



4(a)

MINUTES/PROCEEDINGS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MTA Headquarters
3rd Floor - Board Room
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles

Wednesday, March 26, 1997

Called to order at 10:20 a.m.

Directors/Alternates Present:

Larry Zarian/Han Heidt
Richard Riordan
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke/Michael Bohlke
Nick Patsouras
James Cragin/Joseph Dawidziak
John Fasana/Beatrice La Pisto-Kirtley
Robert Arthur
Vivien Bonzo
Carol Schatz
Mel Wilson
Robert Abemethy

Interim Chief Executive Officer - Linda Bohlinger
Interim Board Secretary - Michele Jackson
Inspector General - Arthur Sinai
General Counsel - County Counsel

io Received public comment.

2. Considered staff recommendations to:

- A. adopt a recommended bus procurement plan;
- so secure additional bus funding as part of the readoption of ISTEPA;
- co authorize staff to revise bus specifications for improved cost effectiveness; and
- Do direct staff to monitor the bus expansion and bus procurement programs and report to the Board on a *quarterly* basis with requested changes.

Chairman Zarian announced that the meeting would be approximately one hour with presentations from staff and Eric Mann of the Bus Riders Union.

L. Bohlinger announced that the Transit Police/LAPD merger had been approved by the Los Angeles City Council.

Handouts from staff and the Bus Riders Union were distributed to members of the Board. D. Woodbury reviewed the staff proposal for improving the bus fleet and the planned service expansion.

The fleet will be increased by approximately 20% over the next year. Fifty-three additional buses were deployed last December; 100 more are due in May/June of this year to reduce overcrowding. All buses eligible for replacement will be replaced over the next 12 years.

Methanol/ethanol engines have to be replaced every eight months instead of every four to five years for the traditional bus engine. The Flexible metro buses have faulty transmissions.

The CNG buses continue to experience higher operating costs than diesel. Staff is looking to develop revised specifications to lower costs for procurement of these buses. Lower unit costs can be achieved through low floor design, size changes, alternative clean air considerations.

Staff said they were comfortable with their proposed plan for purchase of buses as presented, both with the issue of replacement and funding.

Eric Mann referred to the motion by Directors Riordan and Burke approved at the January 10th Special Board Meeting and asked the Board to vote for an immediate 600-bus purchase, allowing a span of five years to solve the problem of bus shortage and replacement issues.

Received public comment.

Director Riordan indicated he had a lot of questions and concerns about an overall plan for bus improvement in the entire County of Los Angeles, and what the funding sources would be.

Interim CEO Linda Bohlinger noted that the Planning and Operations Departments are working together to implement the plan.

On question by Director Fasana, staff responded that the 12-year replacement cycle was established by the ETA. Director Fasana asked about the MTA's maintenance schedule commenting that buses in the California area should last longer than 12 years. He also asked how costs could be lowered to fund the program and how much lower operating costs would have to be to meet what the Bus Riders Union was requesting.

D. Woodbury said that operating costs could be reduced but not the purchase of buses.

Director Burke commented she had received calls from operators and maintenance employees regarding the CNG buses and their problems. She said the issue needs to be reviewed prior to moving forward with bus purchases. She continued by stating the importance of determining the amount of money available to purchase additional buses, and the preferred technology before actually placing an order.

Director Wilson stated that the MTA is in compliance with the consent decree and needs to be in a position to apply new technology when placing orders for buses.

Director Riordan reiterated the need for a complete overview of the transportation needs of the county.

Director Cragin reminded those present that the appropriate place for discussion on this subject is the Operations Committee.

Eric Mann and members of the Bus Riders Union demonstrated in the Board Room refusing to disperse.

Chairman Zarian adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

PREPARED BY: Rhodona Enright

Midh'ekle Jackson
Interim Board Secretary