

MINUTES



LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 403 West 8th St., Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90014 (213) 626-0370

LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARCH 8, 1989

The meeting was called to order by Chair Reed at 1:45 p.m. in the of Supervisors' Board Hearing Room at the Hall of Administration. Mr. Peterson indicated that he is in receipt of a letter from Supervisor Edelman designating Richard Callahan as his alternate for today's meeting.

Members in attendance were:

Council Member Christine E. Reed
Mayor Jacki Bacharach
Councilman Nate Holden
Councilman Ray Grabinski
Marcia Mednick
Walter King, alternate to Supervisor Hahn
Richard Callahan, alternate to Supervisor Edelman
Barna Szabo, alternate to Supervisor Dana
John La Follette, alternate to Supervisor Antonovich
Ray Remy, alternate to Mayor Bradley
Rosa Kortizija, alternate to Supervisor Antonovich
Jerry Baxter, Ex-Officio for State of California

Staff members present:

Neil Peterson, Executive Director
David Kelsey, Assistant County Counsel
Kathy Torigoe, Executive Secretary
Therese Hernandez, Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Correction to the minutes of February 22, 1989 - Page 6: Chair Reed reported that she had attended the first meeting of several scheduled transportation summit meetings with the Governor. One item discussed was either adjusting or doing away with the State allocation formula, at least with regard to any new funds generated by new gasoline taxes Caltrans is not attacking the formula for the existing level of funding but it is actively putting forward recommendations which essentially directs the funding to highest ranked projects for congestion relief. Chair Reed reported that she expressed concern about doing away with a formula of long-standing which evolved out of significant political compromise. She will know more after she attends the working sessions next week in Sacramento. Also on Page 11, the time should be 11:20 a.m.

Mrs. Bacharach moved approval of the minutes of February 22, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Reed. Hearing no objection, the minutes were approved as amended.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT EIR - Revised Alternatives for the Notice of Preparation

Mr. Richard Stanger of LACTC staff gave a brief staff report on the project. As a result of the public comment received at the February 13, 1989 Transit Committee meeting, several changes to the staff recommendation were recommended by the Transit Committee.

A report which summarizes the approximate cost of these alternatives was distributed to the members. It indicates that there are certain alternatives that the Commission might be able to afford with local dollars in the 1990's: the Burbank light rail primarily at-grade, the whole length of the Valley, or the extension of the Metro Rail system out the Ventura Freeway to basically Sepulveda Boulevard. All of the other alternatives are not affordable with local dollars during the next ten-year period.

The Committee's recommendation is that the Commission authorize staff to release the San Fernando Valley Rail Transit Project Notice of Preparation for an EIR to include the following alternatives:

The Burbank Branch Route:

1. An aerial/subway alternative which is in full subway within residential areas only and which includes a Metro Rail extension option and an automated rail transit option.

2. A mitigated light rail alternative with shallow trench/berm, deep trench, and deep bore options through residential areas, and having at least a deep trench along the "diagonal" segment.

The Ventura Freeway Route:

3. A mitigated aerial rail guideway alternative along the Ventura Freeway which would be in subway adjacent to residential areas and include a Metro Rail extension option and an automated rail transit option.

Each of the alternatives will have an interim terminal near the 405 Freeway as a length/phasing option. The interim terminals will include feeder bus provisions like the El Monte busway station. Monorail and magnetic-levitation technologies will be considered as options to the Metro Rail extensions.

Mr. La Follette asked if staff had any objection to deleting the last five words of the recommendation so that the final last sentence would read: "Monorail and magnetic-levitation technologies will be considered as options on the fully-grade separated segments."

Mayor Tom Bradley appeared before the Commission and urged the Commission to move with deliberate speed the environmental process for a rail system to serve the San Fernando Valley. On behalf of the Valley, the City and the Region, he urged that the Commission adopt the recommendation of the Transit Committee amended to:

1. Reinstate the above-grade operation on the Ventura Freeway line as a study option.
2. Reject the Federal EIS process for this project at this time.
3. Urged that the Commission formally commit to completing environmental work on the Coastal, Pasadena and Valley lines prior to identifying our next rail project start so that we may all make an informed regional decision.

Note: Expenditures of \$500,000 for work on preliminary engineering for the Coastal and Pasadena routes and for selected acquisition of key right-of-way segments of no more than \$1,000,000 would not prejudice the issue for these lines while work on the San Fernando Valley EIR proceeds.

