

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

MINUTES/PROCEEDINGS

Special Board Meeting
Board of Directors
District Board Room
425 South Main Street
Los Angeles

February 5, 1987

Called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Hall:

Directors Present:

Jan Hall
Carmen A. Estrada
John F. Day
Nate Holden
Marvin L. Holen

Leonard Panish (arr. 10:25 a.m.)
Nick Patsaouras
Jay B. Price
Charles H. Storing (arr. 12:20p.m.)
Gordana Swanson

Director Absent:

Norman H. Emerson

ACTION ITEMS

1. On motion duly made and seconded, unanimously approved Benefit Assessment appeals on the following properties:

Appeals Case No.	<u>Parcel No.</u>
A1-25-86	5149-033-002
A1-26-86	5144-003-012

Copies of the formal resolutions in these matters are filed with the District Secretary.

2. Considered recommendations in the Staff Response Report to the Safety Review Panel Findings and Recommendations, including approval of authorization for staff increases pursuant to the Panel recommendations.

During the lengthy discussion, Director Patsaouras requested a matrix on the costs and savings associated with the Safety Panel report. Several members of the Board expressed concern about the dual reporting responsibility for the Instructors.

Director Estrada made a motion to approve the recommendations as contained in the staff report dated January 29, 1987, which motion was seconded by Director Swanson.

Director Day spoke to the motion, focusing on the accountability and reporting structure of the instructors. He then made a substitute motion that the recommendations as contained in the staff report dated January 29, 1987 be accepted including the Safety Panel recommendation regarding the organization of the Instruction Department. This motion was seconded by Director Patsaouras and discussion ensued.

President Hall spoke, indicating that she will support the original motion. Director Swanson also indicated her support for the original motion. Director Holden commented he would vote for the substitute motion.

Director Holen also indicated his support of the original motion. He also asked staff to report at a future meeting on the accountability of authority. Does a Division Manager have full authority within a division, including drivers, instructors, mechanics, etc. and how it's determined that a Division Manager is performing adequately, and what steps would be taken to correct a situation where the performance was inadequate.

Mr. Brian Allen appeared before the Board speaking to the issue.

Director Swanson requested a report on the implementation of these recommendations on a regular basis so that the Board can be kept informed on the success of the program.

On a call for the question on the substitute motion, the motion failed as noted below:

Ayes: Day, Holden
Noes: Estrada, Hall, Holen, Panish,
Patsaouras, Price, Swanson
Abstain: None
Absent: Emerson, Storing

The President then asked for a Roll Call vote on the original motion which carried as noted below:

Ayes: Day, Estrada, Hall, Holden, Holen,
Panish, Patsaouras, Price, Swanson
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Emerson, Storing

9. Considered report on the "There's a Lot Riding on What I Do," advertising and employee communications program.

General Manager Dyer reviewed the program, noting that the objectives of the program are to increase public confidence in the District, to project employees as people who care about their job and the public, to increase awareness of the complexity of jobs within the District, and to increase employee morale and pride. Mr. Dyer also indicated that the funds for this program are available in the current budget. The District is proposing to spend about 1/10th of 1% of the annual budget on marketing efforts, of which this program is a part. Many transit agencies generally allocate 1% - and no less than .5% - of their annual budget for marketing efforts.

Director Patsaouras stated his support of the objectives. He did express his concern about the effectiveness of newspaper ads. Director Holen also expressed his support, if there is a need to tell the truth and show appreciation to our employees.

Director Holden spoke against the proposal, indicating the District is facing a financial shortfall and this type of program should not be considered. Director Swanson indicated her support of an advertising program. She inquired if consideration had been given to the use of billboards. Staff responded yes, but the cost was prohibitive.

Director Estrada indicated her support of the staff recommendation, as did Director Price. Director Panish spoke, indicating that newspaper advertising should not be done; there are other means of addressing employee morale. He suggested the advertising on the buses is appropriate.

Director Day expressed his support of the recommendation, indicating that the public is entitled to hear the real story of the District. President Hall stated her agreement with the recommendation.

Director Holen stated that the truth is that Los Angeles is running about a \$150 million public transportation deficit right now. Public confidence is an asset and right now it is wasting away. We have many cracks in the service delivered by the District; these are caused by lack of funds. The deficit must be made up by putting public transportation on a high priority. We cannot do this until we have safeguarded the public confidence.

Director Day made a motion to concur with the new District Advertising and Employee Communications Program, as contained in the report dated January 28, 1987. This motion was seconded and discussion continued.

