

MINUTE RECORD OF LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MEETING HELD ON THE

Eighth

DAY OF

May

1953

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STANDARD MINUTE RECORD

The special adjourned meeting of May 5, 1953, was held at the office of the Authority on the date above written and was called to order by Chairman Pollard at 2:40 p.m. with the following members present:

Walter J. Brunmark
H. C. McClellan

Martin E. Pollard
Jim Wilson

Absent:

B. O. Miller
Fred S. Dean

Lloyd S. Whaley

Also in attendance: Ralph P. Merritt, General Manager
Miss Bea Kay, Public Information Counsel

The Chairman stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the amendments to be submitted to the State Legislature at its present session.

The General Manager reported on the contacts made by him with the Ways and Means Committee, and with numerous members of the State Legislature during the past week. He said that the consensus of opinion with regard to the proposed amendments was that no change in them should be made at this time. He informed the members of the Authority that Assembly Bills No. 2311 and No. 2782 would be before the committees at hearings to be held May 13, 1953.

The members then discussed the merits of the proposals made by Stanley Lanham, Vice President of the Los Angeles Transit Lines, and Jesse Haugh, recent purchaser of the Pacific Electric Railway motor coach business.

Mr. Brunmark said that he believed there were two important points to be decided: (1) The matter of the Authority being placed under the control of the State Public Utilities Commission as to routes; and (2) the tax-free proposal whereby the Authority would not be subject to normal taxes. He said he felt that the proposition to amend the Bill to remove the Authority from control by the State Public Utilities Com-

mission should be stricken out, and the Authority should not ask for such a change in the present Bill. But that he was in agreement with the amendment which would strike out the provision in the present Act whereby the Authority would be subject to payment of normal taxes.

Mr. McClellan said that he was favorably impressed with the presentation of the claims of the Transit Lines by Mr. Haugh and Mr. Lanham; that he believed them to be sincere in what they had said. He stated further that he felt certain that the Authority, as presently composed, would not attempt to destroy the present carriers by destructive competition, but that there could be no assurance as to what might be done in the future by members of the Authority succeeding those now in office. He said that the matter of routes of the transit lines to be established by the Authority should be done only after the Public Utilities Commission had issued certificates of public convenience and necessity therefor.

With respect to the provision of the removal of the Authority from payment of normal taxes, it was his opinion that transportation is needed to make metropolitan areas profitable; therefore transit lines should be partially subsidized by the taxpaying public.

The General Manager discussed the proposal by Lanham and Haugh as to Sec. 4.3 and said that their recommendations on this section should not be accepted.

Mr. Wilson said that his objections to any changes in the amendments as presently proposed were due to the facts:

1. That the Authority had spent many months and a great deal of discussion as to the proposed amendments and had unanimously agreed upon the amendments now in A.B. 2311.
2. That we could not, at this first presentation of these amendments to Legislative Committees, back down on our original proposals; that such action would be evidence

He expressed himself as opposed to any changes in our recommendations now.

Mr. Pollard stated also that much time had been given to the study of these amendments; that they had been submitted to the General Attorney of the Authority, put in proper legal form after considerable study by him, and finally adopted by the Authority. That there was no reason in his opinion why any changes should be made at this time.

He said that Mr. Jesse Haugh had full information as to the intents and purposes of the Authority before he negotiated with the Pacific Electric Railway Co. for the purchase of their motor coach lines. Consequently, he did not come into the situation without due notice of what was in process of development in transit matters in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. He was therefore opposed to any changes being made in the proposed amendments.

It being apparent that there was no possibility of arriving at a decision today on account of lack of full attendance of the members of the Authority, it was moved by Mr. McClellan, seconded by Mr. Brunmark, that a special meeting be called at the offices of the Authority, 2233 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, for 3 p.m., Friday, May 15, 1953. On roll call the motion was carried by a vote of four ayes- no votes none. Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.


Secretary