



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

MINUTES

September 24, 1980

The Commissioners were called into an Executive Session by Chairman Schabarum at 3:10 p.m.

The regular Commission was called to order by Chairman Schabarum at 3:58 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

Supervisor Peter F. Schabarum  
 Councilman Russell Rubley  
 Councilman John Zimmerman  
 Mayor Edmond Russ  
 Wendell Cox  
 Councilwoman Pat Russell, alternate to Councilman Ferraro  
 Eleanor Killeen, alternate to Supervisor Ward  
 Robert Reeves, alternate to Supervisor Hahn  
 Heinz Heckerth, Ex-Officio, representing the State of California

Staff members in attendance were:

Rick Richmond, Executive Director  
 Ronald Schneider, Principal Deputy County Counsel  
 Kathy Torigoe, Executive Secretary  
 Phyllis Eder, Secretary

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Mr. Cox, to approve the minutes of August 20 and August 27, 1980. Mr. Cox asked that changes be made to the August 20 minutes: Page 11 (8th line from the bottom) substitute the word "major" to "direct", and on Page 46 add his name under the "yes" vote to approve the ballot language. Hearing no objections to these changes, the minutes of August 20, as amended, and minutes of August 27 were unanimously approved.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Schabarum introduced Tad Widby, newly appointed President of Commuter Transportation Services, Inc. (Commuter Computer).

The Chairman indicated that there may be a need for changes in meeting dates for the Commission meetings in October. Mr. Richmond indicated that in order to avoid a conflict with the APTA Conference scheduled for October 6-9, which some members of the Commission would like to attend; the dates for the regular Commission meetings would have to be October 15 and 29. Hearing no objection, the Chairman made the meeting date changes.

Chairman Schabarum also mentioned that he had received a letter from Colonel Gwynn A. Teague of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has been given the responsibility of developing the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for various activities for the 1984 Olympics and the Sepulveda Basin Master Plan. Colonel Teague has offered to brief the Commission on their activities. The Chairman requested staff to make the arrangements for the presentation by Colonel Teague.

#### Committee Reports

##### Finance Review Committee

Mr. Rubley reported on the committee's meeting of September 22. The recommendations for Commission action are as follows:

1. To release \$42,000 of reserved FY 80-81 TDA Article 4.5 funds for the purpose of funding a Dial-A-Ride community transit service for the elderly and handicapped on the Palos Verdes Peninsula (includes cities of Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, and Rolling Hills Estates). Release of the funds to be contingent upon receipt of a formal assurance from the City Council to the City of Rolling Hills Estates that non-TDA funds will be provided to make up 10% of the operating cost as required by law.
2. Approve clarifications to the FAUS policies which had been adopted by the Commission on August 27, 1980. These clarifications specified that:
  - a. when a defaulting jurisdiction makes an arrangement with another agency to obligate funds lapsing under these policies, the other agency shall have one year in which to obligate those funds (no deadline was specified in the policy as originally adopted); and
  - b. policies regarding lapsing of funds should take effect at the start of Federal FY '82 (October 1, 1981), and shall apply to all entitlements under the 1973, 1976, and 1978 Highways Acts, plus all future acts. Staff is directed to notify all jurisdictions and other interested parties of these policies, and is further directed to explicitly identify the potential impacts of these policies to jurisdictions which may be in danger of losing funds under these policies.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Cox that staff notify all jurisdictions and interested parties which may be in danger of losing funds under these policies and that they be warned on a yearly basis with the help of the Caltrans staff.

3. Commissioner Heckeroth's suggestion for a further clarification of the FAUS "1+3" obligation policy was referred to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review and recommendation.
4. Authorize Chairman Schabarum to send a letter to Caltrans Director Adriana Gianturco citing specific statutory authority of the LACTC for transit and guideway project development and urging Caltrans' cooperation in carrying out this responsibility, through a mutually agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding. Without an MOU, it will be necessary for the LACTC to carry out its statutory responsibilities for transit guideway project development through legislative clarification.
5. Authorize a letter to Caltrans urging that the Norwalk station be added to the Amtrak Los Angeles-San Diego rail service.

A motion was made by Mr. Rubley, seconded by Mr. Russ, to approve the FRC's recommendations. Hearing no objections, the recommendations were unanimously approved.

#### Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Mr. Richmond briefed the Commissioners on the current legislation that is pending before Congress which is of interest to the LACTC. He also updated the status of State legislation of key bills the Commission has worked on for the past two years:

AB 1964 (Ivers): Route 7 - signed by the Governor September 18.

