

MINUTE RECORD OF LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MEETING HELD ON THE

Eleventh

DAY OF

June

1953

STANDARD FORM CS4 PRINTED IN U.S.A.

CHARLES R. HADLEY CO., PATHFINDERS, LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO, NEW YORK, CHICAGO

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF. STANDARD MINUTE RECORD

A special meeting of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority was held at its offices on June 11, 1953, at 3:05 p.m. with the following members present:

Walter J. Brunmark	Martin E. Pollard
Fred S. Dean	Jim Wilson
H. C. McClellan	

Members absent: B. O. Miller Lloyd S. Whaley

Upon motion by Mr. Dean, seconded by Mr. Brunmark, the minutes of meetings of May 5, 15 and 18 were approved by unanimous vote.

The Secretary reported the Board of Supervisors had prepared an amendment to the present administrative contract by which Attorney's fees may be paid from any unexpended balances as of June 30, 1953.

The Secretary distributed the financial statement of the Authority covering the period July 1, 1952, to June 1, 1953, showing expended and unexpended balances as follows:

Total amount appropriated by County			\$42,275.00
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$24,275.00	\$21,650.00	\$ 2,625.00
Office and Miscellaneous			
laneous	3,000.00	2,042.31	957.69
Hotel and Travel	7,500.00	2,581.62	4,918.38
Public Information	7,500.00	---	7,500.00

The Secretary reported that he had requested on behalf of the Authority the remaining balance of \$50,000 to be applied to the authorized engineering agreement with Coverdale & Colpitts and supplemental expenditures.

The Chairman stated that the General Manager had presented to the Board of Supervisors at their budget meeting held today a request for an appropriation by the Board of Supervisors for the year 1953-54 in the sum of \$200,000. The Chairman asked the General Manager to advise the Authority with respect to all phases of this action.

Mr. Merritt then presented to the members a typewritten copy of the statement made by him to the Supervisors requesting the appropriation of \$200,000. (Copy attached by reference.)

Mr. Merritt stated that at the close of the prepared statement he summarized the situation to the Board of Supervisors by stating that while the Legislature had not approved Assembly Bill 2311 widening the scope of the Authority and providing for the standard exemptions of a State Agency, and had not approved Assembly Bill 2782 appropriating funds for the making of a survey, the Senate on June 10 had passed a Resolution by Senator Collier which reads as follows:

Senate Resolution No. 154

"Relative to the investigation and study of the problems of interurban rapid transit-

"WHEREAS, It is the declared policy of the State to develop interurban rapid transit in the various metropolitan areas within the State for the benefit of the people; and

"WHEREAS, Many competent engineering reports and studies have found that the lack of efficient, economical and coordinated systems of mass rapid transit in Los Angeles, the largest metropolitan area in the State, from the standpoint of production and population, has resulted in the most critical traffic and transit conditions; and

"WHEREAS, the development of systems of rapid transit for the movement of large numbers of people will relieve the congestion which is overburdening the existing systems of freeways, parking facilities and public streets; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, That all phases of the problem of mass rapid transit within the metropolitan

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area of Los Angeles be studied and analyzed at the earliest possible time, by the Senate Interim Committee on Transportation, or such similar interim committee as the rules committee may designate."

Mr. Merritt also stated that he was advised by Senator Collier that the Senate Committee would hold public hearings in Los Angeles during September or October for the purpose of studying, analyzing and making recommendations to the Legislature with regard to the need of interurban mass rapid transit in Metropolitan Los Angeles.

At the close of Mr. Merritt's remarks to the Supervisors, he said that opposition was expressed by Mr. Pixley, representing the Property Owners Association, who said that the Transit Authority was not the proper body to undertake a transit study of Los Angeles County. The next speaker in opposition to the request of the Authority was Mr. Felix Chappelet, Vice Chairman of the Los Angeles Chamber Committee on Traffic and Transportation, who stated that the Chamber of Commerce opposed the granting of an appropriation of \$200,000 on the grounds that no such appropriation was necessary at this time and that the request for the appropriation of \$200,000 had not been properly approved by the Authority. He further stated that Assembly Bill 2782 had been defeated in the Legislature by arguments showing the appropriation was unnecessary. Mr. Stanley Lanham, Vice President of the Los Angeles Transit Lines, repeated the arguments made by Mr. Chappelet and Mr. Pixley stating that the Authority was not a properly constituted agency and it was not necessary to gather further information with regard to traffic problems in Los Angeles County, but that if such studies were made they should be undertaken by a Los Angeles County agency. No reply or rebuttal was made by the

Authority. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors indicated that the application would be taken under advisement.

