

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

Transcript of Public Hearing

December 18, 1970 - 9:30 a.m.

Re: UMTA Capital Grant Project proposing
to purchase 212 - 51-passenger buses,
etc. for use as a part of District's
existing transit system

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

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PUBLIC HEARING in the matter of:)
UMTA Capital Grant Project proposing) REPORTER'S
to purchase 212 - 51-passenger buses,) TRANSCRIPT
etc. for use as a part of District's)
existing transit system.)

The above-entitled matter came on
for public hearing at the hour of
9:45 A.M. on Friday, December 18,
1970, in the District Board Room
located at 1060 South Broadway,
Los Angeles, California.

REPORTED BY
Betty Ann McClung, C.S.R.

OUR FILE NO. 3140-70

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1 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

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4 PUBLIC HEARING in the matter of:)

5 UMTA Capital Grant Project proposing)
6 to purchase 212 - 51-passenger buses,)
7 etc. for use as a part of District's)
existing transit system.)

REPORTER'S
TRANSCRIPT

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10 Roll Call:

Herbert H. Krauch, President
11 Thomas G. Neusom, Vice-President
Kermit M. Bill
12 Charles E. Compton
A. J. Eyraud, Jr.
13 Leonard S. Gleckman
David K. Hayward
14 Michael E. Macke
Don C. McMillan
15 Douglas A. Newcomb
Norman Topping

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I N D E X

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Mr. Heinle	6
Mr. Curtis	11
Miss Rees	16

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2 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1970, 9:45 A.M.

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5 THE PRESIDENT: The meeting will please come to order.

6 Mrs. Rees, please read the roll.

7 THE SECRETARY: Herbert H. Krauch.

8 THE PRESIDENT: Here.

9 THE SECRETARY: Thomas G. Neusom.

10 (No response.)

11 THE SECRETARY: Kermit M. Bill.

12 MR. BILL: Here.

13 THE SECRETARY: Charles E. Compton.

14 MR. COMPTON: Here.

15 THE SECRETARY: A. J. Eyraud, Jr.

16 (No response.)

17 THE SECRETARY: Leonard S. Gleckman.

18 (No response.)

19 THE SECRETARY: David K. Hayward.

20 MR. HAYWARD: Here.

21 THE SECRETARY: Michael E. Macke.

22 (No response.)

23 THE SECRETARY: Don C. McMillan.

24 MR. McMILLAN: Here.

25 THE SECRETARY: Douglas A. Newcomb.

26 MR. NEWCOMB: Here.

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2 THE SECRETARY: Norman Topping.

3 (No. response.)

4 THE PRESIDENT: The first order of business will be a
5 report from the General Manager on Urban Mass Transporta-
6 tion Administration Capital Grant Project for the purchase
7 of 212 - 51-passenger radio equipped, air conditioned,
8 transit bype buses. Mr. Gilstrap.

9 MR. GILSTRAP: Mr. President, Members of the Board of
10 Directors, ladies and gentlemen:

11 The Board of Directors on October 20, 1970
12 authorized the General Manager to file an application
13 with the Urban Mass Transportation Administration for the
14 purpose of obtaining assistance to purchase 212 -
15 51-passenger radio equipped, air conditioned, transit
16 type buses; 30 supervisory-type air conditioned
17 automobiles; 33 CEA-type, semi-compact automobiles; 6
18 trucks with related equipment; 54 solid state two-way
19 mobile radios with related control center equipment; two
20 cyclone-type bus cleaning units, and one automatic bus
21 washing unit.

22 All items are for use as a part of the
23 District's existing transit system.

24 The approval of the application will enable the
25 District to reduce the age of the bus equipment in service
26 to 15 years or less and thereby place us back on our

1
2 15-year replacement schedule.

3 In addition to the 212 busses, the application
4 requests assistance for a purchase of other major items.
5 Many of the items will replace equipment which has been
6 used far beyond the normal retirement dates and are
7 necessary for continued efficient operation.

