



LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION • 311 SOUTH SPRING STREET—SUITE 1206, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90013 • (213) 626-0370

MINUTES

May 23, 1979

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Russ at 3:10 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

Mayor Edmond J. Russ  
Councilman Russell Rubley  
Councilman John Zimmerman  
Wendell Cox  
Robert Reeves, alternate for Supervisor Hahn  
Robert Geoghegan, alternate for Supervisor Edelman  
Councilwoman Pat Russell, alternate for Councilman Ferraro  
Councilwoman Chris Reed, alternate for Mayor Russ

Staff members present:

Jerome C. Premo, Executive Director  
Ronald Schneider, Principal Deputy County Counsel  
Kathy Torigoe, Secretary to Executive Director

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 9, 1979 were approved as submitted.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Russ commented about the gasoline crisis. Reports received indicate that SCRTD and other municipal operators have increased ridership by about 25% over the last month, including new riders who have never ridden the bus before. Later in the agenda, Commissioner Cox will report on his and Commissioner Reed's trip to Washington, D.C. to assure that we have enough fuel for buses to continue operation in Los Angeles County. Chairman Russ has asked staff and the Finance Review Committee has asked staff to see if they can find additional money from UMTA to: 1) help relieve overcrowding on buses, and 2) to extend lines to areas not scheduled before.

He further stated that we should capture the need right now if we can. Staff is looking into trying to obtain additional money to relieve overcrowding on buses and extend lines.

The Executive Director indicated that, as part of the agenda, discussion of some \$10 million that hopefully can be offered to transit operators in response to the problem of overcrowding will occur. He suggested that he could go through that and several other action items after the committee reports or however the Chairman wishes to proceed.

Chairman Russ asked Commissioner Cox if he wished to make a report at this time.

Commissioner Cox reported that the gas lines seem to be getting shorter but thought that it was critical that we find ways to get more bus service on the streets, and to provide some new seats to the new patrons.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked if there was some way that the other municipal operators could assist SCRTD in giving information to the public.

Jack Gilstrap, General Manager, of SCRTD responded by saying that the telephone switchboard is overcrowded now and the Board of Directors has authorized the establishment of some 25 additional positions in the switchboard. SCRTD ran a full-page ad in all the local papers and included a mail-in coupon to SCRTD. SCRTD is suggesting people to send coupon in with an indication of the route they wish take and SCRTD will send them timetables and route maps back. They are hoping that mailing of the coupon would take some pressure off the switchboard. SCRTD is establishing three new ticket offices which should be in operation within 60 to 90 days in the South Bay area, San Fernando Valley and the San Gabriel Valley. They are also establishing almost 600 additional outlets for timetables through the banks, Thrifty Drug Stores and some other chains, public libraries and several city halls. He will keep Mr. Zimmerman's offer in mind and talk it over with his organization, and if there are any specifics this Commission can help with, they will ask this Commission.

## Committee Reports

### Finance Review Committee

Commissioner Tweedt reported on the committee's meeting of May 21 and the following recommendations were made for Commission's approval:

1. The Executive Director passed out copies of memo dated May 21, 1979 on the southwide consensus on FY 1979-80 "AB 402" TIP. Commissioner Tweedt reported that this memo summarizes action that has been taken by Commission staff to bring together the 13 Southern California counties to gain a consensus and a united position to present to the California Transportation Commission.

The FRC's recommendation is to approve all necessary TIP submittals and LACTC participation in the presentation of the Southern consensus to the California Transportation Commission, in accordance with Executive Director's memo dated May 21 (EXHIBIT A); and authorize the Chairman and Vice Chairman to attend the hearings and present testimonies before the California Transportation Commission on June 7 and 8.

2. To confirm Executive Director's action as contained in his letter of May 16, 1979 to UMTA Regional Director to expedite \$20.8 million SCRTD bus purchase.
3. The FRC has been considering for over a year and hearing presentations from Caltrans on the Route 60/605 metering. The FRC recommends that this Commission suspend further consideration on the 60/605 metering until an agreement is received from Caltrans that they will obtain the LACTC's approval to continue the project after the demonstration period has elapsed.