The following persons also appeared before the Commission:

Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, City of Los Angeles
Councilwoman Joy Picus, City of Los Angeles

Bruce Whidden, for Assemblyman Marion La Follette
Roger Stanard for Senator Ed Davis
Elizabeth Newman for Assemblyman Katz read his letter
Gerald Silver, Coalition of Freeway Residents
Carol Schary, Sunnyslope Avenue Homeowners Assn.
Rabbi Marvin Sugarman, Shaarey Zedek San Fernando Congregation
Bob Silver, ESTC/Hillview Park Homeowners
Don Schultz, Van Nuys Homeowners Assn.
Elizabeth Tigar, Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Kurt Hunter, North Hollywood Residents
Richard Smith, Encino Property Owners
Gerald E. Curry, Woodland Hills Chamber of Commerce
Tom Paterson, Valley Village Homeowners Assn.
Gail Hoxworth, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Assn.
C. N. Skip Wrightson, VICA
Sylvia Aronson, SFV Board of Realtors
Tom Herman, Chairman of ESTC
David Fleming, President of VICA
Mel Wilson, President of United Chambers of Commerce, San Fernando Valley
Julie Fine, Chairwoman of Western Sector Transit Coalition
Donald Eitner, Universal City & North Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Guy W. McCreary, FAIR
Lawrence Kaufman, Mammoth Homeowners
Tom Lucente, Studio City Residents Assn.
Jack Bekian for Don Whitomore, Tarzana Chamber of Commerce
David Miller, Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce
Gordon Murphy, Woodland Hills Homeowners
DeSosa, SFV NAACP & Northeast Valley Resident
Sanford Paris, L.A. Headquarters City Assn.

Mr. Holden offered a procedural motion that the Commission attempt to limit the time of the speakers to one hour in favor and one the motion would be proper. Discussion followed. Mr. Holden withdrew his motion.

Additional persons who also appeared before the Commission:

Joan Thompson
Jack McGrath, candidate for city council
Kenneth Katz, Shaarey Zeder Congregation
Amir Kraemer, Shaarey Zeder Congregation
Ada Klevans, N. Hollywood Project Area Committee
Naomi Sklar
Prudy Schultz
Paul Hjortsvang, West Hills Community Organization
Leonard Feldman
Jerry Blaz, Western Transit Sector

Susan Odenchantz, Western Coalition
Suzanne Swanson
Dean Swanson
John Yaldezian
Jeanne Hoyt
Sheldon Walter, Consultant, L.A. Rail Transit (non-existent)
David Riback, ESTC
Michael Guidarelli
George Colman
Peter Ireland
Ryan Snyder, candidate for L.A. City Council, District 5
Dale Sigler
Marilyn Minkle
Abraham Falick, Coalition for Rapid Transit
Dr. S. Feuerstein, ESTC, Chandler Homeowners, Adat Ari El
Larry Voronyak
Mikie Maloney, S. O. Homeowners
Joseph S. Conzevoy
Ralph Joseph, Encino Homeowners
Clifton Rosett
Marvin Block
Bert Bickel
Julius Borah, ESTC
William B. McCann, San Fernando Valley Chamber & San Fernando
Valley Realty Board
Rabbi Leslie Alexander, Adat Ari El
Pat Moser, L.A. County Democratic Party
Barbara L. Schlein
Miles Raskoff
Julie Raskoff
Joe Dancygier, Encino Homeowners Assn.
Brenda Kuznitsky
Hugh Morris, Valley Transit Committee Member
Bobbie Fiedler, TRAC - SFV Transportation Committee
Steve Scherr, Homeowner on route
Bryan Allen

Mr. Szabo suggested that the Committee's recommendation be considered by the full Commission with some amendments:

1. Accept three points in the Committee's recommendation with the addition of reinstating the above-grade alternative on Ventura Freeway line as a study option;
2. At this time, reject the Federal EIS process for this project which would cause at least a four or five-year delay;

3. Commit to completing the environmental work on the Coastal, Pasadena and Valley lines within one year; and when those works are completed, then the Commission identify the next rail project start so that an informed regional decision can be made. Also asked staff for language as to how the Commission can accomplish making sure that the projects move along smoothly and not be held up.

Mr. Szabo moved approval of the Committee's recommendations with the amendments included, seconded by Mr. Remy.

Mr. Holden offered an amendment to the motion that the Commission include in this study the San Fernando Valley Road Route which will be paid for by the County and City, seconded by Mr. King.

Mrs. Reed asked to staff to report on the prior action made by the Commission with regard to the San Fernando Valley rail line. Mr. Stanger reported that the Commission considered this alternative but decided that because it was not within the east-west corridor of the San Fernando Valley, it was inappropriate to study as part of that corridor. Staff recommended to the City Council, however, that if the City and the County could come up with the money, staff would study this alternative for them. Staff also looked at this alternative as a commuter rail project out toward Santa Clarita Valley.