Director Holen expressed his interest in staff bringing back a much better program where it is directly stated what is to be accomplished. Director Panish asked if Director Holen was suggesting approval of the program excluding the \$110,000 for newspaper advertising. President Hall indicated that the motion on the floor was to concur in the staff's intent as outlined in the report. She acknowledged that Director Panish requested a separation of the motion.

Greg Roberts appeared before the Board speaking to the issue.

President Hall announced that there has been a request to call for the question. She asked for expressions of opposition to this request and Director Holden's opposition was duly noted.

In response to the President's statement that a separation of the question has been requested, Director Day expressed his objection to the splitting of the question.

General Counsel Powers informed the Board that the item is listed on the agenda as a report item, not an action item.

There was discussion concerning whether a substitute motion would be appropriate since the question was called for, which shuts off debate on the issue, with General Counsel Powers indicating that debate has concluded and it is appropriate to vote at this time.

President Hall restated the motion which is to concur with the staff report to proceed with the program, which motion passed on a Roll Call vote as noted below:

Ayes:	Day, Estrada, Hall, Holen, Price, Swanson
Noes:	Holden, Panish, Patsaouras, Storing
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Emerson

(Note: This item was again discussed at the end of the meeting. Please see page 10 of these minutes.)

The Board recessed at 12:38 p.m. reconvening at 1:18 p.m. with all Directors except Director Emerson responding to Roll Call.

3. Approved General Manager's Performance Action Plan, subject to the paring of costs to the point where no additional funding is required.

General Manager Dyer presented the Performance Action Plan, dated February 5, 1987, a copy of which is filed with the District Secretary. He outlined the costs of each of the proposed 14-point elements of the plan. He concluded by requesting approval of all items in the plan, and he additionally requested the Board's assistance in obtaining additional funding to cover the \$567,000 shortfall in the plan.

Discussion on various aspects of the Performance Action Plan occurred. Several members of the Board expressed their desire to receive a report on all federal audits of the District and any other audits of substance. Questions and discussion ensued on the subjects of automobiles, absenteeism and funding.

Director Price moved approval of the Program as outlined in the staff report, which motion was seconded and discussion continued. Director Estrada indicated her support of the Plan, but expressed concern about spending any more monies on any element. Mr. Dyer indicated he would bring a report to the Board before any line item changes in funding would occur. Director Holden suggested there were no costs to the program because savings would cover any costs. Director Swanson commented on her concerns because many of the elements of the plan are not transit-related issues; they are social and health issues. She supported the Plan in principle, but not every element.

Director Storing opined that throwing money at the problems will not solve them. President Hall prioritized the elements of the Plan and questioned if there were other ways to fund some of the elements. She suggested that the Board should consider a program that would cost equal to the savings that could be expected. The President asked Mr. Dyer which portions of the Plan he would implement if the full Plan could not be funded.

General Manager Dyer requested the Board adopt the whole Plan, subject to his report within two weeks detailing how the additional funds can be obtained; otherwise certain items can be costed out of the Plan.

Director Panish expressed his belief that a delay would be counterproductive; the Board should make a decision today.

Members of the public spoke. Brian Allen suggested several changes to the Plan. Sue Ridenour spoke to the elderly and disabled element of the Plan. Greg Roberts commented on the Transit Policy and Inspector General.

Director Swanson made a substitute motion to approve the Performance Action Plan, in principle, but to exclude implementation of Elements 7 and 8, and to approve the expenditure of \$150,000 only for Element 4, the Comprehensive Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program, with the balance of the proposed Comprehensive Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program to be funded by the County of Los Angeles and the district's labor unions. This motion was seconded for discussion purposes.

Upon query, Director Swanson stated the intent of her motion was to support the programs stated in Element 7 - Crime & Perceived Safety and in Element 8 - Service Quality, Cleanliness and Maintenance, but not to fund those elements. Following additional discussion, Director Day withdrew his second of the substitute motion.

Director Holen then placed a substitute motion on the floor to delete the funding for Elements 7 and 8 and to include a program similar to a Ride Along Program developed by the Transit Police Department several years ago. This motion was seconded for discussion purposes.

General Manager Dyer urged the Board to consider dropping the objectives of an Element if funding for that element is not approved.

Director Estrada stated that the problem is raising the extra funds. She suggested that the Board support the Plan in full, ask the General Manager to bring a recommendation to a subsequent Board Meeting paring back the Plan as has been suggested.