M/S/C - Adopted the FRC's recommendations by unanimous consent.

Another item which the FRC took was to direct the Executive Director to expedite the allocation of authorized funding for improvement of municipal transit services and meeting Commuter Computer programming needs and report back to the Commission.

The Executive Director passed out copies of memo dated May 23 regarding significant issues for Commission's consideration and explained the issues listed relating to energy and transportation (EXHIBIT B).

The Executive Director asked for Commission's approval to invite all transit operators to submit a proposal on what they feel is the best way to serve the public and what they intend to do with the increased revenue. Staff would like to receive their responses by a week from this Friday (June 1) so that discussion can be made with this Commission through the FRC on the allocation.

Commissioner Cox moved that the Commission approve the principle of making available \$10 million for increased transit services in this crisis and along the line that staff has outlined, and that this Commission urge each of the operators to increase the services within their capabilities to the extent that their new fare revenues permit them to do. Seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

#### Service Coordination Committee

Commissioner Cox reported on the committee's meeting of May 14, 1979. Actions taken are as follows:

1. Fuel for Public Transit:

He reported that Commissioner Reed and he testified before the Economic Regulatory Administration on the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. last Friday to support the view that a rule change should be made to prove public transit with all of the fuel which it needs in this time of crisis. He further reported that he visited Congressional offices to make sure that they are aware of our concerns with respect to diesel fuel for public transit.

Commissioner Reed reported that they were asked if Governor Brown was going to make available his State diesel set-aside for public transit. She didn't know the answer at the Washington hearing; subsequently, she learned that the State is not changing its procedures at all. She also visited various Congressional offices and passed out copies of her testimony. She asked if Commission staff could provide Commissioners with information on the fuel efficiency of new buses. She handed the Executive Director a copy of her testimony so it could be mailed to the Commission members.

The Executive Director mentioned the two letters sent by Supervisor Hayes to Governor Brown and David J. Bardin, Administrator, Economic Regulatory Administration.

2. Senior Transit Identification Card:

Directed staff to provide a status report at the next SCC meeting on progress toward implementing countywide identification card at the beginning of FY 1979-80 (concept previously adopted by LACTC).

3. LACTC Elderly and Handicapped Plan:

Recommends approval of draft plan submitted for discussion purposes and for review in public hearings. It is understood that significant changes may be considered by the

Commission before final acceptance. This report was a requirement by UMTA when we received funding for the county for the present fiscal year.

4. RFP on the issue of Paratransit Brokerage:

The committee sent it back to staff for some revision to bring the RFP in line with the motion that was made by Mayor Bradley which called for the study. Hopefully, this RFP will be discussed at the next SCC meeting which is tentatively scheduled for June 18. Then this issue will go back to FRC for final review before coming before the Commission.

M/S/C - Adopted the SCC's report by unanimous consent.

Administrative Committee

Commissioner Zimmerman reported that this committee met on May 16, 1979 and recommended the following:

1. Unanimously voted to allocate from the unallocated reserve of the Commission \$75,000 for assistance to Commuter Computer. It was stipulated that these funds will not be used for any type of advertising and the Commission will retain the right to audit expenditures of these monies.

M/S/C - Approved by unanimous consent.

2. During this year, the Commission did not budget all of the monies that are due us from SCAG. \$480,645 have been withheld by SCAG until it has been applied for. It is the committee's unanimous decision to request SCAG to instruct the County Auditor to release the remainder of the Commission's 1978-79 TDA allocation. These monies will be budgeted in an unallocated reserve account pending Commission's commitment to specify projects and programs. Expenditure of funds from this account will have to receive Commission's action before they are spent.

M/S/C - Approved by unanimous consent.

3. The committee is reviewing the FY 1979-80 Commission budget. The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for June 4.