Mr. Brunmark then asked by what right or authorization a request had been made for the appropriation of \$200,000 in the name of the Authority.

The following points were reviewed to substantiate the action of the Chairman, Secretary and General Manager in making budget application to the Board of Supervisors:

1. On May 5 the Authority by unanimous vote approved the presentation to the Legislature of the Geddes Bill A.B. 2782 which requested an appropriation of State funds of \$400,000, upon the understanding that the Authority would use its best efforts to obtain an appropriation by the Board of Supervisors of \$200,000 for the payment of engineering studies of the need of mass rapid transit for Los Angeles County. Argument for A. B. 2782 was supported by various documents, among others a letter to the General Manager from Geo. W. Burpee, President of Coverdale & Colpitts, dated May 12, 1953, (copy included by reference) indicating that a total cost of the economic study of Los Angeles County would be \$650,000.
2. On May 20 the budget officer of the Board of Supervisors notified the Secretary of the Authority that its request for funds, to be made available in the County's annual budget for 1953-54, should be in the hands of the Chief Administrative Officer of the County on or before June 1, 1953.
3. The Secretary of the Authority advised the Chairman and the General Manager of the Authority (who was in Sacramento at the time) of the notice of final date for filing its budget request. It was decided that a tentative budget should be

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sent out to all members with reasons for sending same. This notice was sent out to all members on May 21, including tentative budget of \$201,920 for all purposes, and requesting written replies from all members.

One written reply was received from Mr. Brunmark objecting to the appropriation of \$200,000 of tax funds. No other letters were received; but a telephone message was received from Mr. Dean making objection to requesting \$200,000 at this time. Mr. Dean suggested that a meeting be called to discuss the subject. The Chairman then called a special informal meeting to be held at the Ambassador Hotel on Tuesday, May 26, at 12:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the proposed budget and Assembly Bill 2782. At this meeting only Messrs. Pollard, McClellan and Wilson, members, and Miss Bea Kay, representing Stephen L. Wells, were present. No official action could be taken at this meeting as there was no quorum.

4. The Secretary then, on May 28, made written application to the County of Los Angeles for the inclusion in the budget of the amount of \$201,920.
5. On May 18 the meeting of the Authority had adjourned to meet in special session on June 4. The chairman having been advised by Mr. Wilson that Mr. Merritt felt he was obliged to remain in Sacramento on business of the Authority and would return the following week, postponed the meeting of June 4 until such time as Mr. Merritt might return to make report to the Authority with regard to legislative problems. It was then understood that the budget of the Authority would not come before the Supervisors for consideration until June 16. A special

meeting of the Authority was therefore set for June 11.

6. On June 10 Mr. Lee, Secretary of the Board of Supervisors, notified Mr. Wilson, Secretary of the Transit Authority, that the budget of the Transit Authority must be presented to the Supervisors at their meeting to be held Thursday morning, June 11. It appeared that members of the Authority had been fully advised with respect to the proposed budget on May 21 and that, in the light of the request made by the Authority to the Legislature under Assembly Bill 2782, it was appropriate that a request should be made to the Board of Supervisors for the same amount for funds that the Supervisors would have appropriated in the event that A.B. 2782 had been passed in the Legislature.

Mr. Merritt advised the Authority that he had discussed with Mr. Beebe, the General Attorney, the legality of an appropriation to be made by the Supervisors to the Authority for an engineering study of mass rapid transit in Los Angeles and that Mr. Beebe had stated he would prepare an opinion on this matter. (Copy of legal opinion included in these minutes by reference.)

Mr. Brunmark stated that regardless of all points which had been presented, a meeting of the Authority should have been called prior to making the request for an appropriation of \$200,000 from the Board of Supervisors. In the discussion which followed, Mr. Dean and Mr. McClellan indicated their concurrence with Mr. Brunmark's position.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. McClellan moved and Mr. Brunmark seconded a motion that the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority should modify its request for funds made this date of the Board of Supervisors and only request the sum of \$50,000 for administrative expenses.

