

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

MINUTES/PROCEEDINGS

Special Board Meeting
Saturday, January 31, 1987
District Board Room
425 South Main Street
Los Angeles

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by
Presiding Officer Holen.

Directors Present:

Jan Hall (Arrived at 11:22 a.m.)
Norman H. Emerson
Nate Holden
Marvin L. Holen
Nick Patsouras

Jay B. Price
Charles H. Storing
Gordana Swanson

Directors Absent:

John F. Day
Carmen A. Estrada
Leonard Panish

Director Holen announced that Agenda Item No. 2 would be
considered first.

2. General Manager Dyer and Robert Murray presented the
staff proposed minor alignment change in the Metro Rail
System to mitigate conditions created by the presence of
contaminated soil in the area near Vignes and Keller
Streets. This was presented as an information item at
this time, with staff indicating they will proceed to
continue into pre-design and then into final design on
the proposed minor alignment change.

Director Holen summarized, by stating that the intent is
to bring this proposal to the Board in the near term for
formal approval. On motion duly made, seconded and
carried, the Board took a vote encouraging the staff to
proceed with the minor alignment change process. Staff
reiterated that the intent today was to brief the Board.
Mr. Dyer stated that there will be additional design
costs, but there will be savings in that contaminated
soil will not have to be removed.

Director Holen, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on
Institutional Structure, reported that the Committee met
on Thursday, January 29, 1987, and considered the report

prepared by the General Manager. The Committee also added two issues to be considered: 1) transit funding, and 2) transit system management, i.e., traffic management, parking, signals, bus stops, etc. The Committee also indentified the following basic issues: 1) one or more transportation agencies, 2) what kind of policy board should there be, 3) what should be the source of electoral authority, 4) what should be the breadth of authority; i.e., transit only, streets, traffic, etc., 5) are we rushing into the issue of restructuring; should it be more carefully studied. The Committee also is aware of the hearing to be held on February 11, 1987 by the Assembly Transportation Committee and there was discussion that the issue of restructuring of transportation delivery services should go to interim study for a more thorough evaluation.

Director Holen concluded by stating that the Committee arrived at a consensus that there should be a single transportation agency in Los Angeles.

General Manager Dyer presented the staff report on issues and alternatives, as well as a report on transit finance requested by the Ad Hoc Committee, and the report on authority granted by state statute to the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission since its creation.

Director Holen defined the first issue as the number of transportation agencies directly involved in transportation delivery services and whether or not there should be a combination of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and the District.

Director Emerson spoke first, indicating his preference for the incremental approach. He suggested that the first phase be devoted to refinement of the brokering approach and a second phase would be to move into a consolidation or regional agency.

Director Patsouras spoke to consolidation; indicating the climate is right to make a change. An incremental approach would be viewed as ineffective. He said there should be one agency; functions of the other agencies should be absorbed by the new agency to provide efficiencies, cost savings, etc. Director Patsouras concluded by stating that the Board should be a full-time Board.

Director Holden stated that he does not believe the District should make any recommendations for change at this time. Legislation has been introduced; the Board should simply identify the problems we have with the current structural arrangement.

Director Price commented that the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission was created in haste, out of a personality conflict. He stated his concerns about an elected Board, and he concluded by stating that if a change is made, it should be done in an incremental manner.

Director Swanson expressed her views that the big challenge is how well transportation agencies will serve the community and respond to the constituents. Brokering is one way to do it. She also said that none of the cities would be willing to give their Proposition A dollars to the District. If there is a duplication of operating costs, we must do everything to change this. She indicated she favored an elected Board.

Director Storing commended Director Holden for his suggestions, but he expressed his apprehension that if we identify the problems and not speak to solutions the Legislature will provide the solution and we will have no role in that solution. Director Holden responded, saying the District should have a leadership role, but now is not the time to take a position.

Director Patsaouras answered Director Swanson's statement regarding the cities' Proposition A funds. He said that someone will have to force them to give up those funds. The ballot proposition that gave the cities the 25% was based not on logic, but on politics.

(President Hall entered at 11:22 a.m.)

Director Holen summarized the first issue; should there be a single agency. Upon query, all Directors present supported the concept of a single transportation delivery system agency.