Energy/Transportation Issues

## Information items:

- a. Letter dated May 16, 1979 from Supervisor Hayes to Governor Brown.
- b. Letter dated May 15, 1979 from Supervisor Hayes to Department of Energy Administrator David J. Bardin.
- c. Report on May 18 hearing on transit priority in allocation of diesel.
- d. Commuter Computer request: Progress report
- e. Federal Highway Administration commitment on review of rideshare proposals.
- f. National Rideshare Demonstration Grants

Receive and file the above information items.

## g. Other issues:

The Executive Director asked the Commissioners to refer back to his May 23 memo.

AB 1344: Assemblyman Elder introduced this bill that was killed last week but will be reconsidered in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee within the next two weeks. This bill will make monthly transit passes eligible as a State income tax deduction.

Action: Support the bill, direct staff to work with the League of Cities' Los Angeles Chapter, SCRTD, City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles in trying to get support for this bill.

Commissioner Geoghegan indicated that many of the transit users use the short form of the State income tax and moved that this should be set up for the people to get credit for this deduction, and asked the Executive Director to discuss this matter with the author of the bill.

M/S/C - Approved the motion.

Commuter Computer: As Commissioner Zimmerman indicated, since the last Commission meeting, staff has been working with the City, County, and Caltrans to provide short-term emergency funding and manpower help to Commuter Computer.

) Action: Approve allocation of \$75,000 in LACTC funds to Commuter Computer to support activities through September 30, 1979, and direct staff to prepare a comprehensive report on existing and anticipated Commuter Computer budget and manpower needs. None of these funds will be used to support new marketing by Commuter Computer. If Commuter Computer succeeds in securing Department of Energy's funding, the Commission should evaluate whether any funds unexpended from the \$75,000 should be returned to the Commission.

Additional Funds for Transit: This item has been covered under the Finance Review Committee report.

Staggered Work Hours: All analyses of the energy problem and the ability of transit to respond include support for staggered work hours and flextime. If the private sector is asked to push this concept, it seems only appropriate that the public sector should take leadership in examining potential uses.

Action: Direct staff to work with City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County officials to determine whether flextime and staggered work hours can be implemented, and if so, how quickly.

Diesel Fuel for Transit: This matter was covered by reports from Commissioners Cox and Reed under Service Coordination Committee.

National Rideshare Demonstration Program: Staff has been working with other agencies to develop a grant application for FHWA funds to promote rideshare demonstration programs. The Commission budget includes \$50,000 a year for two years as its proportional share of the local match. Total budget anticipated for the two-year project is over \$2 million. Staff recommends Commission should endorse the submittal of the application for National Rideshare Demonstration Program funds and staff prepare a letter for Chairman Russ' signature urging prompt federal action for this program.

M/S/C - Adopted motion by unanimous consent to support this National Rideshare Demonstration Program.

#### Executive Director's Report

#### Legislation:

) AB 103: Executive Director received a joint position of SCRTD and municipal operators regarding AB 103. Key points are:

- A. July 1, 1980 (as opposed to January 1, 1980) for completion of the "Transit Coordination and Service Program."
- B. Elimination of review and analysis by the State Legislature as it relates to Sections 130370, 130371, and 130372.
- C. Removal from Article 7 of AB 103 of Sections 130373 and 130374 referencing existing municipal protections and SCRTD's right-of-first refusal.
- D. Requirement for 8 affirmative votes of the Commission be required to establish transportation zones as it relates to Section 130261 of the Public Utilities Code.

The Executive Director also reviewed the recent actions of the Bus Operations Subcommittee and Technical Advisory Committee concerning the SCRTD Board's request that the Commission adopt a 1/3 farebox and/or local funds to operating costs ratio in advance of passage of AB 103. The action of the Technical Advisory Committee was to support this request at this time, whereas the Bus Operations Subcommittee did not feel it was appropriate to support the 1/3 farebox and/or local funds to operating costs ratio at this time.

Chairman Russ indicated that the discussion at this time should principally be limited to the muni protection clause and SCRTD's right-of-first refusal.

