SEMTA repeats plea for funds

By Kathy Parrish staif writer

Crisis is nothing new for the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA). No there was little excitement over

Authority (SEMIA).

So there was little excitement over the latest warning that the system is again teetering on the edge of one. We are the system of the s

"WHILE APPROVING Martin's request to pursue local funding, several
beard of the second funding several
form ago, SEMTA directors have
talked about a tax to support transportation. The meeting was held in
SEMTA's Oakland terminal in Troy.
The acting general manager said the
difficials had only backed the "principle" of a 1 percent sales tax boost.
Michigan's legislature must allow
SEMTA to put the question to voters.
"We have reached a crisis situation
and your staff is going to work to get
this on the ballot in November," Martin
explained.

Michigan's legislature must allow transportation is "absolutely ridicules." We have reached a crisis situation and your staff is going to work to get this on the ballot in November," Marin explained. "I'm wondering why this is before us now. We know this," said Oakland improve them," he added."

County representative Philip Dondero.
Longtime board member R.J. Alexander questioned why the Issue of a vote is still being mulled over.
"We're asking our staff to explore something that they explored two years ago," said the Birmingham resident.
"This has been hashed and hashed and hashed over. It doesn't make sense to me at all."

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TWO NEW BOARD members —
both named by Wayne County Executive William Lucas — raised questions about the proposal.

Fred Todd, Wayne County chief financial officer, objected to maintaining the current level of service in the light of financial "crisis."

"I can't see continuing on and jamming the problem down the throat of the state of Michigan," said the Plymouth resident, suggesting a November vote is unrealistic.

"Let's try to control our own destiny somewhat."

Taylor Mayor Cameron Priebe said

somewhat."
Taylor Mayor Cameron Priebe said
SEMTA has a "credibility" problem
with voters because of reduced services and problems with the Downtown
People Mover.
He believes trying to convince people to raise their taxes to support
transportation is "absolutely ridiculous.



The Senate Republican caucut is proposing that Southeastern Michigan Transit Authority (SEMTA) be scaled down from a seven-county agency to three-county agency.

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The Senate majority adopted the rec-ommendation of Richard Fessler, R-West Bloomfield, that a new Metrozoli-tan Transit Authority (MTA) operate a "system of necessity" for the poor, eld-erly and handleapped rather than a broadscale mass transportation sys-tem.

breadscale mass transportant tem.

"We are trying to be too much to many people." Feetler said. His plan excludes rapid rail and convenience vehicles, and instead concentrates on transit "where it's needed." Feasier was selected by Senate Majority leader was selected by Senate Majority leader was selected by Senate Majority leader was recommend to the Senate Republican caucus gave Feasier caucus a reorganization plan for SEINTA.

Under the Fessler proposal a five-member board representing the city of Detroit, the Wayne County executive, Oakland County executive, Macomb County and the Michigan Department of Transportation would govern the MTA.

He also recommended that regional transit districts throughout the state be given the authority to develop alterna-tive local tax plans to be approved by voters within the transit region. Alter-natives include property tax, income tax and license plate fees.



Phillip Dondero, SEMTA board member representing Cakiand commissioners, waits to make his point at Tuesday's meeting. enting Cakland County



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