8 The Public Hearing is in accordance with rules
9 being promulgated by the Urban Mass Transportation
10 Administration so that parties having a significant
11 economic, social and/or environmental interest may be
12 afforded the opportunity to appear and be heard.

13 I would now like to call on Mr. George W. Heinle,
14 Deputy Administrator for Operations to present the
15 Environmental Statement on the Project.

16 Mr. Heinle.

17 MR. HEINLE:

18 "The equipment to be
19 purchased under this grant has a
20 number of features which will make
21 a positive contribution to the
22 environment in the District's
23 service area.

24 "The 212 new modern air-
25 conditioned buses will replace
26 buses which are 16 or more years

1
2 old. Specifications for these
3 vehicles will contain the air pollution
4 control clauses required by the
5 U.S. Department of Transportation,
6 as well as all regulations of the
7 California Air Resources Board.

8 In the event that the buses are
9 diesel powered, and in the event
10 that the California Air Resources
11 Board has not yet established
12 standards for diesel powered
13 buses, the specifications will
14 contain clauses limiting
15 emissions to the established
16 standards for gasoline powered
17 vehicles converted to the basis
18 of grams per horsepower hour.

19 While it does not appear that
20 at present there is a commer-
21 cially available bus power plant
22 of sufficient size, range and
23 operating characteristics with
24 lower emmissions than the diesel
25 engine, all of the latest
26 technology regarding emissions

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2 will be incorporated into the bus
3 specifications. As an example,
4 should the Catalytic Muffler
5 Demonstration, CAL-MTD-17, prove
6 successful, a device of this type
7 will be incorporated into the
8 bus specifications.

9 "The 63 automobiles to be
10 purchased for road supervisors
11 and driver reliefs will replace
12 automobiles, some of which are
13 as much as eight years old having
14 been purchased in 1962. Automobiles
15 purchased prior to 1964 were not
16 required to have "closed" crank
17 case ventilating systems.
18 Specifications for the new
19 automobiles will contain the air
20 pollution requirements of the
21 UMTA Procedural Guide, as well
22 as the requirements to meet the
23 applicable standards of the
24 California Air Resources Board.
25 They will incorporate all the
26 latest technology relative to

1
2 emissions and, if gasoline powered,
3 be required to burn no-lead or
4 low-lead gasoline.

5 "Even the radio systems to
6 be purchased for Transportation
7 Supervisors will contribute a
8 measure to an improved environment.
9 The radios to be replaced are tube-
10 type sets with a high vehicular
11 battery drain. With the present
12 radios, should it be necessary
13 for a Road Supervisor to stay in
14 one spot and keep his radio on,
15 the vehicle engine must be idled
16 to prevent the battery from
17 running down. The new radios
18 will be completely transistorized
19 with a very low battery drain,
20 and can be operated for extended
21 periods without appreciable
22 vehicle battery drain. Thus
23 emissions from engine idling,
24 particularly in the more
25 congested areas, will be reduced.

26 "It is also expected that

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2 the new bus washing and cleaning
3 equipment will enhance the
4 District's ability to provide
5 the public with cleaner, more
6 attractive vehicles.

7 "Finally, any improvement
8 to public transportation in
9 themselves can be a positive
10 contribution towards the
11 environment. New, cleaner,
12 air-conditioned, radio-equipped
13 buses, when coupled with the
14 improved reliability and
15 flexibility to meet variations
16 in service demands, to be provided
17 with the equipment purchased
18 under this grant, can be expected
19 to make the public transportation
20 system a more attractive
21 alternative to those presently
22 using their private automobile.
23 To the extent that riders who
24 formerly used their automobiles
25 are attracted to the District's
26 buses, it will improve the

1
2 environment by reducing con-
3 gestion and air pollution."

4 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Heinle.

