



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

## MINUTES

March 26, 1980

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

Members in attendance were:

Supervisor Peter Schabarum  
Councilman Russell Rubley  
Councilman John Zimmerman  
Mayor Edmond J. Russ  
Wendell Cox  
Ray Remy, alternate to Mayor Bradley  
Eleanor Killeen, alternate to Supervisor Ward  
Robert Reeves, alternate to Supervisor Hahn  
Barna Szabo, alternate to Supervisor Burke  
Councilwoman Pat Russell, alternate to Councilman Ferraro  
Heinz Heckerth, Interim Commissioner, replacing Robert Datel

Jerome C. Premo, Executive Director  
Ronald Schneider, Principal Deputy County Counsel  
Kathy Torigoe, Secretary to Executive Director

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes of February 27 and March 19, 1980 were unanimously approved as submitted.

### Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Schabarum indicated that he had a nice trip to the mid-Pacific where on Guam, there are 80,000 people, 60,000 automobile and no public transportation system. They are asking for a grant from UMTA for a public transportation system.

### Presentation on State Emergency Gasoline Plan

Priscilla Adler of staff and Councilman Robert Farrell made a brief presentation of the State Emergency Gasoline Plan.

Priscilla Adler briefly summarized the background as to why the State Energy Commission has been involved in this emergency planning effort. The California Energy Commission has been

developing a gasoline contingency plan for the State. An Outside Advisory Group, with representation from diverse agencies and interest groups, has been providing input to the CEC staff. Councilman Farrell, representing Mayor Bradley and the National League of Cities, has been serving as a member of this committee. This work on the California Emergency Gasoline Plan is being done in response to Title II of the Emergency Energy Act of 1979, which permits the President to establish monthly emergency conservation targets for any energy source and for each state. Should the presently voluntary targets become mandatory, the Governor must submit to the Department of Energy within forty-five days a State emergency plan designed to meet or exceed the targets.

Councilman Farrell presented the various issues of the State Emergency Gasoline Plan:

1. Definition of roles and responsibilities: Who implements the programs? Who chooses the appropriate contingency measures, given the existing level of shortfall? What is the role of LACTC? What is the role of SCAG? What is the role of the cities? There is a need for a bottom-up planning process for transportation energy.
2. Local/Regional ability to develop contingency measures: To what extent can local units of government be expected to manage emergencies? What is the range of measures available to us? Who takes the lead in Los Angeles County?
3. Need to involve more government and citizen representatives. There are constituencies not represented in the formulation of the plan. Further, the Employment Development and Welfare Departments have not been involved.

Commissioner Szabo suggested that a one-day workshop be held and invite the various agencies who have done extensive energy planning and come up with a unified set of recommendations.

The Commission directed staff to continue participation in the Advisory Group and to explore the possibility of a one-day workshop.

Comments by Joseph Vaccaro, County Energy Commission

Mr. Vaccaro, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Energy Commission, briefly described the Energy Commission and its activities in the transportation arena. He also summarized the meetings held in Los Angeles communities between the Commissioners and citizens concerning the need for improved transportation, and presented the Los Angeles County Energy Commission's proposed fuel reduction recommendation. This is in response to the Board of Supervisor's request for a recommendation for reducing fuel usage by 10 percent.

Commissioner Szabo suggested that the County Energy Commission take the lead jointly with the LACTC, and that there should be a single implementing agency countywide.

The Energy Commission met on Wednesday, March 26, at 9:30 a.m., to discuss their recommendation and accept testimony.

The next meeting of the Energy Commission will be in about 2 to 4 weeks.

#### Half-Cent Sales Tax (SB 1894)

At the last Commission meeting, the half-cent sales tax issue was referred to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee for review and recommendation. Commissioner Remy briefly highlighted the key issues that are clearly decision items that the Commission should address (see attached EXHIBIT A).

The first is the question as to whether we should pursue a funding mechanism at all. The IRC recommended that the Commission pursue some type of ballot measure or funding mechanism.

