



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

MINUTES

January 14, 1981

The regular Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Rubley at 3:25 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

Chairman Schabarum  
Vice Chairman Rubley  
Mayor Edmund Russ  
Councilman John Zimmerman  
Wendell Cox  
Councilwoman Christine Reed, alternate to Mayor Russ  
Robert Geoghegan, alternate to Supervisor Edelman  
Robert Reeves, alternate to Supervisor Hahn  
Barna Szabo, alternate to Supervisor Dana  
Heinz Heckerth, ex-officio representing State of California

Staff members in attendance were:

Rick Richmond, Executive Director  
Phyllis Eder, Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Mr. Szabo to approve the minutes of the December 10, and 17, 1980 meetings. No objection was heard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Review Committee:

The following recommendations were presented to the Commissioners for their approval by Mr. Cox.

- o Approval of the Executive Director's Staff Organization Proposal.
- o Deferral of action on the Administrative Procedures Manual.
- o Approval of the recommendation to hire the firm of Greer and Company to provide consulting services on the Commuter Bikeways Study.

Mr. Cox moved for approval of the action items and was seconded by Mr. Reeves. No objection or discussion was heard.

Mr. Cox also explained that as an information item, the Finance Review Committee is still considering the California Transportation Commission's request that the Commission reconcile its TIP to the State's TIP. The Finance Review Committee anticipates taking action on this item at a subsequent meeting, once staff makes a recommendation.

Staff had presented to the Committee a report on the California Transportation Commission's Strategy for Highway Funding of Route 30, the Foothill Freeway. The Finance Review Committee unanimously agreed that the Foothill Freeway should be funded by state, and not local, funds. It was requested that the CTC go on record as supporting the need for Route 30 and that they transmit this action to the Legislature. It was also requested that the CTC require Caltrans to continue its right-of-way protection program.

The Committee also recommends approval of the Preliminary Overall Work Program for FY 81-82 in the amount of \$1.3 million and supplemental planning tasks in the amount of \$1.16 million. It was also asked that when staff return in June with the final recommendation, that staff also consider including origin/destination studies which were suggested previously by several Commissioners.

The Committee also recommended referral of a request from Caltrans District 7 to assist them in the station location review for the proposed L.A. to Newhall rail commuter service to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

The Committee received report on the availability of disaster funding for local streets and roads.

Mr. Cox made a motion that approval be made for the Overall Work Program and the position on Route 30, and was seconded by Mr. Reeves.

No further discussion or objection was heard to the motion.

Intergovernmental Relations Committee:

Mr. Szabo thanked staff for all their hard work in preparing for the meeting the aftermath of the fire at the LACTC Offices.

Mr. Szabo presented an overview of a proposed highway financing legislative package. It was necessary for the Commissioners to realize that two new situations would be facing the Commission, the first being the new administration with Drew Lewis as the Secretary of Transportation, and that in Sacramento the Chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee will be Bruce Young. John Foran will continue as Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Mr. Szabo began his discussion by observing that the \$450 million surplus in Highway funding has dropped to a \$915 million deficit.

In terms of a legislative program, the first thing would be to deal with the deficit and secondly the accountability of where the funds are going and how to keep track of them.

Linda Pendlebury of staff, gave a report on alternative levels of State funding and what they could accomplish. Ms. Pendlebury also explained the different options that would be available for raising new revenues including increasing the gas tax by cents-per-gallon or converting to a percentage, and increasing truck weight fees.

Staff has recommended a change in the 7¢ gallonage tax be changed to a 9% tax and that there be a sharing of the diesel tax with cities and counties, and increase truck weight fees by 50% and earmark those funds for highway purposes.

The second recommendation by staff was to change the current gas tax split to local agencies from the cents to a percentage, and also share the diesel tax with local agencies.

A short discussion followed Ms. Pendlebury's presentation.

Mr. Szabo explained that the Commission needs to determine whether it supports a revenue increase and if so, whether it should be on the basis of cents-per-gallon or on percentage. Mr. Szabo then gave a brief outline of both advantages and disadvantages of the cents-per-gallon as opposed to percentages.

Staff had been instructed by the Committee to make recommendations on the exploration of the merits of the percentage concept versus the increase in cents as an approach to getting increased funding.

If the Commission goes for the increased funding option, then it is recommended by the Committee to go with the percentage approach, rather than the increased cents.

A short discussion followed Mr. Szabo's presentation.

The Committee also recommended supporting the increase in all DMV fees to cover the cost of operations. The Committee also supported the earmarking of truck fees for State Highway financing and local streets. As a Committee, it also supported the elimination of a tax on tax and did support the idea of applying the return to source calculations to the increased funding amounts.

It was suggested that at the next meeting, if the Commission decides to go with an increase funding formula, then go with some of the basic concepts that were presented. A discussion involving more details of the specific amounts were also suggested.

It was decided that the issue would be moved on to the Finance Review Committee on the financial aspects of the issue.

It was suggested by Mr. Geoghegan to send letters of congratulations to those members who have assumed new chairmanships and express the hope that this Commission can work closely with them in the future.

The Committee also agreed that AB 402 clean up legislation should be pursued. This legislation would make adjustments in the State TIP process to enhance the role of the local governments.

The Committee would like to tighten up the Administrative Procedures for auditing the progress of use of highway funds wherever possible. It is recommended to support in the Legislative measures a provision that would be attached to any revenue measure to encourage the use of State Highway Funds.

