

SEMTA votes to save itself

By TIM RICHARD

After more than two years of studying technical alternatives, the board of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority made a frankly political decision.

The SEMTA board Tuesday voted 13-2 to "sharpen the focus" of its 1990 rapid transportation plans by picking three preferred plans from a field of seven. The board had intended to make a tentative final selection.

"Had we ramrodded through one (light rail) plan," said SEMTA Chairman Edward McNamara after the meeting, "they would have pulled a goosetail and left." He nodded toward the end of the table in the Radisson Cadillac Hotel where two Macomb County members had been sitting.

"THEY HAVE the right," said the Livonia mayor, referring to the Macomb County Board of Commissioners' threat to withdraw from the seven-county transit authority if any plan involving a subway in the Woodward corridor were approved. Conversely, the City of Detroit had threatened to quit SEMTA if no subway plan were approved.

The three alternatives on which the board will "focus" call for an all-bus

system with commuter rail improvements, a light rail plan for Woodward with only the downtown segment under ground, and a light rail plan under ground from downtown to Six Mile.

With that selection, Macomb, Detroit and everyone else are still part of SEMTA, still talking to each other.

McNAMARA and other SEMTA officers had spent much of the last week negotiating with regional and state political leaders on how to proceed on narrowing seven transit alternatives down to one.

"I met with Oakland County Executive Dan Murphy alone," said McNamara, who has been SEMTA chairman only one month. "I met alone with Wally Gable (chairman of the Oakland County board, which had threatened to quit SEMTA earlier this year)."

"I met with Gov. Milliken with the two other SEMTA officers (Vice-Chairman Henry M. Hogan of Bloomfield Hills and Dauris Jackson of Detroit). I met with (Detroit's) Mayor Coleman Young and his staff and with Rep. Bill Ryan alone."

"As you talk to these leaders, they all understand the problem. Someone's gonna have to yield. They're gonna have to yield."

McNamara is a low-profile, low-key kind of leader who prefers patient work at consensus to confrontation and—to use his term—a ramrod victory.

He said Milliken agreed with the approach of delaying final selection of a transit plan until the Michigan Legislature can adopt a 10-bill transportation package. That is scheduled to occur in September.

SEMTA board member Joseph P. Bianco Jr. of Bloomfield Hills asked that the hundreds of millions of dollars involved in the plans be calculated in simpler terms—"how many mills of a property tax, how many cents of a sales tax"—when presented to the public.

Any capital cost will receive 80 per cent federal funding, but 20 per cent will have to come from the state or region. Operating subsidies will be funded 50-50.

THE SEMTA BOARD selected:

- The "low capital-1" plan, aiding mainly the suburbs. At a capital cost between now and 1990 of \$449 million, low cap-1 would add 195 express buses and 121 line haul buses on 20 routes on suburban mile roads to the existing system. It would expand commuter train service between Pontiac and Detroit and add service from Ann Arbor and Mt. Clemens to Detroit. It would provide the downtown "people

mover" on a 2.7-mile loop in Detroit.

• The "light rail F3" plan. It would include all the above programs and serve the Woodward corridor with an 11.3-mile light rail system that would be underground in the Detroit central business district. Capital cost of the light rail portion would be \$487 million. This was the least costly of any of the plans which called for a subway.

• The "light rail X-1" plan, which calls for 11.3 miles in the Woodward corridor with the portion from downtown to Six Mile (McNichols) underground. Capital cost of the light rail portion would be \$771 million. This was the most expensive of the seven options and the one most favored by Detroit and Highland Park leaders.

SEMTA General Manager Larry E. Salci of Troy said each had its advantages. Low cap-1 was the cheapest to install; light rail X-1 delivered the most economic development to Detroit in sheer dollars; light rail F3 delivered the most economic development per dollar of government investment.

REJECTED AS top priorities were these four plans:

- "Do nothing," essentially maintaining the present system. This would cost \$200 million for replacement buses. The do-nothing alternative is actually included in all the other options. Macomb County representatives sought to have this plan as one of the finalists but lost in a 12-3 vote.

• The "low capital-2" plan, which is the same as low cap-1 plus 80 additional express buses on Woodward and the Chrysler freeway. It would attempt to do with buses what the light rail plan would accomplish. Capital cost: \$664 million.