Secondly, if we do pursue a funding mechanism, should we pursue it through the Legislature seeking a 2/3's vote of the Legislature to create a sales tax increase for the Los Angeles County area but condition such a 2/3's vote upon a 50% ratification by the vote of the people. The legal memorandum that we received indicated that our position would be strengthened by going a 2/3's legislative route and then tying it to a 50% majority referendum here in Los Angeles County. There are other options that the Commission may very well consider such as placing the measure on the ballot itself, subject to a 50% vote. The legal memorandum indicated that that might be less defensible from a legal standpoint, but it was not clear as to whether it was indefensible. The IRC felt on that issue that going directly to the ballot with the majority vote was the best way.

Use of revenues: If we devise a measure and bring it to the Legislature, the clear question is going to be how would such funds be spent. The recommendation of staff and concurred in principally by the IRC was that 50% of the revenues achieved through such a measure would go to guideways or guideway/transitways; 40% would go to bus and paratransit. And there the question of operating assistance does come up and the feeling of the IRC was that operating assistance is indeed a reasonable allocation of these funds, but such decisions should be left with the commission as to what the appropriate break between capital and operating would be. The Finance Review Committee has dealt with this question and will probably want to report on it. And 10% would be used for transportation systems management. Basic support for programs such as the rideshare program and improvements to traffic flow through signalization improvements that benefits public transportation. Regarding the guideway/transitway projects,

the committee felt that the bill should spell out some specific criteria language (attachment to EXHIBIT A).

Optional features that have been raised is whether the full 100% of any funds raised should be restricted entirely to capital. Another question concerns a possible sunset provision for collecting the tax. The committee's feeling was that a tax levied for this purpose should be tied to a specific program and once the program has been completed, there should be some type of reratification or subsequent approval to see that the funds would be continued or terminated.

The second area deals with a requirement similar to what SCRTD now has of a 40% farebox return policy. There needs to be a proper blend of user paying and subsidy that would go into the operating side. Also, the question of the Sunset provision for a portion of the 1/2¢ used for capital.

The recommendation from the IRC was that we should pursue the issue of the 1/2¢ sales tax, we should bring it before the voters. On a 2-to-1 vote the IRC recommends that the Commission should go directly to the voters. The other avenue available to the Commission through the Legislature of a 2/3's vote, I think, should also be given careful consideration. If we go to the Legislature, we have to have something considered by the Senate Transportation Committee on the 8th of April. So the timeframe is very tight for the legislative route. The Commission really needs to make a decision as it relates to the legislative approach today. It should also be noted that if we do go to the Legislature and we are turned down, the option still remains of being able to go directly to ballot.

There was a general discussion on this issue.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cox that the Commission ask the Legislature to pass a 1/2¢ sales tax, subject to ratification by 50% of the electorate of this county in the November election. Seconded by Commissioner Reeves.

Commissioner Szabo spoke in opposition to the motion. He felt that it would be appropriate to seek the intent of this Commission whether or not we want to put a 1/2¢ sales tax measure on the November ballot. Then the Commission can decide whether or not it should go to the ballot directly or by legislation. He offered a substitute motion, asking that we seek the Commission's intent relative to placing a 1/2¢ sales tax measure on the November ballot. Seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman.

A point of order was raised by Mr. Russ. It is not a substitute motion but is a separate motion. Second was withdrawn by Mr. Zimmerman.

Chairman Schabarum ruled that the motion was out of order and that Mr. Cox's motion was before the Commission.

Mr. Szabo expressed his concern that, while there might be a consensus regarding getting a 1/2¢ sales tax measure before the voters, there might be several avenues that the Commission could take besides going to the Legislature or directly to the ballot.

Mr. Szabo introduced another option for the Commission's consideration:

"The Commission recommends that the California State Legislature place a constitutional amendment on the November 1980 ballot exempting energy and transportation financing measures from the two-third majority vote requirement of Article XIII A of the State Constitution. If approved by the electorate, this constitutional amendment would be deemed in effect on the day of such passage.

"On the same November ballot, the Commission would place the 1/2¢ sales tax proposal for approval by the Los Angeles County voters."

After further discussion, the motion was placed before the Commissioners for a roll call vote. The Executive Director read the motion as follows: That the Commission request the Legislature to increase by a 1/2¢ our sales tax with a 50% vote of the electorate in November.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Mr. Russ	Mr. Szabo
Mr. Remy	Mr. Rubley
Mrs. Russell	Chairman Schabarum
Mrs. Killeen	
Mr. Reeves	
Mr. Cox	
Mr. Zimmerman	

6 - ayes, 4 - nays. Motion was carried.