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an amount similar to that which has been appropriated by the Supervisors in the past twelve months. The Chairman put the motion before the members and all members present voted aye. (Copy of letter amending request is included by reference.)

It was the opinion of the members present that the administrative work of the Authority should continue and that the present contract of Coverdale & Colpitts should be carried to completion upon its contractual date. In the event that the report made by Coverdale & Colpitts is favorable and indicates the feasibility of financing a mass rapid transit system from San Fernando Valley to Long Beach, that further coordinated and correlated studies may be undertaken at that time and that public support should be developed to secure the necessary action by State and County agencies.

In answer to Mr. Brunmark's question, Mr. Merritt reported briefly that A.B. 2311 and A.B. 2782 had not secured the required votes in the Assembly committees and therefore no legislation affecting the Authority had been passed at this session. Attention was again directed, however, to the Resolution of the Collier Committee by which a full hearing of transit matters will be had in Los Angeles in September or October.

Mr. Merritt stated that he would make full written report to the members prior to the next meeting.

Miss Bea Kay, who was present as the representative of the Wells Agency, called attention to the Public Relations Report mailed to the members of the Authority June 3, and also at the same time presented a bill of the expenses of the Agency for the period July 1, 1952, to June 1, 1953. Mr. McClellan suggested that the Authority go into executive session for the discussion of the contract with the Public Information Officer and Miss Kay was excused from the meeting.

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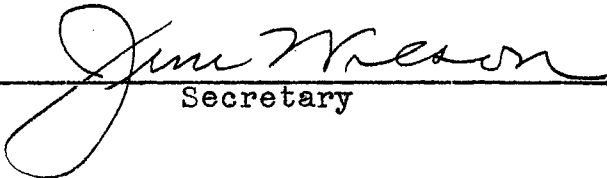
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It was moved by Mr. Brunmark, seconded by Mr. McClellan, that the contract of the Authority with Stephen L. Wells, Public Information Counsel, who had been rendering services to the Authority since its inception, but whose formal employment commenced March 3, 1953, as set forth in Resolution No. 15, should be terminated June 30, 1953, with total payment for services for the period of four months ending June 30 in the amount of \$6,000. In addition, the bill of expenses of \$1010.89 rendered by the Wells Agency, incurred from July 1, 1952, to June 1, 1953, be referred to the General Manager and the General Attorney for recommendations. Upon roll call all members voted aye.

The meeting thereupon adjourned until the regular meeting date of July 7.


Secretary

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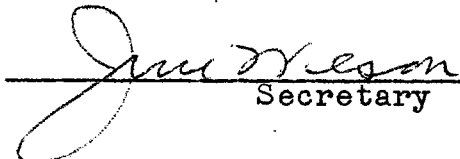
June 3, 1953

Name

Member Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority

Address

The meeting that had been set for Thursday, June 4, having been postponed, you are hereby notified that a special meeting of the Authority has been called by its Chairman to be held at the offices of the Authority, 2233 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, on Thursday, June 11, 1953, at 2 p.m. for the purpose of receiving reports of the General Manager and to consider the report of the Public Information Counsel, copy of which has been mailed to each member, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before it. Please note the hour of meeting-- 2 p.m.


Secretary

June 8, 1953

To All Members of

Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority

Please change the hour of meeting of the Authority on Thursday, June 11, 1953, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This change is necessary on account of the inability of some members to be present as early as 2 o'clock.


Secretary

I, Jim Wilson, Secretary of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the notices delivered to all the members of the said Authority, giving due notice of the special meeting held on June 11, 1953.


Secretary

We, the undersigned, being all the members of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority, do hereby ratify, adopt and consent to all the acts, resolutions, appointments, proceedings, rules and regulations shown upon the above minutes of the special meeting held on June 11, 1953, and do declare them to be the acts, resolutions, appointments, proceedings, rules and regulations of the Authority and do hereby approve the same.

Martin E. Pagan 7/5/53

Ken Lee 7/7-53

Frederick 7-7-53

A. Whaley 7-7-53

W. B. Krumm 7/7/53

Jim Wilson 6-12-53