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LA COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 26, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neil Bjornsen
Pam Corradi, Vice Chairperson
Russ Davies
Mike Dickerson, Secretary
Howard Sachar
Peter Schick
Jim Seal

SPEAKERS

Claudette Moody, MTA Government Relations
Bill Mabie, Chief Aid, Senator Richard Polanco
Will Changes to the MTA Board Hurt or Help the Organization?

STAFF PRESENT:

Ray Harris, Board Research Services
DA Haydel, Board Research Services

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by CAC Secretary M. Dickerson

Chairman's Report

Ellen Levine, Executive Officer, Operations, provided an overview of projects and activities underway in Operations. Ms. Levine discussed the following:

- Development of an APTA Task Force to review the various alternative fuel applications
- Procurement of buses to replenish the agency's aging fleet
- Upcoming Special Bus Workshop scheduled on March 26

Ms. Levine invited the CAC members to contact Rich Hunt, Deputy Executive Officer, Transit Operations Support, or herself regarding any operational issues and concerns.

III.

Guest Speakers

Claudette Moody, MTA Government Relations, provided an update on several recently submitted legislation which deals with restructuring the MTA Board. She provided an overview of the following:

AB152: (Assemblyman Richard Katz): This bill, presented in 1991, merged the RTD and LACTC to form the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) with a board structure of 13-members and 13-alternates.

SB 837 (Senators Quentin Kopp and Tom Hayden): This bill would abolish the authority and create three distinct entities: Los Angeles Transit District (Operations), Los Angeles Rail Authority (Rail Construction) and Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (Planning). This bill would require the county to conduct elections or appoint members to those agencies.

AB 1481 (Assemblyman Steven Kuykendall): This bill would reduce the board structure from 13 members to 9 appointed members, which would not exclude elected officials. This bill would require the Inspector General to report any action by a member of the authority which impedes an investigation to the Attorney General and the Los Angeles County District Attorney.

AB 1143 (Assemblyman Kevin Murray): This bill would delete the provisions authorizing the appointment of alternate board members to the authority. This bill would require the CEO to be appointed to a term of 4 years and be removed from office only if a 2/3 majority of the members of the authority votes for removal, the CEO violates a federal or state law, regulations, local ordinance, or policy or practice of the authority, relative to gifts or contributions.

Ms. Moody also discussed proposed legislation regarding the MTA Inspector General and Code of Conduct. She mentioned AB 5848 (Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa) which requires the State Auditor to appoint the Inspector General of the authority to a term of 7 years, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the authority and subject to removal from that office only by unanimous vote of that board. This bill also prescribes a code of conduct for the board of the authority.

Bill **Mabie, Chief Aide, Senator Richard Polanco** discussed the re-introduction of a board restructuring bill by Senator Polanco. This bill entitled SB 567 (Richard Polanco) proposes a board structure consisting of 14 elected members. It would require the County of Los Angeles to be divided into 7 districts, each of which would elect 2 members. This bill would forbid an MTA employee from seeking this elected office or serve as a member of the authority. It would further impose limitations on the making of gifts and campaign contributions to members or employees of the authority.

IV. **Committee Report**

J. Seal, CAC Member, discussed the establishment of a transit Blue Ribbon Committee, consisting of representatives from the fields of telecommunication, aerospace, retail and finance. The purpose of this Blue Ribbon Committee is to recommend strategies for implementing the Coopers and Lybrand Management Reform Study.

At March's CAC General Membership Meeting, Mr. Seal will present a motion regarding the establishment of a Blue Ribbon Committee for the CAC to approve for Board action.

V. **Public Comment**

Roger Christian requested additional information about the Senators and Assemblymembers submitting legislation.

Dana Gabbard mentioned that proposed legislation regarding the MTA structure would not entirely solve this agency's problems.

Howard Watts commented on the urgency of modifying the current Handicap Accessible/Senior Citizen decals located in the front section of MTA buses. He recommended that a much larger decal be designed to replace the current decals.

VI. **New Business**
None

VII. **Approval of Minutes**

McFarland, Chairman and M. Dickerson, Secretary approved February's minutes prior to submitting to MTA Board Secretary's Office for distribution.

VIII. **Adjournment**

M. Dickerson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.