



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

MINUTES

January 9, 1980

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

Members in attendance were:

Mayor Edmond J. Russ	
Supervisor Peter Schabarum	Schabarum
Councilman Russell Rublev	r Ward
Councilman John Zimmer	or Edelman
Wendell Cox	Iahn
Peter Tweedt, alternate	ke
Eleanor Killeen, alterna	
Robert Geoghegan, alterna	
Robert Reeves, alternate	
Barna Szabo, alternate to	
Ray Remy, alternate to Ma	
Councilwoman Chris Reed, a	or Russ

Staff members present:

Jerome C. Premo, Executive Director
 Jerry Crump, representing Ronald Schneider, County Counsel
 Kathy Torigoe, Secretary to Executive Director

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of December 12, 1979 and December 19, 1979 were moved for approval. In the minutes of December 12, under Intergovernmental Relations Committee report, it should be corrected to show that the report was moved, seconded and unanimously carried. For the December 19 minutes, Commissioner Cox requested that copies of the formula for allocation procedure for TDA, Section 5, and SB 620 funds and entry criteria for admission of new transit operators, as finally adopted by the Commission, be included as part of the record of the Commission meeting.

Also, the minutes of November 14 should be corrected, under Finance Review Committee report, in discussing the Wilshire Corridor to reflect participation from the Citizens Advisory Committee and their endorsement of the Fairfax alternative.

M/S/C - minutes of December 12 and December 19, as amended, were adopted by unanimous consent.

Chairman Russ read a communication from Caltrans Director Gianturco stating that Bob Datel will be rotating to another executive position in Caltrans in late January. A selection process for Bob's replacement will begin immediately and Bob's assignment will be announced shortly. Chairman Russ indicated that Bob's leaving the district will be a great loss to the Commission. A motion was made and seconded to present Bob Datel with a resolution from the Commission. Motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Russ: First of all, of course, I think the Commission received a wonderful foundation by having President and Councilman John Ferraro as the original chairman of this Commission, from which we built a great base and working foundation which was built on the next two years. Supervisor Hahn, of course, expanded that and brought us altogether in a real cohesive working group and got many things moving along the line.

It seems to me that the Commission really came of age during the past year and I think that would have happened regardless of who was chairman, but because of the wonderful relationship we have on this Commission and the work that has been done on this Commission by working together.

I'd like to mention that the Commission responded to mandates of State law and the Commission succeeded in securing two key pieces of legislation, AB 1429 and AB 103, which will help Los Angeles transportation problems to be solved more effectively. We, I think, will be able to coordinate and to eliminate duplicating services in Los Angeles County as a result of AB 103 which, of course, was sponsored by this Commission, not so much that it gives a big club to the Commission but more that, I think, it makes a better working relationship with all of the bus operators, municipal operators, and RTD in Los Angeles County. We have already seen results of that because of the coordination in the Santa Monica area, Wilshire Boulevard.

I think that great accomplishments have taken place in that and it's the result of really getting our act together. I think that in the past year Sacramento and Washington have both come to the conclusion that Los Angeles County has their act together and that was evidenced by, particularly in Washington, getting 1300 buses for Los Angeles County (1200 of which will go to RTD). I don't think ever before Washington really took recognition of Los Angeles County. Certainly we can't take all the credit for that but I think a lot of it goes to the credit of this Commission and particularly to the credit of our Executive Director. It was my pleasure to make several trips to Washington during the year and it was an entirely different atmosphere. Where Washington in the past thought they could ignore Los Angeles County because we couldn't get our act together anyway and so they could just say, "No, nobody over there knows what they want, we'll just give money to

other parts of the country." They have perked up their ears and are now beginning to see where they're going to allow money to Los Angeles County. As a matter of fact, I only learned yesterday that the Secretary of Transportation will be setting forth one person to directly oversee the Century Freeway completion, which shows they really have a real interest in the Century Freeway and will expedite the completion of Century Freeway. So that's going to be a big help to us.