SB 1630 (Mills): TDA - would transfer additional TDA "spillover" into the State Highways Program. Bill failed passage in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

ACA 74 (Ingalls): Transportation Funding - Assembly did not concur in Senate amendments and therefore failed passage on the Assembly floor.

AB 3417 (Ingalls): LACTC-sponsored AB 1246 clean-up bill has been signed by the Governor on September 19.

SB 512 (Briggs): Creation of State Caltrans District 12 for Orange County - to the Governor for signature.

Service Coordination Committee

Section 504 Transition Plan: Mr. Cox gave a brief introduction to the draft Section 504 Transition Plan.

Mr. Richmond briefed the Commissioners on the draft Section 504 Transition Plan, including the requirements that have to be met by the public transit agencies, how they intend to meet them, and summarized some of the most-often-heard comments from the public workshops and public hearing. The final draft Transition Plan, including a summarization of the five workshops and hearing, will be brought before the Commission for approval in the very near future.

Transit Coordination and Service Program (AB 103): Mr. Cox explained what will be expected of the Commission regarding AB 103. This bill requires the Commission to put together a study of transit service delivery in Los Angeles County.

Mr. Richmond introduced Subhash Mundle of Simpson & Curtin, a division of Booz, Allen, & Hamilton, Inc.; and Gordon "Pete" Fielding of Dave Consulting, Inc. Mr. Mundle gave a brief presentation on the Transit Coordination and Service Program (TCSP).

Mr. Richmond indicated that staff will have a draft plan in November for discussion and adoption by the Commission.

Mr. Russ expressed some concern that very little was known as to whether the existing route structures conformed with the travel desires of transit patrons. He suggested that a comprehensive origin/destination study should be conducted, either as part of the TCSP or as a subsequent study.

A motion was made by Mr. Russ, seconded by Mr. Cox, that this be referred to some committee to decide whether or not they should have an origin/destination study conducted on a county-wide basis and to decide what the cost of such a study should be. It was decided that the study would go before the Service Coordination Committee for a report back to the Commission.

Status of Commission's Request for EIS on Route 7

Mr. Richmond reported that Commission staff still has not received a letter from Caltrans in Sacramento in response to a request that Caltrans prepare an updated Environmental Impact Statement on Route 7. In relation to this matter, AB 1964 (Ivers) did pass the legislature and was signed by the Governor. The passage of this bill means that there will be a funding shift for Route 7 from Federal-Aid Urban to Federal-Aid Primary, provided the affected jurisdictions and the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission reach an agreement for an adopted route within two years.

Chairman Schabarum posed for the Commission's consideration, a list of inquiries to staff for reporting on the Route 7 matter at the next Commission meeting on October 15:

1. Whether it is legally possible for the Commission to contract with some outside consultant firm to do the environmental impact work that would be relevant to the overall project.
2. Identification by staff as to estimates of dollar amounts required for such a study and potential sources from where the funds might originate.
3. List of potential firms that would be qualified to proceed on that subject.

#### Proposed Federal Section 5 Funding Provision

Mr. Richmond briefed the Commissioners on pending federal transit legislation (EXHIBIT A). He indicated that the Commission had previously supported the House bill to extend the mass transit assistance authorization, primarily because (in contrast to the Senate bill) it retains the existing population-based formula for allocating operating funds and certain capital funds among urbanized areas. Under this formula, Los Angeles County receives about 7.7 percent of the total funds allocated, in comparison to an estimated 6.7 percent under the alternative "service-based" formula supported by the Administration and included in the Senate bill.

Mr. Richmond reported that Los Angeles County is the only large urbanized area in the country which continues to oppose a service-based formula. He stated that the view in Washington is that a service-based formula is inevitable, if not this year, then in the near future. It appears that Los Angeles County may be able to obtain more favorable language elsewhere in the authorization bill, and to expect higher levels of transit appropriations in coming years, if it agrees at this time to conditionally support a service-based formula. Furthermore, a modification in the percentage of formula funds available for operating subsidies, raising it from 80 to 85 percent, would minimize the damage done by the move to a service-based formula. Finally, our support of a service-based formula would lay the groundwork for a unified California position on the transit authorization bill, enhancing the chance of Congressional acceptance of this position.

The Executive Director recommended that the Commission support the concept of a service-based formula, subject to the following conditions:

- increasing the share of Section 5 funds available for operations from 80 to 85 percent;
- authorization of capital funds after 1985 for new rapid transit starts (now included in House bill).

