

Minutes of
RTD/LACTC JOINT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
February 3, 1989

Members Present:

RTD

Gordana Swanson
Marvin L. Holen
Joseph S. Dunning

LACTC

Barna Szabo
Jacki Bacharach
Richard Callahan (alternate for
Ed Edelman)

Staff Present:

Alan F. Pegg - RTD
Rebecca Barrantes - RTD
Susan Brown - LACTC
Helen M. Bolen -RTD

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

The minutes of the January 19 and January 27 meetings were approved as presented.

Director Swanson spoke, indicating that she believes the Committee could reach an understanding that there are a preponderance of issues that can be resolved locally and there are some issues that will require legislation. Commissioner Szabo agreed, indicating that the make up of the Boards, funding allocations, etc. would be appropriate for reorganization measure.

There was discussion concerning funding allocation, with the District members suggesting there is a need to have some stability, long term, in the receipt of Proposition A funds. Commission members indicated a willingness to suggest a three-year planning period to allow the transit operator to internalize the planning process. Considered also was a formula process, with Commissioner Bacharach indicating the LACTC does have a formula, but it is also based on performance standards.

Director Holen stated the only assurance is in legislation. This approach would allow the District policy makers to shift resources as required without facing possible penalties.

Discussion then focused on SB 1. Director Holen stated that the District is not reactive to any existing piece of legislation and that he does not see any urgency in placing a reorganization bill before the Legislature.

It was the consensus of the committee that the Rail Capital Development Decision Making and Funding Stability issues need further review.

Commissioner Szabo suggested there may still be the need for stability of funding even if there is only one agency, with equal treatment for the RTD and the zone operators.

The next issue addressed by the Committee was accountability; should it be embodied in a single agency or should it be divided between two boards. The Commission has determined that it is best achieved in a single organization.

Director Holen commented that Senate Bill 1 sets up four boards instead of the existing two boards. He reiterated his position that the major thrust of legislation should be one of funding allocation. He concluded that if one agency is formed, then all reference to any subsidiary agency should be removed from the legislation. This will allow the new board to have the latitude and discretion to determine the structure of the organization.

Commissioner Szabo commented on the District's concern in the past about clean-up legislation. He stated his belief that the bill should be kept as simple as possible.

Director Swanson suggested using the 8-point plan, adopted by the RTD and the LACTC in December as the starting point, rather than SB 1. Discussion then centered on the 13 or more issues identified by this committee.

Director Holen spoke, indicating that if one policy board is established, then all problem issues that have been discussed will be resolved; however, if two policy boards are kept, then an essential agreement has to be a funding allocation by statute. He continued that there are a number of other issues that lend themselves to dual jurisdictional resolution and could lessen the functional problems between the existing agencies. The issue of accountability could be addressed through a single agency.

Director Holen concluded that the establishment of a single agency should be kept as simple in its form and structure as possible so as to give the future organization the opportunity to address problems and challenges. This new organization's policy board could then set up the appropriate sub-agencies to deal with the issues and challenges. A secondary alternative would be a recommendation to proceed with legislation on funding allocations.

Commissioner Szabo indicated he would take the comments from the committee to the LACTC's Finance & Inter-Governmental Committee on February 10. He commented that the unresolved issue ahead of the committee is how the single agency board should be constituted.

Director Swanson spoke about the importance of this committee speaking from a position of unity and the need for both organizations to have a voice in the recommendation regarding the governing board of a single agency.

The next major issues to be discussed by the committee will be accountability and membership.

It was agreed, tentatively, that the next meeting would be held Friday, February 17, 1989 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



Helen M. Bolen
District Secretary