announce that it has completed our efforts to replace all existing gas-powered services and support vehicles with Electric Vehicles. AVTA has 19 electric paratransit vehicles in service, 14 battery-electric road supervisor vehicles, and two hybrid special ADA support vehicles.

AVTA continues to promote the LA Metro GoPass program to high school and community college students in the Antelope Valley. AV Union High School District and Antelope Valley College (AVC) renewed in the 24/25 GoPass year, providing bus passes to all students enrolled in AV Union High School District or at AVC. AVTA encourages middle schools in the Antelope Valley to consider the GoPass program for their students. AVTA had 1,350 total students registered in the 23/24 GoPass Year, with 25,163 AVTA system boardings and 1,536 AVTA students boarding non-AVTA transit systems.

AVTA completed the installation of high-power wireless inductive chargers at five locations in the Antelope Valley, and 14 chargers are available for our zero-emission buses serving our local routes.

Inductive charging is available for local buses at all five transit centers, Sgt. Steve Owen Memorial Park, Scott Thomas Wilk Transit Center, Palmdale Transportation Center, Tom Lackey Transit Center, and the new Dianne Knippel Transit Center at Antelope Valley College.

In September 2024, AVTA celebrated a significant milestone: 10 years of operating electric buses in revenue service. This marked the anniversary of our first electric bus entering local service in 2014. Over the past decade, we've been proud to lead sustainable transportation, consistently innovating and expanding our fleet to better serve our community with eco-friendly transit options. By December 2024, AVTA ended with over 16 million electric miles traveled.

### **FY25 Projects:**

In response to a suggested community need, AVTA continues to develop a new route connecting Antelope Valley to Victor Valley. The proposed route, the High Desert Connector, would run between Lancaster/Palmdale Transit Centers and the Victor Valley Transit Center. AVTA continues conversations with Victor Valley Transit and is evaluating options and vehicle types for this service.

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

### **Bus Stop and Service Improvements:**

AVTA is actively working with the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale to enhance bus stops throughout our service area. Recently, we have installed various amenities, such as shelters, benches, and trash receptacles, at the following locations: Avenue I & 20th Street West, Avenue I & 25th Street West, 47th Street East & Avenue R (Northwest and Southeast corners), and 6th Street East & Palmdale Blvd. We are currently identifying additional locations with our jurisdictional partners, and four more sites have been selected in both cities to install these amenities. These improvements are scheduled for completion in FY25/26.

AVTA has established an internal committee comprising Bus Operators and Customer Service Staff to discuss passenger feedback. Meetings are held every other month, and recommendations are shared with the Operations Staff at AVTA for potential service changes and improvements. Additionally, AVTA has launched a Regional Transit Plan planning committee to identify and address immediate and future transportation needs across all service modes: Local Transit, Commuter, Dial-A-Ride, Microtransit, and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation. This initiative will result in service changes in the coming years.

**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 maintain a close relationship with our riders and potential riders, AVTA actively participates in all in-person community events hosted by the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale. These events allow us to connect with our riders and the AV community to address potential transportation needs. Additionally, AVTA conducts community outreach to rural Los Angeles County communities within our service area to reach transit-dependent populations and raise awareness of AVTA's available services.
- 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.
- AVTA engages with the high school and community college-age students in the Antelope Valley in an ongoing effort to raise awareness of AVTA's and LA Metro's GoPass program.
- AVTA continues to reach out to the local business community and its customers regarding transportation needs. AVTA actively engages with representatives from senior centers, veterans' organizations, rural communities, transportation vendors, adult disabled groups, and other rider groups. This ongoing communication helps AVTA to identify unmet needs, understand the strengths and weaknesses of our transportation services, and enhance our offerings for all passengers.
- AVTA personnel share information on LA Metro's LIFE program at all community events to raise awareness of this low-income fare assistance program.
- 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.
- Each year, AVTA, the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, and other community partners provide meal boxes, frozen turkeys, toys, and gifts to needy families in the AV.

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 you have any questions, please contact me on (661) 729-2206.

Sincerely,



Martin Tompkins  
Executive Director/CEO



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

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March 4, 2025

Santa Clarita Valley Area  
TDA Article 8 Hearing

During last year's Article 8 public hearings, there were no requests for additional transit service, nor comments received related to the transit service operated by Santa Clarita Transit.

Never the less, the City of Santa Clarita (City) 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 has 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.

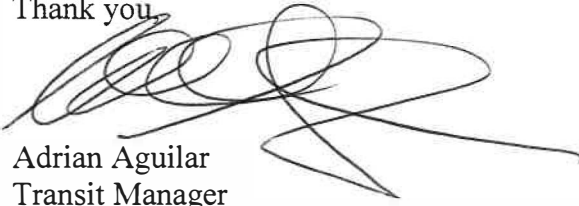
In the 12 months since the last TDA Article 8 hearing, the City has accomplished a number of key milestones, such as:

- Completed the City's Transit Development Plan update. This project included extensive community outreach and a detailed analysis of current and proposed development to assess demand for Transit services.
- Experienced ridership growth aboard the local fixed-route service that is exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- Continued to experience ridership growth on the City's on-demand service, Go! Santa Clarita.
- Awarded a contract for the purchase of four zero-emission fuel cell electric buses. This brings the total of fuel cell buses on order to seven, all of which are scheduled for delivery in the third quarter this year.
- Completed the design of a hydrogen electrolyzer and fueling station at the City Transit Maintenance Facility. Construction is scheduled to begin this month and is scheduled to be completed before the end of the year.
- The City took delivery of its first zero emission electric Transit vehicle. The Ford E-Transit van is used to transport Go! Santa Clarita passengers throughout Santa Clarita.
- Partnered with Access Services to apply for federal funding to offset the cost of purchasing zero-emission paratransit vehicles.
- Took delivery of two CNG powered local buses.

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

In the coming year, the City and Santa Clarita Transit will continue to evaluate local, state, and federal funding opportunities for transit services as it develops a strategy for implementing the recommendations included in the City Transit Development Plan. 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 black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Adrian Aguilar  
Transit Manager