The Commission this year had a monumental meeting, I think, when we had the meeting together with Mayor Bradley and several of the Supervisors and set aside \$100 million of future funds to really begin a rapid transit system. There is still some question, of course, of whether the federal government will fund that, but with the windfall profits tax having passed and the commitments we've received from the Secretary of Transportation, Secretary Goldschmidt, my firm belief is that really will come to pass and in this decade we'll see our rapid transit system begin in Los Angeles County. I think our staff has other ideas that they are going to present to us in the next few weeks which might even be more all inclusive than what we are thinking about now for rapid transit system down Wilshire Boulevard, and this Commission will have a chance to possibly initiate additional legislation which might make this even a bigger program than we've ever anticipated. The plan overall now, of course, in expanding it. We've started with the 4-part plan for transportation and now we're studying whether the 4-part plan is adequate. Within the next few weeks, we'll have a report from our own staff to decide whether that should be implemented and further expanded.

Closer to me, of course, AB 3020 was passed towards the end of last year. The early part of this year \$45 million was allocated to finish one gap in our freeway system--the Artesia-Redondo Beach Boulevard gap--and that certainly was a result of an action by this Commission.

I think, really, the greatest thing that occurs on this Commission, and looking at it from a city's point of view, being a mayor of a small city, is that on this Commission each Commissioner, I think, has given away to their own parochial interest and where sometimes it isn't for our own best interest to vote for something, we voted for the benefit of the entire county. I hope that this Commission never changes that attitude. The attitude is not just to benefit one little segment of the county, but to benefit the entire county and we have certainly proven that. In the last year there were many things that we had passed working together on: first it was on the Route 91, I can think of Route 2 that was Supervisor Edelman's district, I can think of projects in every district of the supervisors that we've worked on. As a matter of fact, in the long run, each district gets something but we worked for the betterment of our entire community and certainly the Wilshire Boulevard subway and out to North Hollywood is the best example of the whole thing.

One last thing that I'd like to mention is that we've come to the conclusion that we're going to have to monitor the things that we've appropriated, that we've prioritized, to make sure that they get done. That has been initiated. Before we thought we could prioritize matters and set aside money and hope that Caltrans would do that and priorities were set aside. We have come to the conclusion that that isn't going to happen and Linda Pendlebury and Joe Leach have been monitoring the review of these things. I think in the future we'll implement this even more with the new chairman, particularly, because I know that Supervisor Schabarum is very interested in making sure we monitor these projects and see them accomplished, and not just voted upon. So that has begun and we're going to put it into action.

Finally, as far as I'm concerned, it has been a great honor and a privilege to be the chairman, particularly to follow the footsteps of people like President and Councilman John Ferraro and Supervisor Hahn. It's been my privilege to represent you all over the country and it's been a great learning experience for me and a great experience that I'll cherish for the rest of my life. And certainly I'm going to be on the Commission to keep working with everybody, so I appreciate your giving me this opportunity.

Commissioner Reeves, on behalf of Supervisor Hahn, commended and thanked Chairman Russ for doing a superior job as chairman.

The chairmen of the various committees were given an opportunity to comment before elections were held.

Chairman Russ declared Supervisor Schabarum as the new chairman of the Commission for 1980. Hearing no objections, he passed the gavel on to Supervisor Schabarum.

Chairman Schabarum presented Mayor Russ, on behalf of the Commission and staff, a resolution for his outstanding service as chairman during the past year.

Election of Vice Chairman

Councilman Russell Rubley and Councilman John Zimmerman were nominated for the position of Vice Chairman. Councilman Zimmerman asked that his name be withdrawn from the nomination.

M/S/C - Councilman Russell Rubley was elected unanimously as the Vice Chairman of the Commission for 1980.

Councilman Rubley accepted the position of Vice Chairman by thanking John Zimmerman for his kind remarks and indicated that he hopes to add the same balance for the year ahead that Long Beach had always offered in the years previous. And being a sports official for 25 years, he will still "call them as I see them."

He expressed pleasure at the opportunity to work with Chairman Schabarum and the Commission. He thanked everyone for their support.

Remarks by Chairman Schabarum

This opportunity presents an interesting challenge, one that I am looking forward to try and meet by way of assuming the chairmanship today. That's particularly on the heels of this past year's activist Chairman Ed Russ. Beyond the accolades that came Ed's way just a few minutes ago, he certainly should be commended for his role in showcasing the Commission and its transportation decision-making responsibilities in the last several months.

