

Murphy wants vote on transit

Will there be a vote on funding increased public transportation in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties?

That's a question Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy wants answered, particularly in light of approved initial state funding last week of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority's (SEMTA) 1990 plan.

SEMTA is planning on such a referendum, but Murphy contends the law's wording isn't strong enough.

That plan includes a subway-surface light rail line along Woodward Avenue into south Oakland County and increased bus service for the suburbs.

MURPHY HAS asked the county's legal department whether a resolution passed last week by the Michigan Legislature — providing money for a subway preliminary engineering study — requires a popular vote on any new taxes for operating the subway and other aspects of the SEMTA system.

The resolution freeing state money for the subway study includes the following language:

"Any additional regional taxes beyond those in effect on April 1, 1980 to be raised in the tri-county area for operating the system should be subject to a vote of the people."

"Theoretically, that says what we wanted," said Michael T. Niemann, Oakland County's public information director.

But Murphy, according to Niemann, questions whether the language is spe-

cific enough. He has asked Robert P. Allen, the county's lawyer, to give his opinion.

"If (the legislature's resolution) doesn't have a date certain," said Niemann. "And it says 'should' instead of 'shall'."

LAST MONTH, Murphy said he would start a petition drive for a ballot referendum on future SEMTA funding if the legislature didn't bind increased funding to a vote.

The bulk of SEMTA's current operating revenues are from the tri-county vehicle and title transfer tax, which the legislature last week extended for another year.

Car owners in Oakland, Wayne and

Macomb counties pay a surcharge of \$2.50 for their license plates to fund some of SEMTA's operations. The tax was due to expire April 15.

SEMTA also receives federal funds and part of a 10 percent share of state gasoline and vehicle registration taxes. That 10 percent portion of the state highway fund, for public transportation statewide, was approved by voters in November 1978.

WHEN SEMTA's Board of Directors passed the \$1.5 billion transportation plan last year, it committed the regional authority to present a tax proposal to voters during or before 1982.

SEMTA has estimated its planned transportation system would require a

\$65 million subsidy by 1990, no matter which mode of transportation were used.

If Murphy decides to begin petitioning for a referendum, it probably won't happen this year, Niemann said, because too many questions remain unanswered on what the transit plan will cost and what the operating deficit will be.

The plan must be approved by the federal Urban Mass Transportation Authority (UMTA), which has the final say on the region's receiving an estimated \$900 million for capital.

Murphy has said UMTA won't approve capital financing of the plan until SEMTA shows how it will cover the expected operating deficit.

Condo, co-op management courses set

Non-degree courses to help board members successfully manage and operate condominium, homeowner or cooperative projects will be offered by the Division of Continuing Education, Oakland University, beginning May 7.

Offered for the first time in southeastern Michigan, the courses will be conducted by Birmingham attorney Robert M. Meisner, who helped draft the new Michigan condominium statute of 1978.

"Introduction to Condominiums" will be instructed from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.,

and "Introduction to Homeowners/Cooperative Associations" will be instructed from 8:30-10:30 p.m., on five successive Wednesdays, beginning May 7.

Both courses will focus on backgrounding board members for the proper management and administration of condominium and association affairs.

Special emphasis will be placed on the legal duties assumed by boards, including law affecting board members, explanation of the master deed and

condominium bylaws as they relate to the routine duties of the board.

The advantages of various forms of management, developing overall management plans, conducting board and general meetings and conflict resolution processes also will be discussed.

Tuition for each course is \$50, or \$45 per participant for groups of five or more. For details, call the Continuing Education office, 377-3120. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 5 p.m. Friday.



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