Mrs. Bacharach indicated that the main motion has to do with the full EIR and the San Fernando study is not a full EIR.

Mr. Holden clarified that his motion is to bring the San Fernando rail route into the full EIR preceding once the route refinement study was finished.

After some discussion, Mr. Holden withdrew his amendment to the motion.

Chair Reed indicated that Mr. Szabo's main motion is on the table which addresses the EIR for the East-West San Fernando Valley route alternatives.

Mr. Holden offered another amended motion to delete staff recommendation No. 2 and to delete the recommendation that Mr. Szabo added to reinstate the full above-grade option as one of the study options; this was seconded by Mr. Callahan.

Discussion followed.

Mrs. Bacharach spoke in opposition to Mr. Holden's amended motion.

Mr. Remy moved to the previous question and to close the debate on the amendment, which was seconded. All those present, except Mr. Holden, were in favor of the motion.

Roll call vote on Mr. Holden's amended motion:

Yes: King, Callahan, Holden

No: Szabo, Kortizija, Remy, Grabinski, Bacharach, Mednick, Reed

Amended motion failed.

Mrs. Bacharach offered an amendment that the Commission commit to complete the projects in a timely manner and make a decision on the next phase of the construction program no later than March of 1990. She also asked that the language be changed so that it reflect only the Commission's intent to complete all three EIRs before selecting the next project.

Mr. Szabo indicated that he had no problem in including Mrs. Bacharach's amendment to his motion.

After much discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the main motion by Mr. Szabo:

The Commission authorized its staff to release the San Fernando Valley Rail Transit Project Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The study will include two routes with several alternatives and options.

Alternatives:

On the Southern Pacific Railroad Burbank Branch Route:

1. An aerial/subway alternative which is in full subway within residential areas only and which includes a Metro Rail extension option and an automated rail transit option.
2. A mitigated light rail alternative with shallow trench/berm, deep trench, and deep bore options through residential areas, and having at least a deep trench along the "diagonal" segment.

On the Ventura Freeway Route:

3. A mitigated aerial rail guideway alternative along the Ventura Freeway; a Metro Rail extension option and an automated rail transit option will be studied.
4. An alternative which is in full subway within residential areas only and aerial elsewhere; a Metro Rail extension option and an automated rail transit option will be studied.

The alternatives will have an interim terminal near the 405 Freeway as a length/phasing option. The interim terminals will include feeder bus provisions like the El Monte busway station. Monorail and magnetic-levitation technologies will be considered as options within the fully grade-separated alternatives.

Study Process:

The Commission chose to begin the California Environmental Quality Act process instead of the federal Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Impact Statement process.

Other Rail Corridors:

The Commission expressed its intention to complete environmental work on the San Fernando Valley, Pasadena and North Coast lines before making a decision on the next project or project segments to be built. This decision is expected to be made by no later than March 1990. Staff was authorized to begin preliminary engineering and to acquire necessary right-of-way prior to March 1990, with the understanding that the work would not imply selection of the next project to be built. The Commission also reaffirmed its previous decision not to include the San Fernando Road route in the EIR.

Roll call vote:

Yes: King, Callahan, Szabo, Kortizija, Remy, Grabinski, Bacharach, Mednick, Reed

No: (none)

Abstain: Holden

Motion was carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Commission Travel Request

Commissioners King and Mednick had expressed an interest in attending the Institute of Transportation Engineers' Conference, "Beyond Gridlocks: Getting There from Here" scheduled for March 12-15, 1989 in Dallas, Texas. Commission approval was requested. Mr. Grabinski moved approval, seconded by Mr. King. Hearing no objection, the travel request was approved.

2. Notice of Meetings was received and filed.

REPORT FROM CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Chair Reed proposed that the Commission take action and give recognition to the service of Jim Sims who was called upon to serve as the Interim Acting Executive Director. She offered a motion to extend a bonus compensation of \$1,000 to Mr. Sims, seconded by Mr. King. Hearing no objection, the motion was carried.

Mrs. Reed reported that the Governor held another summit meeting in Sacramento. The meeting was not conclusive and there will be a third summit meeting in a couple of weeks. A report will be made at the conclusion of the meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Greg Roberts commented on SCRTD's bus service, specifically the Cahuenga bus line.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Neil Peterson
kyt

NEIL PETERSON
Executive Director

NP:kyt