President Hall summarized the discussion by saying the Board seems to be most concerned with a balanced budget. She suggested a motion would be in order that reflects the concern to have a balanced budget concept and acknowledges that if other monies can be obtained, they would be used to enhance the Plan, but still maintain a balanced budget approach. Director Day then withdrew his second of Director Holen's substitute motion.

The original motion was again restated for the record. Director Holen then made a substitute motion that the Performance Action Plan be approved subject to the General Manager paring the costs to the point where no additional funding is required. This motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

President Hall commented that as just approved, the savings expected from the Performance Action Plan will fund the costs of the Plan. She also asked which elements the General Manager expected to delete from the Plan or diminish in scope. Mr. Dyer responded he would prefer to eliminate \$300,000 in Element 7, reduce \$100,000 in Element 11, eliminate \$50,000 in Element 9, and a \$25,000 to \$50,000 reduction in Element 12.

4. Approved amendment to contract with the law firm of Nutter, Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert & Matz increasing the FY 1987 authorized amount by \$100,000 to a total of \$200,000; form of contract subject to approval of General Counsel.

CARRIED, with Director Panish voting "No"

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 4:05 p.m. to consider a personnel matter.

The Board reconvened at 4:45 p.m. with all Directors responding to Roll Call except Directors Emerson, Holden and Patsaouras.

CONSENT CALENDAR

6. Approved filing a claim with the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission for STA Sales Tax Funds for the Metro Rail Project for FY 1987, in the amount of \$17,430,000; form of documents subject to approval of General Counsel.

UNANIMOUS

7. WITHDRAWN by staff, approval of Requisition No. 6-3599-2520 and exercising an option with California Landscape Maintenance, Inc., Canoga Park, covering landscape services at various District facilities.

REPORT ITEMS

8. CARRIED OVER to February 12, 1987 Board Meeting, review of final application for San Gabriel Valley Transportation Zone.

UNANIMOUS

10. CARRIED OVER to February 12, 1987 Board Meeting, report on public information and communications materials for the Metro Rail Community Relations Construction Plan.

UNANIMOUS

11. Received and filed Quarterly District-Wide Objectives report.

UNANIMOUS

12. CARRIED OVER to the February 12, 1987 Board Meeting, revised Proposed Fiscal Year 1988 District-Wide Objectives.

UNANIMOUS

13. Received and filed the Fiscal Year 1987 Budget Forecast report - Second Quarter.

UNANIMOUS

14. Received and Filed the 2nd Quarterly report on the Public Liability and Property Damage and Worker's Compensation claims programs.

UNANIMOUS

15. Public Comment.

Charles Terry, representing Downtown Property Owner Association, appeared before the Board requested that the Benefit Assessment District Task Force be reconvened.

Appearance of B. Allen and G. Roberts on transit related matters.

Appearance of Hank Ramey speaking to the subject of reorganization.

Director Holen requested that the Board consider revisiting agenda item no. 9 with respect to the expenditure of \$110,000 in District funds for the purpose of newspaper advertising. He suggested this expenditure be 'put on hold' until the Board has an opportunity to evaluate the results of a press conference to be held by the District with respect to the state of public transportation in Los Angeles and the activities of the District. He suggested that if the press does not respond positively, then the Board would be able to revisit that newspaper advertising program at a later time.

Director Holen made a motion to reconsider agenda item no. 9, which motion was seconded by Director Day and unanimously carried.

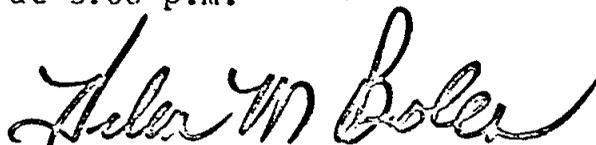
Director Holen placed a motion on the floor to concur with the staff program as recommended earlier in the meeting, except the use of the \$110,000 for newspaper advertising and that money be set aside for review as to its use for communication with the public following evaluation of the results of a "Fair Press Conference" to be held by the General Manager and the President. Director Day seconded this motion.

President Hall requested an opinion from the General Counsel as to the appropriateness of the motion, with Mr. Powers stating that the motion was in order.

Director Estrada noted that several members of the Board were not present and she expressed her opinion that a revisit of this issue would not be in the best interest of the Board's unity. She asked staff's reaction to the motion. Mr. Dyer suggested that the Board request the \$110,000 newspaper advertising line item be brought back to the Board at the February 12, 1987 meeting.

Following additional discussion, Director Day withdrew his second and the motion died.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.



Helen M. Bolen
District Secretary