

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

MINUTES/PROCEEDINGS

Ad Hoc Committee on Accessible Transportation Meeting
Board of Directors
Thursday, March 7, 1985
District Board Room
425 South Main Street
Los Angeles

Called to order at 9:35 a.m.

Directors Present:

John F. Day
Gordana Swanson
Nick Patsaouras
Charles H. Storing

Director Absent:

Marvin L. Holen

Also present were members of staff, Cynthia Moyer of CACAT, the public and news media.

Chairman Day announced there would be a photo session for members of the Committee on Thursday, March 14 at 9:30 a.m. in front of the District Headquarters Building. He requested the secretary to issue a notice concerning this session.

1. Received report on impact of July 1 service changes on accessible service.

Mr. Korach discussed the report on redeployment of accessible and non-accessible buses. He talked about the implementation plan which will become effective July 1, 1985, and the positive effects of providing reliable service to the disabled. In addition, he briefly touched upon the four phases that will be followed to complete the redeployment plan.

Every effort is being made to make base service 100% accessible on the lines that are currently accessible. The District is striving to put as many lift equipped buses on weekday base service and that there will always be accessible buses on accessible lines on the weekends.

On question, Mr. Korach explained how pass-ups of wheelchair passengers are determined and the corrective steps taken. There was a discussion on the procedure used to assure lifts are in working order prior to leaving the division and, the steps taken when a lift breaks down on the line. Staff also reviewed the procedure for picking up a wheelchair person when the scheduled accessible bus does not show or the lift is not functioning. During rush hour it is possible, on a few lines, that a wheelchair person could wait 1/2 to 1 hour for a replacement bus. Staff was requested to look into reducing this waiting time.

2. Received Monthly Management Report on Accessible Service.

Mr. Spivack said the District is showing an increase in the percentage of wheelchair riders. He commented that the various status reports are used in a positive way to keep the equipment functioning.

The Committee discussed the various reporting systems noting areas where improvements have been made and where improvements are still needed.

Director Patsaouras stated he had good feelings about the things that are happening with accessible service. Mr. Spivack stated that through a combination of effort by the Ad Hoc Committee members, John F. Day, staff, new accessible equipment and changes in operating procedures, the District has come a long way in meeting its goals and objectives to provide accessible transportation to our riding public. Director Patsaouras commended Sue Ridenour for her past work in aiding the District to reach our present status in providing accessible transportation.

3. Status Report on Elderly and Disabled Studies.

The Committee received the status report on elderly and disabled studies. Mr. Spivack talked about the present status of each study.

Funding for the proposed survey of elderly and disabled population in the County is still being sought from SCAG. A recent conversation with SCAG indicates they do not feel there is sufficient priority for Los Angeles County to be the first area for the study. Another problem stems from the position of the LACTC wherein they have not indicated this study is of high priority, but, in their OWP submitted to SCAG they have indicated it as a regional priority. It was suggested the committee consider a discussion with the LACTC Commissioners and SCAG Board members to make them aware of the importance and high priority the District places on this study in the Los Angeles area.

Ms. Moyer stated that it was CACAT's preference that the study to be done reflect ridership patterns for the future, not just current. Mr. Dyer talked about the current data available which indicates where the elderly and handicapped are located but not their travel patterns. The District needs to identify both current and future travel.

Director Patsaouras suggested that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee meet with the LACTC and SCAG to discuss the future of this study.

It was Director Swanson's belief that such a study, if it were undertaken by SCAG, would benefit the District, municipal and paratransit operators, as well as the entire region. She suggested SCAG member cities be requested to write SCAG formally to request that this study be performed, and that an outline of its objectives be included in the letters to SCAG.

Director Day requested staff to make arrangements for a meeting and presentation by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to the Commission and SCAG.

4. Discussion of ideas generated at meeting of February 7, 1985, and consideration of a national conference on accessible transportation to be sponsored by the District.

General Manager Dyer stated that at this time the report is premature due to work and meetings still taking place. He spoke briefly about a discussion with APTA staff and Board members at an APTA meeting in San Diego commenting on APTA's position on holding an Accessibility Conference during the APTA Annual Meeting here in Los Angeles in October. The subject will be brought up at an APTA meeting next week and he felt any recommendation from staff should be after APTA's position is known. A report will be brought back to the Committee following a decision by APTA and recommendations will be made at that time.

5. New Business

Ms. Moyer referred to a letter to Chairman Day regarding securement clamps on the District's buses. It was the understanding of CACAT that staff was recommending the removal of the securement clamp. Mr. Dyer, having no knowledge of the recommendation, requested time to research the matter and report back to the Committee.

Sue Ridenour appeared before the Committee and thanked Director Patsouras for his comments. She said the good things that are happening are because of the work and effort of the Committee and, particularly John F. Day for his interest and direction.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.



Rhodona Thompson
Recording Secretary