M/S/C to accept the staff recommendation.

Staff indicated an intention to discuss the issue with the Intergovernmental Relations Committee at its next meeting. Meanwhile, staff will pursue efforts to achieve a united California position with similar content.

#### Executive Director's Report

- A. Proposed EPA Clean Air Act Sanctions on State Highway Program: The Environmental Agency (EPA) had taken the position that the California State Legislature was going to have to adopt an Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) of vehicles program in order for EPA to sign off on our meeting the Clean Air Act provisions. The Legislature did not pass an I/M bill this past year. The staff did not have any explicit information as to how EPA intends to implement their sanctions. Staff recommends that this item be referred to the Finance Review Committee for action and report back to the Commission on a Commission response to the proposed rule.

Supervisor Schabarum suggested that the Commission consider writing a letter to the EPA challenging the concept of withholding Federal highway and sewage funds because of the failure of the Legislature to pass automobile inspection legislation. He stated that the letter should question the appropriations of the Federal government usurping State and local prerogatives with regard to this decision. The letter should also point out that efficacy and affordability of such programs has not been demonstrated, and that it seems that EPA is threatening to cut off funds to the very programs which prompted the basic Clean Air legislation in the first place.

Mr. Rubley moved that the Chair write a letter to this effect. Mrs. Russell seconded the motion for discussion, then offered an amendment that the letter should reiterate the Commission's support for clean air goals, which was accepted by the maker of the original motion. After further discussion, the motion carried without objection. Mrs. Russell requested that a copy of the letter be sent to all Commissioners.

- B. State Legislative Hearing Schedule: Mr. Russ commented that the Assembly Transportation Committee Hearing on October 9 will discuss the issue of giving the management of the SCRTD over to the LACTC. He wanted the Commission to be aware that this was going to be the major topic of the hearing.

Mr. Richmond indicated that this Commission was been invited to testify at the Senate Transportation Committee's hearing on Transportation Financing Problems on November 12 in San Francisco, and hearing on Transportation Financing Solutions on November 19 in Los Angeles. The Commission has also been invited

to testify at the Assembly Transportation Committee's hearings on October 9 - SCRTD's Organization, Operation and Finance; and on November 21 - Transportation Financing. Chairman Schabarum asked that staff coordinate with other agencies on the testimonies.

Mr. Cox raised the question as to what would be said at the October 9 hearing on SCRTD. He would like to indicate what this Commission has already undertaken at the direction of the Legislature to look at the whole subject of public transit in Los Angeles County. He requested that the Legislature be reminded of the issues that are already being significantly looked into.

Mr. Russ felt that the Commission should work out the problems with RTD's management before the RTD Board is done away with but that if some kind of major change is in order, the option of an elected transit board should be considered. Mr. Richmond explained that a proposal similar to Assemblyman Ingalls' current concept had come up last year but the Commission had never taken a definite stand on the proposal.

A number of Commissioners felt that the Commission should not take a definite stand on the issue at this time one way or another. The overall feeling was that the Commission was doing many worthwhile things under current mandate, including the November ballot proposition.

Mr. Cox suggested that the Commission not make any suggestions at this time with regards to reconstitution of the Board. The outcome of the TCSP could be a rather significant restructure of the transit in the county all by itself. The Commission may want to push for an all elected RTD Board some time in the future.

Staff was directed to prepare testimony for Chairman Schabarum along the lines of the discussion.

- C. APTA Annual Conference: A motion was made by Mr. Russ, seconded by Mr. Rubley, that the request of Commission members (Wendell Cox, Ray Remy, and Bob Geoghegan) be approved to attend the APTA Conference which will be held on October 5-8 in San Diego. Hearing no objection, the motion was approved unanimously.
- D. Ballot Proposition: Mr. Russ expressed concern about the ballot proposition (Proposition A) in his memorandum of September 16, 1980. Mr. Richmond had talked with him subsequently and it was made clear that the Ordinance is consistent with the actions of the Commission.

#### New Business

Mrs. Killeen asked the Chairman if the Commissioners who have or would like to volunteer to help staff and work on the ballot measure to get the public informed could meet informally right after the meeting. Chairman Schabarum honored her request.

Notice of Meetings

Notice of meetings was received and filed, as amended. The Commission meetings for October will be October 15 and 29.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rick Richmond".

RICK RICHMOND  
Executive Director

RR:pae:kyt  
Attachment