• "Light rail D-2," which would be a surface light rail plan on Woodward. While possible, it is seen as potentially disruptive to traffic and commerce and considerably slower than an underground system which wouldn't have to stop for traffic lights. It would, however, be longer—a total of 13.9 miles—and extend to Ten Mile instead of only Eight Mile. Capital cost: \$659 million.

• "Light rail D-5," which would have two stretches of subway—downtown and from Grand Boulevard to Six Mile.

The plans will all go to public hearings, probably in October. More hearings will follow on an environmental impact statement. The SEMTA board will then try to make a final decision—which will require a two-thirds vote—by the end of the year. Capital cost: \$844 million.

Meanwhile, Chairman McNamara and board officers will be involved in negotiations and education process. They feel they have made progress by holding the SEMTA organization together and narrowing seven options to three.

For a
common sense
approach to
JUSTICE. . .



JUDGE GENE SCHNELZ

and common sense in the Courtroom

Judge Gene Schnelz has proved during thirteen years as judge that he knows you and your concerns and he has all the qualifications: honesty, ability, experience, maturity and a sense of humor as well as common sense. Judge Schnelz has been endorsed by police officers' organizations, newspapers and has received the highest rating by civic groups.

Promote District
Judge Gene

BRING COMMON SENSE
TO THE CIRCUIT COURT

SCHNELZ

TO OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
Paid for by Committee to Elect Gene Schnelz Circuit Judge, Box 301 Walled Lake Mich. 48088

OCART gets 13 small buses

SEMTA General Manager Larry Salci has signed a contract to purchase 13 small buses to be used in OCART, a countywide transportation system for the elderly and handicapped in Oakland County.

The lift-equipped vehicles, along with six others in the OCART system, are expected to be in operation by next January, Salci said. The complete system will have 42 vehicles.

The buses will be air-conditioned and seat 10 to 12, with space for two wheelchairs.

The 13 OCART buses are part of a total order for 48 buses which SEMTA is purchasing from Great Lakes Coach Sales Co. of Portage for more than \$1.1 million. All 48 are lift-equipped.

Fifteen will be replacement buses and the remaining 33 will be expansion vehicles in SEMTA's plans for countywide essential transportation for the elderly and handicapped.

Thirty-six of the buses are entirely state funded. Twelve are funded 80-20 by the state and federal governments.

Dennis E. Moffett, P.C. Attorney Fee Schedule

DIVORCE	
Maximum	\$200
Minimum	\$125
Bankruptcy	\$200
D.U.I.L.	\$100
(drunk driving)	
Wills	\$25
(Husband & Wife)	
Hourly Rate	\$20

254 S. Telegraph, Pontiac
682-5500

NOR-WEST ASPHALT PAVING COMPANY

OWNER SUPERVISED
WE SPECIALIZE IN

RESURFACING
ASPHALT
OR CONCRETE

Protective Coating of Existing
Driveways or Parking Lots

647-2373
BIRMINGHAM

Summer Sale

SKIS
Head
Hart
Hexcel

BINDINGS
Salomon
Look

POLES
Scott

CLOTHING
Gerry
Profile
Sprotcaster
Hot-Gear

BOOTS
Scott
Dyanfit
Munaji

20-50% OFF
limited quantities
Shop Early!

LPINE ski & tennis

Ski & Tennis Specialties!

Franklin Racquet Club
28350 Northwestern Hwy.
Southfield, Mich.
355-5429

4702 N. Woodward Ave.
1 1/2 S. of 14 Mile
549-7474
HOURS: Mon. & Thurs. 9-9
Tues.-Wed.-Fri.-Sat. 9-6
Closed Sundays

10 AM-8:30 SEVEN DAYS

"AN ABLE AND BRILLIANT ATTORNEY"

CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE ENDORSES
HILDA GAGE

"I am happy to endorse the candidacy of Hilda Gage, the able and brilliant Oakland County trial attorney as best qualified among the candidates running for one of the three newly created Oakland County Circuit Court Judgeships.

"Mrs. Gage's qualifications are outstanding. Her academic record is impeccable, graduating *Magna Cum Laude*, at the top of her class, when she received her Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School.

"Over the years I have been impressed with her legal abilities in court and everything I know about her past background leads me to believe that she will bring fresh vitality, professionalism in legal analysis and outspoken leadership integrity to the Circuit Court Bench.