After further discussion on the 1/2¢ sales tax issue, Mr. Remy made a motion that the Commission develop language embodying the terms and provisions as outlined in the 2-page memo before the Commission. Seconded by Mr. Szabo.

Mr. Cox offered an amendment to the motion that would change language of the paragraph that starts on page 2 of the memo: "During the period of the Commission's program, no less than 50% of the revenues generated from this tax shall be used for the construction and purchase of rolling stock for exclusive guideways/transitways, no more than 40% of the revenues generated from this tax shall be used for short term bus and paratransit purposes,

and no more than 10% of the revenues generated from this tax shall be used for short-term ridesharing and transportation systems management improvements."

The roll call vote for the motion stated above, as amended, is as follows:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Mr. Russ	Mrs. Killeen
Mr. Remy	Chairman Schabarum
Mrs. Russell	
Mr. Reeves	
Mr. Szabo	
Mr. Rubley	
Mr. Zimmerman	
Mr. Cox	

8 - ayes; 2 - nays. Motion was carried.

Chairman Schabarum directed Legal Counsel to draft the proper legislative language for the bill.

Commissioner Szabo asked for Commission approval for his option that he offered and to see whether or not the Commission would allow a directive to the staff to pursue that alternative as well as the previous one that was approved by a majority vote. He felt that the Commission should begin work on that particular possibility as well. He requested approval on the motion and direct staff to pursue it in the legislative form. Seconded by Mrs. Killeen.

Mr. Szabo's motion was referred to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee for a report back to the Commission.

Mr. Szabo's motion was amended to direct staff to draft the language and submit that language to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee and at the same time get some reading of the legislative response by April 9.

Mr. Zimmerman indicated that, in order to present a more united front in Sacramento, he'd like to change his vote on the legislative motion to "yes."

The roll call vote has been changed to 7-eyes, 3-nays.

## Route 7 (Long Beach Freeway)

Commissioner Zimmerman, Chairman of the Special Committee on Route 7 reported the committee met on March 5 and accepted input from various interested parties who were in attendance. The recommendation of the committee is attached as EXHIBIT B. A motion was made by Mr. Zimmerman that the full Commission endorse the recommendations of the Special Committee on Route 7; seconded by Mr. Rubley. Motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Schabarum indicated that he would like input from members of the Commission who would like to sit on the hearing panel.

Chairman Schabarum also indicated that he received a hand-carried resolution from the City of Pasadena concerning Route 7, and asked the Executive Director to acknowledge receipt of the document.

## Commuter Computer

Chairman Schabarum indicated that there will be a change in management upcoming in the Commuter Computer organization. He asked the Executive Director to furnish the Commission with timely reports on Commuter Computer.

5:12 p.m. - The Chairman turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Rubley.

## Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Commissioner Remy reported on the remaining items discussed at the committee's meeting on March 21.

State Windfall Profit Tax

Committee heard a report from Bill Press, former Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, on the Windfall Profits Tax initiative on the oil companies. The committee will hear a counter presentation from the opponents to that measure. After hearing both views, the committee will have a recommendation or a report to the Commission at a future meeting.

## Identification Cards for the Handicapped

This item was deferred until the Service Coordination Committee and Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Advisory Council meet in April.

### State Legislation

ACA 74 and AB 2678 (Ingalls): General recommendation of the committee was to direct staff to:

1. In reviewing these bills, try and maintain the integrity of transportation funding;
2. Work with the Legislature to provide a contingency plan for the possible passage of the initiative to remove the sales tax from gasoline;
3. Maintain the integrity of LACTC's role in transportation planning and programming.

AB 3055 (Levine) and SB 1911 (Petris): These bills would establish ridesharing programs and tax incentives to ride public transit. Staff is directed to work with both authors without taking any particular position.

SB 1630 (Mills): Committee voted to oppose this bill which provides if the initiative removing the sales tax from gasoline passes, the TDA program would be repealed.

### State Emergency Energy Program:

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Remy moved approval of the several items relative to State legislation; seconded by Mr. Szabo. Unanimously approved.

### Service Coordination Committee

Commissioner Cox reported on the committee's meeting of March 17.

