

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

MINUTES/PROCEEDINGS

Advance Planning Committee
Wednesday, July 24, 1985
District Board Room
425 South Main Street
Los Angeles

Called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Swanson.

Directors Present:

Gordana Swanson, Chairman
Carmen A. Estrada, Vice-Chairman (arr. 10:07 a.m.)
John F. Day
Marvin L. Holen
Leonard Panish (substitute)
Nick Patsouras

Director Absent:

Norman H. Emerson

General Manager Pro Tem Richard Powers said the study was prepared at the request of the Board for the purpose of comparing cost factors of the District versus local and private operators and identifying possible future alternatives available to the District.

Staff offered to more closely investigate such areas as the reason for the District's higher costs, higher non-revenue miles, weekend service, scheduling functions, higher volume of passengers per mile, and higher number of passengers per hour. Additional information on articulated and double decker buses will be provided to the Board.

Staff indicated that 1982 data will be included in the next draft of the Transit Comparison Study. However, it was noted that real data substantiating service provisions by private operators at the quoted range of \$25-\$35 per vehicle is lacking.

Discussion was held on the pro forma cost factor among the municipal operators; this information will be included in the next report.

The Committee asked for an update on fuel costs, and for a comparison that includes New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco. In addition, the Committee said the following areas require further study: a determination of true costs of municipal carriers and the private sector; a review of maintenance costs and projections; a review of public liability and property damage costs; and consistency in Section 15 reporting.

Director Panish noted the need for information on Section 4 alternatives for delivering transit services. Staff was requested to provide the Board with Section 30754 of the District law. Discussion was held at length on the potential impact of privatization upon the District and the current labor agreement.

Director Holen commended staff for their report, which he called a first rate beginning in terms of exploration and presentation. Committee suggested the next presentation focus on such issues as: cost factors; percentages in the early stages of the report; more detailed PL & PD costs; more information from comparable large operators; cost breakdowns from municipal operators; a study of the issue of mixed fleet and how the various articulated and double decker buses contribute to maintenance costs; evaluation of services provided by other operators and whether they are considered additional services or related to the quality of transportation; the quality and number of people serviced, i.e., accessible service and/or telephone information.

Director Day said the Board needs to establish policy in the whole area of contracting out of services and substitution of paratransit services. Resolution of these issues is incumbent upon the Board, Mr. Day urged, rather than letting such services go to some other body by default.

Director Panish said that he would like to have a further breakdown of the administrative costs in regard to these areas, including the additional costs that result from the size of the District's operations compared to other operators. The areas that Mr. Panish would like to see included in this breakdown are transit police, community relations, telephone service, and planning and scheduling.

Director Swanson asked if the Committee's intention was to make specific recommendations to the full Board regarding the District's taking a stand on the Pomona line and, if this were the case, staff would need to prepare specific recommendations regarding this matter from both planning and legal standpoints in addition to considering employees' rights, obligations and duties.

Leo Bevon said a policy recommendation will be made at the next Board meeting. Gary Spivack suggested that the Board carefully review the following areas: transportation zones, subcontracting, privatization, cuts, and alternatives suggested by the General Manager in both the short- and long-term view.

Director Emerson asked if the transportation zone concept issued by the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission could be made available to the Board.

Director Panish noted that any decision the District makes will set the direction of transit for years to come, and that while there is a sense of urgency, it is also imperative to look at these and deal with them in greater depth because of the significance of decisions that District will be required to make.

Greg Roberts expressed his concern about possible fragmentation of the system.

Adjourned at 12:35 p.m.


Mary Ellen Miranda
Recording Secretary

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