Director Holen then stated that no restructuring plan is worth anything unless the central core problem of the \$150 million transit funding deficit in Los Angeles County is addressed. If the Board, and the Legislature, is willing to address this issue then the restructuring issue will have value.

Director Holden put forth a motion stating that the District should identify all the problems faced by the District because of the existing law, explain these problems to the Assembly Transportation Committee, and then tell them what should be done to correct the problems. Director Price seconded the motion.

President Hall indicated she had met with Assemblyman Katz, and the motion by Director Holden correctly speaks to what he is interested in hearing at the Hearing on

February 11th. The purpose of the Hearing is to gather information.

Director Swanson said that she agreed with the motion, but she felt it needed to speak about efficiency of cost and time. Director Holden said that it would be appropriate to suggest some changes to the Assembly Hearing, but he urged the Board not to take a position on those changes now.

Director Emerson spoke to the idea of a 'summit' meeting of concerned transportation agencies. Director Patsaouras indicated that he does not believe it possible for all transportation agencies to speak with a 'unified voice'. President Hall suggested it would be appropriate to make an effort to find a common thread of agreement; she did not believe there would be total agreement.

After further discussion, a call was made on Director Holden's motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

President Hall indicated the second subject of consideration by the Board would be that of an elected or appointed Board of combination of both.

Director Emerson voiced his concerns about a directly elected Board. He spoke to a single purpose elected Board indicating his concerns about geographical representation, indicating there is a need for a good balance on the Board. He mentioned that the current Board members who are from City Councils have demonstrated their ability to be accountable. He suggested representation on the Board from the State Speaker of the Assembly, the President Pro Tem, and the Governor.

Director Price spoke, indicating that the current Board has the best possible structure that could be put together.

Director Holden said that he supported an elected Board. He suggested that when the Legislature defines what transportation agency will exist, then perhaps a mixture of elected and appointed members would be appropriate.

Director Swanson expressed her opinion that the current way of choosing Board members is not wrong; the issue is mute.

Director Patsaouras said that he favors an elected Board. Some may say that this promotes parochialism, he said that there is nothing wrong with parochialism. He

also favors a full-time Board.

Director Storing indicated that he opposes an elected Board. He disagreed with the suggestion that members be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Pro Tem. He also disagreed with Director Swanson that the current system doesn't need fixing; he suggested that the majority of Board members should be elected City officials and perhaps a couple of members should be citizen transit users.

President Hall commented that an elected Board is not going to solve the problems. She believes a Board in the consolidated effort should have the responsibility to look at those things that affect transportation; i.e., land use, zoning, economics, etc. She expressed her concern about geographic representation, indicating it needs to be there. She further stated that perhaps a hybrid, elected and appointed, Board would be best.

President Hall continued that the restructuring of public transportation should not get down to the issues of whether or not there should be an elected or appointed Board.

Following additional discussion, President Hall polled the members of the Board and received a consensus to remain silent on the issue of elected or appointed Board.

President Hall then stated that the third issue raised by the Committee was regarding the proposal of interim study on the transit structuring issue.

Director Holden made a motion that the District's recommendation to the Assembly Committee on Transportation is that the matter of transportation structuring be referred to interim study so that additional information can be gathered prior to any bill being drafted into final form. This motion was seconded and discussion ensued.

President Hall indicated she would like the flexibility, in the event the motion passes, to convey to the Committee that it is the District's intent that this issue not be 'pigeon-holed' but in fact, be the subject of additional study as it is of such importance to the County of Los Angeles that it will require study and public hearings.

Following discussion, the motion by Director Holden was approved.

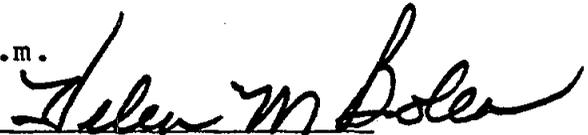
President Hall then mentioned the breadth of authority,

with Director Holen suggesting that the issues of streets, traffic, parking, transit only, etc. should be put before the Legislators at their first hearing as being inherent in what is being discussed; the issues of public transportation. The Board concurred in these suggestions.

Mr. Greg Roberts appeared before the Board complaining about the Transit Police Officers, interpretation of the Brown Act, etc.

Mr. Michael Cornwall spoke to the Board concerning the change in the alignment to the Metro Rail Project, objecting to the consideration of this item early in the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.



Helen M. Bolen
District Secretary