It is also recommended to seek a repeal of SB 512, which created Orange County as its own district, should the aforementioned timely be unsuccessful.

Mr. Szabo moved that the recommendations be approved and it was seconded. No objection was heard to the motion.

Mr. Szabo presented the following information items. It was explained that many of the transportation related organizations are trying to put together a "memorandum of understanding", where there will be an agreement to abide by certain rules of policy. There was no foreseeable problem in the adoption.

Mr. Szabo moved for the approval of the recommendation and was seconded by Mr. Reeves.

Mr. Szabo also presented for approval the suggestion that the legislative goals of the Commission be presented in Washington to members of Congressional delegations and the new Administration. It was requested to authorize staff to explore the possibilities of setting up meetings in Washington with members of the Commission with members of the new Administration and Congress to discuss the issues relative to transportation financing. The anticipated dates for the meeting would be in mid-March.

Mr. Szabo moved for approval and was seconded by Mr. Reeves. No objection was heard.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Schabarum mentioned that according to the Administrative Code, the first meeting in January is when the Vice Chairman takes over the chair and the election of officers is held.

Chairman Schabarum offered concluding comments on the year expressing his disappointment over such issues as unspent FAU Funds, Caltrans performance, progress of the Downtown People Mover, and Proposition A. Chairman Schabarum felt that the Commission had provided a far better forum for transportation agencies. He felt that while being Chairman, two issues that were brought forward were the Commission does not have the authority it thought it did have, and that some decisions should be made that might be a little disturbing to other agencies. Chairman Schabarum felt that if advances are to be made in transportation, that issues must be looked at from a larger scale.

Mr. Schabarum further stated that he thought that the Commission should be commended for bringing into place Mr. Richmond as the Executive Director, and the excellent staff who show more than a routine interest in performing their duties.

Mr. Schabarum felt that the Commission's major objective was to establish a balanced public transportation system. He wished Mr. Rubley luck as Chairman of the Commission.

Mr. Reeves nominated Supervisor Edelman for the position of Vice Chairman and was seconded by Mr. Zimmerman.

Mr. Rubley moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Mr. Schabarum.

Mr. Schabarum moved that Mr. Edelman be elected Vice Chairman of the Commission by unanimous nomination. No objection was heard to the nomination.

Mr. Geoghegan spoke on behalf of Supervisor Edelman and thanked the other Commissioners for their votes.

Mr. Rubley, as the new Chairman, thanked Mr. Schabarum for his leadership and gave a brief talk on what his objectives for the coming year were. He intended to turn the Commission into a positive partner with the public. Meetings will be scheduled for all parts of the county. Some of the objectives include implementing Proposition A, highway funding objectives include completion of freeway systems already approved, continued funding based on ridesharing, implementation of the Transportation Coordination and Service Program, more effective role in State funding decision process, reauthorization of federal transit highway programs (including funding levels and formulas), and State Legislative issues. Four goals are real progress on the Century Freeway, the Artesia Freeway, the Terminal Island Freeway and developing a strong working relationship with other local agencies and Commissions.

Mr. Rubley expressed a desire to see a Commission alive with new horizons in 1981.

Mr. Reeves expressed his pleasure at having been able to serve as an alternate for Supervisor Hahn under all the past chairmen.

Mr. Rubley then presented to Mr. Schabarum a plaque of appreciation from the members of the Commission.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Richmond explained that a letter had been received from Adriana Gianturco, Director of Caltrans, regarding the completion of Route 7. The basic response was that they cannot go along with the Commission's request for the following reasons.

- All agencies had not agreed to it.
- They do not believe that there is a reasonable funding potential for the work that has been requested.
- The request represents segmentation of the overall project and that violates established policies.

Mr. Richmond indicated that he did not believe those points were entirely accurate, and that the staff will attempt to address the issues. Further, they do not justify the continued lack of action on the project. Mr. Richmond assured the Commissioners that staff would be returning with a recommendation as to what to do next after conferring with the cities involved and Caltrans.

Mr. Schabarum suggested that one option might be going around the State Department and go directly to the Federal Government, and see if there might be a clarification on the representation being used.

Mr. Szabo thought it would be a good idea if staff did not take the letter as final word on the subject, and the Commission challenge the Director's opinion as it was expressed.

Another item Mr. Richmond brought up for approval was the request of Commissioner Cox to attend an APTA Committee Meeting in Washington later in the month. No objection was heard.

Mr. Richmond also mentioned that unfortunately there had been a fire in the building on Friday but that there was minimal damage to the working area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Russ added that it had been a pleasure working with Supervisor Schabarum as Chairman and that his leadership had been a big help.

Mr. Russ mentioned the stopping of the funding on the 91/11 matter and felt that action should be taken. He suggested that it be classified as a hazard elimination project so that the funding might be released. It was requested that staff work on that with

Caltrans. Another suggestion was to possibly get Washington to change the order. Mr. Russ thought the report was fine, but thought it was important to get some direction.

Mr. Richmond explained that staff had been working with Caltrans under what basis some of the projects would go through, and what they could use on the 91/11. A short discussion followed the presentation.

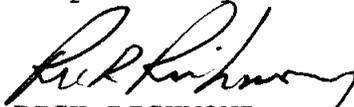
NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

It was made clear that meetings starting in February would be held around the county. It was suggested that if any of the Commissioners had any suggestions for sites, to please let staff know.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
RICK RICHMOND  
Executive Director

RR:pae