1. The committee is scheduling a special meeting between staff, the consultants Simpson and Curtin & Co., and operators of transit systems in early April to thoroughly discuss the AB 103-Transit Coordination and Service Program study.
2. The transit operators in the South Bay are continuing their efforts to try to improve and coordinate services in that part of the community and have now added the Long Beach Public Transportation Company to their work group.
3. An item of great significance is the agreements which have been reached very recently between the Southern California Rapid Transit District and Santa Monica Municipal Bus

Lines and the Montebello Municipal Bus Lines. The above transit operators have agreed to implement several service changes on June 15, 1980.

Highlights of these changes include:

- . Lifting the boarding restrictions on Wilshire Blvd. in the City of Santa Monica; and
- . Establishment of through-service on Beverly Blvd. to 3rd Street-4th Street into downtown Los Angeles.

Mr. Cox indicated that those transit operators should be commended formally by letter.

4. Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Advisory Council: The SCC recommends the Commission approve the establishment of an Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Advisory Council, including the makeup of the council and by-laws as developed by staff and endorsed by TAC. Further, the Committee has requested staff to investigate the feasibility of additional members and the incorporation of flexibility in the by-laws to enable changes in the membership of the committee. For clarify, Mr. Cox indicated that this council is to fulfill the requirements of the Federal Department of Transportation's Section 504 regulations and will have only an advisory role with no policymaking authority.

M/S/C - Approved the Service Coordination Committee's report and recommendation that commendation letters be sent to the SCRTD, Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines and Montebello Municipal Bus Lines.

#### Finance Review Committee

Commissioner Rubley reported on the committee's meeting of March 24. The committee's recommendations for Commission's approval are attached as EXHIBIT C.

A motion was made by Mr. Rubley to approve the FRC's report; seconded by Mr. Reeves.

There were further discussions on the following issue:

Allocation of an additional \$450,000 to Commuter Computer: The Executive Director indicated that no draw-downs on this money will occur until next July 1. Chairman Schabarum had directed staff earlier in the meeting to follow-up more vigorously on Commuter Computer. Commuter Computer will be required to provide monthly reports, particularly on some of the organizational and management issues involved. Before any formal allocation is made of the \$450,000 to Commuter

Computer, staff would solicit the Commission's concurrence in that action.

Mr. Heckeroth indicated that Caltrans is offering to staff the Commuter Computer operation.

Mr. Cox indicated that at the FRC meeting, the committee did request staff to look at the possibility of combining with some other agencies, the financial and management requirements in order to provide a ridesharing system that had a much improved response time and the capability to provide a viable alternative that could be implemented during periods of extreme gas shortages.

There being no objections, the recommendations of the Finance Review Committee were approved unanimously.

#### Executive Director's Report

A. Citizens Advisory Committee's report on Downtown People Mover

This report will be discussed as part of the TIP Program through the Finance Review Committee. This is an information item and reflects some of the continued work of the Citizens Advisory Committee in reviewing activities of the Commission.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee's report on Amtrak site locations

This report was received at the last Finance Review Committee meeting on potential Amtrak stations within Los Angeles County. The Commission requested the CAC to examine this issue. The committee has made a study and have recommended a couple of sites in Los Angeles County (Norwalk and Pico Rivera). The staff will incorporate input from the Citizens Advisory Committee as well as interest expressed by any of the cities through which the Amtrak route runs in Los Angeles County and will report back to the Commission.

C. Overview of the FAU Program

Staff will be reporting to the Finance Review Committee and then to the full Commission an overview of the FAU Program at the first meeting in April. The report will include a status on where we stand in our Commuter Computer deliberations.

D. Memoranda of Understanding

A report to the Legislature on the Memoranda of Understanding is owed to the State Legislature. Staff hopes to have specific recommendations to the Finance Review Committee at its meeting on April 7.

New Business

There was no new business.

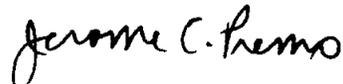
Notice of Meetings

Notice was received and filed.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 1980, at 3:00 p.m., at the Department of Water and Power, Room 1555-H, 111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles.

Respectfully submitted,



JEROME C. PREMO  
Executive Director

JCP:kyt  
Attachments