"She also has more pragmatic solutions for our Circuit Court dockets by way of arbitration and mediation, and it is for these reasons that I am enthusiastic about endorsing her candidacy to the Bench."

James S. Thorburn
JUDGE JAMES S. THORBURN

- Endorsed by the South Oakland County Police Officers Association.
- A believer in fair and speedy process of law and that convicted lawbreakers should know of the swift certainty of punishment as a deterrent to crime.
- A woman with ideas. A woman in motion. The woman of the hour. An exceptional new voice for justice.

Paid for by Committee to Elect Hilda Gage Circuit Judge
301 North Main Street • Clawson, Michigan 48017

VOTE GAGE AUGUST 8TH

Fresh Frozen Fruit & Vegetables

Once again ERWIN FARMS offers the highest quality fruits and now vegetables, too! All fresh frozen at their peak of natural ripened flavor.

Cherries, Strawberries, Corn and Lima Beans as delicious as the day they were picked!

Order now! A \$10 deposit with each item ordered. Delivery between Aug. 17-25. We will notify you of the exact day.

**Final Order Date
Thurs., August 10th**

All fruits and vegetables are bulk packaged (10-30 lbs.). Many are INDIVIDUALLY QUICK FROZEN — ideal for using just as many as you want.

Peach, Corn, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Broccoli Spears, Cauliflower, Lima Beans, Hash Browns (Southern Style), Brussels Sprouts, Apricot halves, Pineapple (cubes), Mixed Fruit (Mandarin), Cantaloupe Melon Balls & Grapes, Red Tart Cherries, Dark Pitted Sweet Cherries, Red Raspberries, Black Raspberries, Blackberries, Blueberries, Jonathan Apple Slices, Freshness Peach Slices

ERWIN FARMS
Corner of Ten Mile
& Novi Rd. Novi
349-2034

IMPORTANT—Since we have no freezer capabilities. All orders must be picked up on delivery date. Orders not picked up will be sold and deposit forfeited.

Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Year 'Round
"Apples—Our Specialty"

Embarrassed?

When you have company in your home, then don't be embarrassed! Let us eliminate these problems whether it's ants, roaches, bees, wasps, rats, or mice at a price you can afford. Call us now for a pest free home.

Call A-OK Pest Control • 862-3200

• 17 years experience • fully insured
• Licensed by the State of Michigan
Lic. #25002

FREE!
bryant
ELECTRONIC AIR CLEANER



WITH PURCHASE OF
bryant DELUXE
CENTRAL
Air Conditioner System
Installation

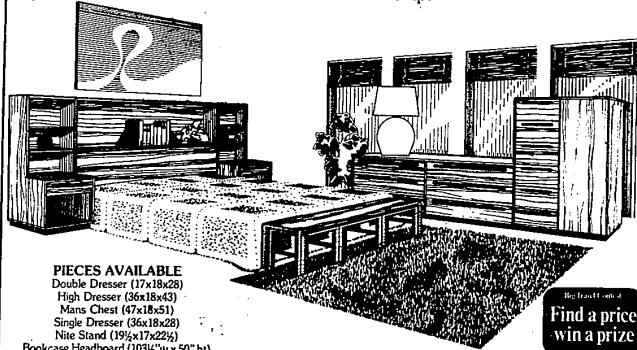


Call For
Free Estimate

CALL MOR-EZE CO. INC.
548-3773 24 Hour Answering Service

Danish Furniture Festival

STORE WIDE SUMMER SALE
10% TO 40% OFF ENTIRE STOCK
SAVE UP TO 15% ON ALL CUSTOM ORDERS
Superbly crafted bedroom set in Teak or Walnut solids and veneers these pieces reflect the finest in Danish craftsmanship.



PIECES AVAILABLE
Double Dresser (17x18x28)
High Dresser (36x18x43)
Mans Chest (47x18x51)
Single Dresser (36x18x28)
Nine Stand (19x17x22x6)
Bookcase Headboard (103x37x50" h)

Big brand name
Find a price
win a prize

CALL OR WRITE FOR FREE COLOR BROCHURE

house of denmark

893 SOUTH ROCHESTER ROAD • ROCHESTER
TUE., WED., SAT. 10:00-5:30 THUR., FRI. 10:00-9:00
SUN. 12:00-5:00 CLOSED MONDAY 651-9430
INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE AVAILABLE