

# MINUTES



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

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MAY 10, 1989

The Commission's issues meeting was called to order by Chair Reed at 1:45 p.m. in the Board of Supervisor's 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  
Councilwoman Jacki Bacharach  
Councilman Ray Grabinski  
Councilman Nate Holden  
Marcia Mednick  
Mike Lewis, alternate to Supervisor Schabarum  
Walter King, alternate to Supervisor Hahn  
Richard Callahan, alternate to Supervisor Edelman  
Barna Szabo, alternate to Supervisor Dana  
Ray Remy, alternate to Mayor Bradley  
Jerry Baxter, Ex-Officio for State of California

Staff members present:

Neil Peterson, Executive Director  
David Kelsey, County Counsel  
Kathy Torigoe, Executive Secretary  
Elyse Kusunoki, Senior Secretary

COMMUTER RAIL STUDY SESSION

Mr. Peterson indicated that as part of an increased interest, not only here but around the country in commuter rail in the last several years, one of the railroads serving the Los Angeles area, the Southern Pacific, made a public announcement indicating interest in disposing of some of its assets. He thought that it is timely to review this issue at this time and asked Richard Stanger and Fred Silverman to make a presentation on commuter rail; how it's defined, what is the history in Los Angeles County and nationally, what some of the economics of it are, and what are the important issues.

Representatives from Southern Pacific and Sante Fe were invited to make brief presentations to the Commission.

Fred Silverman gave a slide presentation on commuter rail systems in the U.S. and Canada.

In the slide presentation, he made the following highlights:

- The basics of commuter rail
- Important commuter rail service features
- Economics of operations
- Operating cost concerns
- Southern California's Commuter Rail History
- Role of Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, and Union Pacific
- Commuter and Intercity Rail Service Overlap
- Intercounty coordination
- Southern Pacific Property Proposal

Then he introduced Mr. Doug Stevenson, Assistant Counsel for the Southern Pacific Railroad, who talked about the company's offer to the Commission to sell three rail lines.

- The State Street-Baldwin Park Line
- The West Santa Ana Line
- The Exposition Line

Mr. Stevenson discussed general concepts behind the SP's offer.

A question-and-answer period followed.

Following this presentation, Richard Stanger discussed what steps the Commission would be taking to advance commuter rail and intercity rail proposals for future consideration. The steps discussed included:

- Coordination of overall policy approach
- Work with Los Angeles County regarding Santa Fe's Second Subdivision

- Work with Southern Pacific on property issues
- Work with adjacent counties regarding common interests
- Participate in intercity rail improvement programs
- See if demonstration projects are possible
- Examine operation needs of Union Station
- Obtain staff to undertake these activities

Mr. Remy indicated that the Commission should acknowledge receipt of Councilwoman Flores's motion to the L.A. Council and report back as to how the Commission will involve those interested parties in discussions concerning the acquisition and development of rail transit on the rail rights of way offered for sale by Southern Pacific Transportation Company.

He also asked for clarification of commuter rail and light rail corridors.

Mrs. Bacharach asked that staff develop a public relations program along with the purchase of the rail lines.

Mr. Lewis asked for an implementation process to establish a framework for proceeding that the Commission and all agree on.

Mr. Peterson indicated that this matter will be discussed at the next Transit Committee meeting and that the Commission needs to get started with the two railroad companies.

Mr. King asked for a list from Southern Pacific immediately showing areas of potential development and an inventory of sections of land that have title problems.

Mrs. Reed advised that the City of Santa Monica had, prior to Southern Pacific's advertising these routes for sale, authorized the hiring of an appraiser to appraise Exposition Line. If the Commission preferred to take this effort off Santa Monica's hands, the Commission can make that offer. Otherwise, Santa Monica will pursue its efforts with the intention to share this information with the Commission.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Commissioner Travel Request:

Commissioners Reed and King had expressed an interest in attending the APTA Rapid Transit Conference on June 4-8, 1989 to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Commission approval was requested.

It was moved and seconded to approve the above travel. Hearing no objection, motion was carried.

- b. Notice of Meetings was received and noted.
- c. Mr. King asked that the matter requiring transit operators receiving federal funds to comply with federal drug-testing regulations be referred to the Transit Committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alisa Katz of Councilman Yaroslavky's office commented on the commuter rail study and Exposition Line.

Jamison Handy of Transit Research Foundation commented on the Exposition Boulevard Southern Pacific Route.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 3:40 p.m., the Commission recessed into executive session to discuss pending litigation concerning the Foothill Transportation Zone; personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 54957; and pending litigation and the exposure to litigation concerning the Firestone Bridge collapse pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

*for*   
NEIL PETERSON  
Executive Director

NP:kyt