What I'd like to do is capitalize on his progress and sharpen the focus of the Commission. We already have a clear authority in the allocation and prioritization of highway and transportation dollars. It's the power of the purse, if you will. Our weakest link is in monitoring the expenditures of those funds. For my part, special emphasis is going to be placed on the ability to deliver and the question of how we get the biggest bang for our buck. I don't believe that the public is willing to add new taxes or new tax dollars to the billion dollars a year we're already spending on transportation. Certainly, not until they've seen some results in the current investments.

In an effort to monitor our priority projects progress, I have asked the staff to have ready for our next meeting thermometer charts which reflect the milestones on each of the major highway projects in this county. Similar information would probably be helpful for our bus capital and TSM projects. During this year, I want to place special emphasis on the public acquisition of Union Station. It's a key project in our overall transportation plan and shouldn't hold us up. The Commission also owes a thoughtful response to Assemblyman Ingalls' suggestion to consolidate the operating authorities of the District and the munis under our aegis. One area where I feel the Commission can play a larger role is in pushing for a February decision on the preliminary engineering grant for the Wilshire corridor. Delays in starting that project will add hundreds of millions of dollars to the final cost.

Probably the largest unknown in our transportation picture is the near-time outlook for financing public transportation. I hope we can examine the situation with the same thoroughness as was done in the recently completed highway funding report this year. Beyond those major items, I have a myriad of special projects which include commuter rail, freeway gaps, and paratransit. I am confident that each of the members of this Commission has a similar list. With a little cooperation, I think we can make some real progress this year and have some achievements we can be proud of in January 1981 when Russ Rubley takes over the gavel. So with that and with the consent of the rest of the Commission, we'll get on into the balance of the agenda before us.

Committee Reports

Finance Review Committee

Commissioner Tweedt reported on the committee's meeting of January 9. The committee's recommendations are as follows:

1. Approval of FY 79-80 TIP amendment for 8 park-and-ride lots using SB 620 funds, and approval for a Long Beach park-and-ride lot subject to site agreement between City of Long Beach and Caltrans.
2. Approval of FY 79-80 TIP amendment allowing City of Torrance to purchase 3 large and 4 medium buses to replace 6 full-size buses.
3. Approve the TAC recommendation that projects for which there are freeway agreements must follow the same process as all other highway projects to be prioritized in the TIP. This in effect supports our commitment to the 402 process.
4. Request from SCRTD for \$5.2 million: The FRC recommends approving release of \$3.3 million in TDA surplus funds for SCRTD immediately. The committee also directed staff to work with SCRTD to develop a financial plan which contains no unfunded deficit for the three years ending with FY 81-82. Deadline for submission of this report is March 1.
5. Directed staff to prepare a report on how to reduce operator costs and the status of intercounty operator agreements. This report is due before May 1.

M/S/C - Approved the FRC's recommendations with the exception of the request from SCRTD.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tweedt to approve the FRC's recommendation to approve \$3.3 million for SCRTD. Commissioner Remy made an amendment to the motion that when the joint report does come before the Commission, that the subject of the \$1.9 million allocation would also be back before the Commission at the same time.

The Executive Director indicated that this joint report can be prepared by the first of March for consideration by the Finance Review Committee and then for approval by the Commission.

The motion, as amended, was approved with Commissioner Geoghegan casting a negative vote. In the preceding discussion, Mr. Geoghegan had expressed the view that immediate approval of the full \$5.2 million request was warranted.

Under the FRC's recommendation on transit alternatives report, Chairman Schabarum asked staff that the Commission focus on attempting to get that report forward so that it can be considered by the Finance Review Committee at its next meeting so that the alternatives report and recommendation can be considered by the Commission at its regular meeting on January 23.

Service Coordination Committee (SCC)

Commissioner Cox reported that the committee unanimously recommends that the Commission engage the services of Multisystems Incorporated of Cambridge, Massachusetts to assist the Commission in the Taxicab Study.

M/S/C - Approved the recommendation of the SCC on the selection of Multisystems, Incorporation for the Taxicab Study.

Special Route 7 Task Force

Commissioner Zimmerman gave a status report on the task force. The committee would like to go back and study the routes that were studied by the California Highway Commission in 1964. Information has been requested of Caltrans to provide the task force with the data. A study committee meeting is being scheduled and a report will be made to the Commission in the near future.