5 We now have a report from John Curtis, Manager
6 of Rapid Transit & Surface Planning, with respect to the
7 transit development program as undertaken under the
8 Regional Coordinated Transit Development Plan to the
9 extent completed at the time of this Hearing.

10 Mr. Curtis.

11 MR. CURTIS: Mr. President, Members of the Board:

12 "The Southern California
13 Rapid Transit District and its
14 predecessor, Los Angeles Metro-
15 politan Transit Authority, have
16 been active participants in the
17 regional comprehensive and trans-
18 portation planning effort since
19 the inception of regional
20 planning in the Los Angeles area
21 in 1960. From 1960 to 1965 this
22 participation was through
23 coordination with the Los Angeles
24 Regional Transportation Study.
25 In 1965 the transit agency became
26 a contract member of the

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2 Transportation Association of
3 Southern California, which was
4 organized in that year as a joint
5 powers transportation planning
6 agency of the Counties of
7 Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura,
8 Riverside and San Bernardino, the
9 municipalities therein, the
10 California State Transportation
11 Agency and the District. Imperial
12 County has subsequently been added
13 to the membership.

14 "The District during the
15 period 1966-68 developed a basic
16 rapid transit program for the
17 Southern California area. A
18 proposal for financing development
19 of major rapid transit failed
20 to secure voter approval in
21 1968. The plans developed by the
22 District represent the basic rapid
23 transit element in the continuing
24 coordinated comprehensive and
25 transportation planning program
26 in the Southern California region.

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2 "Southern California Associ-
3 ation of Governments, the
4 agency responsible for compre-
5 hensive and transportation planning
6 in the Los Angeles region, and
7 the Southern California Rapid
8 Transit District are currently
9 developing a transit improvement
10 and coordination plan and program
11 for the Los Angeles region. This
12 study, administered by the
13 Southern California Association
14 of Governments, staffed by the
15 District with the assistance of
16 the other public transportation
17 operations in the region and
18 supported by the services of
19 independent transit planning
20 consultants, was initiated in
21 July of 1970 and completion is
22 estimated for the summer of
23 1971.

24 "The Transit Improvement and
25 Coordination Plan and Program
26 involves the analysis of the

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2 thirteen (13) public and
3 twenty-four (24) private transit
4 operations within the Southern
5 California region. The existing
6 services of all carriers, their
7 routes of service, schedules,
8 traffic levels, rates of fare,
9 and physical facilities are
10 inventoried. Adequacy of service
11 coverage is being evaluated and
12 potential improvements
13 identified. The physical
14 arrangements for interchange of
15 traffic among the systems,
16 service connections and inter-
17 system fare relationships are
18 to be evaluated. The Plan and
19 Program will provide
20 recommendations for improvements
21 in service coverage, operational
22 changes to improve service
23 quality and recommendations
24 for coordination of services.
25 The requirements of all systems
26 with respect to operational

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2 budgets and facility improvements
3 and replacements will be projected
4 for an initial five-year period.

5 "The Plan will recommend a
6 continuing organizational structure
7 by which the responsible transit
8 agencies in the region will
9 implement the plans for service
10 improvement and coordination and
11 maintain the transit planning
12 and implementation as an on-going
13 program in future years.

14 "An additional element of
15 the joint SCRTD-SCAG program is
16 the development of a modal split
17 model which will provide the
18 analytical tool for continuing
19 evaluation of transportation
20 needs and for the testing and
21 evaluation of transportation
22 systems by all modes as a part
23 of the comprehensive and
24 transportation planning program
25 of the region."

26 That concludes my statement.

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2 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Curtis.

3 We will now have a statement by Secretary
4 Virginia Rees on the publication of the Notice of
5 Intent to hold this Hearing.

6 Miss Rees.

7 MISS REES: Mr. President and Directors, I have
8 affidavits of publication of Notice of Intent to
9 hold this Hearing with the LA Opinion published
10 November 30 and December 1; Los Angeles Herald
11 Examiner published November 30 and December 1;
12 Los Angeles Sentinel published December 3, pursuant
13 to the requirements of the District Act and of the
14 Urban Mass Transportation Administration of the
15 United States.

