Some balk at paying more for People Mover

By Kathy Parrich staff writer

After months of shaking their heads over rising costs of the Downtown People Mover, Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEATIA) board members inally said "Whos." Well, almost. Four of the 11 SEBATA board members on hand for Tuesday's meeting voted against increasing the project's cost by \$85,512. A two-thirds vote was needed to spend the money, which is altated for revisions to the structural system of DPM'S Maintenance Control Facility.

While the board later approved the expense, some members volced frustration over spiraling costs of the iroubled rapid transit system. Originally expected to run about \$138 million, it is now estimated at \$192 million.

"I AM VERY distressed about how we're managing the project, controlling the costs," said second
vice chairman Joann Soronen.
"I find myself with little elementary except volting No.' It's aimost unbearable the situation I find
myself in as a board member. I don't know how to
put a cap on the costs," added the Farmington Hills
Wolten Hermber.
"Wolten Hermber es says I'm agreeing with
all the things I'm unhappy with."
while voluge to spend no morey. Namel Rowe
akked SEMTA general manager Albert Martin to
have his staff "stop writing agends thems and talk
to us."

have an seas, suppression, and the project is going to cost more and yet if we vote 'Yes' we're afraid we'll be liable for something forever," said the Detroit attorney.

"If we're gonna rubber stamp something, it should be something we believe in."

should be something we believe in."

VOTING AGAINST the \$28,512 expense were board member Tom Fegan, walter Franchuk, Diana Kolakowski, and Soronen. Favoring it were Philip Dondero, Ted Frantz, Chester Jurewicz, Richard Manning, Malcolm Dade, Rowe, and chairman from Turner.

But after reconsidering the issue, the board voted to spend the mensy. The metion was approved in a voice vote without a roll call.

Turned urged the action, blaming poor preliminary engineering for the rising costs. He also assured board members that SEMTA staff is working "day and night" to keep the project on track.

"This project will come in under the projected \$200 million we talked about, but we need help from this board — and from the naysayers out there who think this is a white elephant," said the Detroit representative firmy.

"I feel very confident that we are beginning to put round pegs in round holes for the first time."

"VOUIR STAFF is just as frustrated as each and

"YOUR STAFF is just as frustrated as each and very one of you must be," added general manager fartin, adding that the money isn't going into new honese.

changes.
"We're cleaning up a project that's been in trou-ble a long time because of very poor preliminary engineering. There is a cap out there we are work-ing toward."

Traffic death count is up slightly in '84

The Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County (TIA) reported 125 traffic deaths reported in 1984 and 117 in 1983.

The last year in which fewer traffic deaths were recorded was in 1982, when the traffic toil in Oakland County stood at 115.

The 1984 fatalities represent at 6.3 percent increase over the preceding year. Traffic fatalities statewide in 1984 were 13.2 percent higher than the preceding year — 1,508 as compared to 1,331.

BRUCE MADSEN, TIA managing director, said traffic authorities of Oakland County were concerned early this year about a substantial increase in traffic fastallites which occurred during the first few months of 1984.

"During the first quarter there was a slight increase in the number of fatal accidents, but several of these resulted in multiple fastallites which pushed the traffic toll 75 percent above the same period in 1983," Madsen said.

The unusual fatal accident experience resulted in a top prevention efforts on the part of local authorities.

authorities.

The work of special alcohol enforcement teams comprised of sherill's department personnel and local police officers has played a significant role in this reduction, according to TIA.

THIS OBSERVATION is based, in part, on the fact that alcohol-related fatalities in designated target areas were down 60 percent last year compared to the two year period prior to 1980, when the countywide alcohol enforcement and education that the countywide alcohol enforcement and education. The reported that approximately \$700,000 was spent on this project from mid-1980 to mid-1983, during which time there was an estimated \$15.6 million reduction in the cost of alcohol-related accidents.

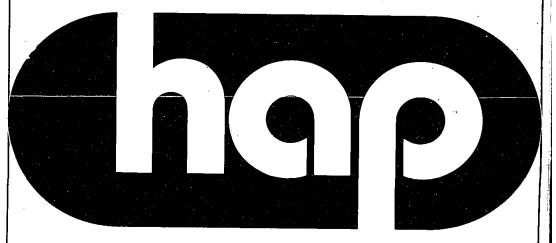
dents.

TIA reported that other factors which helped keep fatalities down include improvements in traffic engineering, law enforcement, emergency medical services and vehicle safety engineering.

Languages taught

You can learn to speak Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Italian, Spanish or Portugese for the foreign professional in just 12 weeks through the University of Detroit's intensive language program. U-D's classes utilize the innovative Dartmouth rapid learning method. The language classes will start Jan. 21 at locations in downtown Detroit, Northwest Detroit, and Birmingham. For enrollment information, call U-D's division of continuing professional education at 927-1025.

When it Comes to Health Care Experience, Nothing Else Comes Close.



HEALTH ALLIANCE PLAN.

Because HAP has been around two to three times longer than all its imitators, you get the experience others can't give. And the quality, value innovation and convenience that comes with that experience

People trust HAP to deliver the kind of quality health care they need. For 25 years HAP has provided quality coverage that combines personalized medicine with the latest in technology. And the value that comes from never having to pay a doctor bill again.

HAP's innovations began 25 years ago.

We expanded the concept of health care coverage to include preventive care such as testing, health classes and seminars. And now you can get optical services and eyeglasses at any of the ten Hudson's Optical Centers. Plus fill your prescription at conveniently located Perry Drugs.

Convenience is another important way HAP makes health care better. Because with easy access, you're more likely to take care of the things you should. When you should. And with HAP's 16 centers, plus four new facilities that will open this year (in Taylor, Warren, Rochester, and Southfield), there's one in your neighborhood. Unlike other health care plans, HAP has 6 emergency rooms open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you can't get to a HAP emergency facility, you can use any facility, anywhere And you don't have to call us first.

So when it comes to your health, don't take chances. Choose the health care plan with the most experience, Health Alliance Plan.



FORD MOTOR AND GENERAL MOTORS EMPLOYEES CAN SIGN UP NOW.