Commissioner Zimmerman also indicated that he has a letter from Assemblyman William Ivers, 42nd District, asking for the Commission's support of his bill AB 1964 which requires the California Department of Transportation to take the necessary action to remove the portion of Route 7, between Routes 10 and 210, from the Federal-aid Urban and place it on the Federal-aid Primary system. The Intergovernmental Relations Committee has held up any action on this item until they have received a report from the Special Route 7 Task Force, but the Assembly Transportation Committee was considering Mr. Ivers' bill on January 15. Commissioner Zimmerman also indicated that he has received a letter from Mr. Jess Reynolds, who was actively involved with the Route 7 Committee, who feels that AB 1964 would not be in the best interest of a solution of the Route 7 problem. Mr. Zimmerman moved that the Commission hear from Mr. Reynolds for a short report.

Chairman Schabarum indicated that this bill is not a new bill and has been before the State Legislature on several previous occasions. The Commission, in turn, in turn has taken a support position in the past.

Mr. Reynolds questioned whether or not making something of this nature a State law would possibly be an obstacle to other forms of financing that may be considered in the future.

our involvement, if nothing more than just sitting in, is essential if this Commission is going to have a role in pursuing its overall responsibilities. Chairman Schabarum suggested that a note to Director Gianturco advising Caltrans of our interest in being a party to major transportation matters within the purview of this Commission.

It was moved and seconded to send a letter to all agencies indicating this Commission's interest to participate in transportation matters. Motion was carried unanimously.

The Executive Director announced the leaving of two professionals from the Commission staff.

The Executive Director handed out a memorandum attaching several letters signed by Chairman Russ for information:

1. January 8 letter to Assemblyman Ingalls regarding the Commission's actions as a follow-up to AB 103;
2. January 8 letter to Assemblyman Ingalls regarding the Commission's efforts to develop memoranda of understanding for fixed guideway transit projects, consistent with our responsibilities under AB 1246 and AB 1429; and
3. January 7 letter to Los Angeles City Councilman Bob Ronka, in response to Councilman Ronka's request to the Commission to examine financing approaches for improved public transit.

New Business

Chairman Schabarum indicated that there are a few housekeeping matters that he will deal with. In reference to the reassignment of Bob Datel, Chairman Schabarum asked for authorization from the Commission to send a letter to Ms. Gianturco, suggesting that it is vitally important that there be a new District Director appointed as early as possible to get the program moving faster through District 7. Hearing no objections, he asked the Executive Director to prepare such a letter.

A list of the proposed 1980 committee assignments was handed out to the Commissioners. Chairman Schabarum asked for comments from the Commissioners within the next few days concerning the committee assignments; otherwise, it will be considered as the official list as is indicated.

The Chairman indicated that the Executive Director had received a letter from the Commission's Washington advocate, Irving Smith. Mr. Smith has suggested the possibility of the Commission getting together with our County Congressional delegation for a meeting to discuss transportation matters. Chairman

Schabarum asked Mr. Remy, chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, to ascertain the possibility of such a get-together and inform the Commissioners of the details.

Chairman Schabarum also indicated that he is considering the idea of keeping the Commission meeting to one date a month. He suggested that once-a-month meetings will begin with the month of February with the understanding clearly that there be a regular once-a-month meeting with needed additional meetings be on-call basis. Commissioner Reed asked if the meeting time could be moved ahead to an earlier time because the agenda may be a little bit longer. After much discussion, Chairman Schabarum mentioned that the once-a-month meetings and the earlier time will be discussed and concluded at the January 23 meeting.

Notice of Meetings

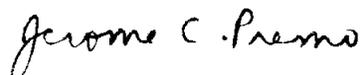
The Executive Director indicated that the California Transportation Commission will make a decision, as required under AB 1429. A meeting will be held in Los Angeles on January 29, and the decision will be made at the regular meeting of the California Transportation Commission on February 1, 1980.

Notice was received and filed.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 3:00 p.m., at the Department of Water and Power, 111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles.

Respectfully submitted



JEROME C. PREMO
Executive Director

JCP:kyt