16 And I also on December 30, 1970 mailed a
17 copy of Notice of Intent to hold Hearing to a list of
18 Federal, State and local agencies with jurisdiction
19 by law or special expertise, and authorized to develop
20 and enforce environmental standards which could be
21 interested in the Project.

22 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Miss Rees.

23 I have a request from Mr. Howard Watts,
24 3123 1/2 Marathon Street, Los Angeles, California,
25 to comment on this Hearing.

26 Mr. Watts, are you in the audience?

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2 MR. WATTS: I am.

3 Mr. President, Mr. General Manager and Board
4 of Directors and interested citizens in the audience:

5 First of all, the item numbers 1, 2 and 3 are
6 the things I'll address myself to.

7 The 212 - 51-passenger radio-equipped air-
8 conditioned buses are not needed at this time.

9 Secondly, 30 supervisory-type air-conditioned
10 autos are not needed at this time.

11 Thirty-three CEA-type semi-compact autos are
12 not needed at this time.

13 Six trucks with related equipment are not
14 needed at this time.

15 The only thing that is needed are 54 solid
16 state two-way mobile radios with related controlling
17 center equipment, and I'm for that part of the report.

18 Two cyclone-type bus cleaning units, I'm for
19 that, and one automatic bus washing unit for use as
20 part of the District's existing transit system.

21 Item No. 2, the Draft of the Environmental
22 Statement, personally it's not needed. You are not
23 going to do anything about environment anyway and it's
24 a hoax, this environmental ecology mess.

25 Item No. 3, Regional Planning, that's
26 beautiful. Since when do we have regional planning in

1
2 this country without elective officials involved in it?
3 Since when do we have SCAG as one of our elected
4 organizations? When did the State Legislature regulate
5 them as one of our representative bodies?

6 In 1968 and '69 you had two issues turned
7 down by the voters. So what happens? you go to the
8 United States Government under the Urban Mass Trans-
9 portation Administration to get Capital Grants for
10 these items.

11 Regional planning is certainly not what we
12 need in this country. As you may or may not have read
13 a proposed constitution calls for regional planning and
14 this proposed constitution is by the Center for Study
15 for Democratic Institutions.

16 If you need any more information about
17 regional governments, read that and you'll find out
18 what it's like.

19 Thank you.

20 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Watts, for your
21 suggestions. They will be taken under consideration.

22 Is there anybody else in the audience who would
23 care to speak on this subject?

24 (No response.)

25 If not, this Hearing is adjourned and will be
26 followed by a similar hearing with respect to the purchase

1
2 of 19 small transit buses.

3 MR. HAYWARD: Do you want a motion on that,
4 Mr. President?

5 THE PRESIDENT: There is no motion, no.

6 MR. HAYWARD: I think for the record's sake I will
7 move this Public Hearing be closed.

8 MR. BILL: Seconded.

9 THE PRESIDENT: It has been moved and seconded that
10 this Public Hearing be closed.

11 All in favor signify by saying "Aye."

12 (Chorus of ayes.)

13 THE PRESIDENT: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 THE PRESIDENT: It has been moved and seconded we
16 adjourn. The meeting will stand adjourned.

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2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA,)
3 County of Los Angeles.) ss.
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6 I, Betty Ann McClung, C.S.R., a Notary Public in and
7 for the County of Los Angeles, State of California, do
8 hereby certify:

9 That said hearing was taken down by me in shorthand
10 at the time and place herein named and was reduced to
11 typewriting under my direction;

12 That the within transcript is a true and correct
13 transcript of my shorthand notes.

14 I further certify that I am not interested in the
15 event of the action.

16 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 3rd day of January,
17 1971.

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19
20 Betty Ann McClung
21 Notary Public in and for the County
22 of Los Angeles, State of California
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