Board members of SCRTD and representatives of municipal operators were in attendance and were invited to speak by Chairman Russ. The following individuals spoke to the points summarized by the Executive Director as to the transit operators' position on AB 103.

Earl Docimo, City of Montebello  
Chris Reed, City of Santa Monica  
Thomas Neusom, SCRTD  
Gerald Haugh, Long Beach Transit  
Joan Staum, City of Culver City  
Bill Holt, City of La Mirada  
Jack Gilstrap, SCRTD

Following these brief presentations, the Executive Director was asked to summarize staff's recommendation on the points covered by the representatives of the transit operators.

1. Support extension to July 1, 1980 (as opposed to January 1, 1980) for completion of this program.

2. Elimination of legislative review of the program - support if no major objections are raised by the Legislature.
3. Support requirement for 8 affirmative votes of the Commission to establish transportation zones.
4. Staff opposes removal from Article 7 of reference to elimination of the muni protection clauses and the SCRTD's right-of-first refusal upon adoption of a program, and recommends strongly this Commission not alter existing policy position concerning this part of AB 103.

The Executive Director indicated that this bill is now an urgency bill and feels that this Commission should move AB 103 as a regular bill instead of an urgency bill.

Chairman Russ invited the transit operators to speak on the discussion of AB 103 as an urgency bill. Mr. Gilstrap discussed this point in relationship to Assemblyman Ingalls' bill AB 86.

Commissioner Cox moved that this Commission support:

1. the concept, if necessary of removing the urgency clause from the legislation;
2. extension to July 1, 1980 for completion of the transit coordination and service program; and
3. requirement for 8 affirmative votes of the Commission to establish transportation zones.

Seconded by Commissioner Reeves.

Voice vote on motion:

Ayes

Peter Tweedt  
Pat Russell  
Robert Reeves  
Robert Geoghegan  
John Zimmerman  
Wendell Cox  
Chairman Russ

Nays

Russell Rubley

Chairman Russ asked if there was any motion to change the position of the Commission as to support of AB 103. There was no motion.

Chairman Russ opened discussion concerning the 1/3 farebox and/or local funds to operating costs ratio.

The Executive Director presented a brief overview of the issue and past actions of the Commission (to support AB 86) as it relates to the ratios in that bill, and the various concerns that have been expressed by the transit operators on this issue.

Chairman Russ invited the municipal operators to speak on their position on AB 86. Tom Narrigan indicated that in the case of Long Beach Transit, they reluctantly support AB 86. Other provisions of the bill such as removing the Maintenance of Effort clause from the Transportation Development Act makes the bill an important piece of legislation for the transit operators.

The Chairman asked for a motion from any of the Commissioners to change the position on AB 86 or the farebox and/or local funds to operating costs ratios presented in the bill. There was no motion.

#### Grand Jury Report on Transit in Los Angeles County

Letter from the Grand Jury to Chairman Russ transmitting the recommendations of the Environmental Committee of the Los Angeles County Grand Jury.

This matter has been referred to the Finance Review and Intergovernmental Relations Committees.

#### FAU Program for Los Angeles County

The California Transportation Commission is meeting today and tomorrow in Costa Mesa. They will act tomorrow to support a recommendation made today. They will release money for all 81 cities (the 80% money), they will approve the \$17.1 million in transit and they will hold for resolution next month the Caltrans proposed projects.

#### Alan M. Voorhees Report

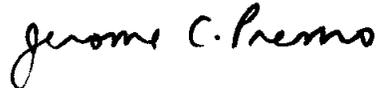
The summary conclusion of the Voorhees report was passed out to the Commissioners. Staff will be working with committees on the report.

) Articulated Double-Deck Bus

Commissioner Cox moved that the Commission request SCRTD report to this Commission on the feasibility of possibly including this type of bus in their future plans or something similar.

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., June 13, 1979 at the Department of Water and Power Building, Room 1555-H, 111 North Hope Street.

Respectfully submitted,



JEROME C. PREMO  
Executive Director

JCP:kyt  
Attachments