

Oakland looks at 3rd SEMTA board plan

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Little action is expected in the state capital before fall, but Oakland County commissioners already are studying a plan to reorganize the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority.

The latest plan sets up a regional council to apply for grants and two operating authorities — one for Detroit and one for the suburbs. "The economies of scale didn't exist," Patrick Nowak, deputy county executive, told the county board's general government committee Monday.

"The mayor (Coleman Young of Detroit) has nothing to say on SEMTA, the three counties have nothing to say on (operations in) Detroit," Nowak said of the new plan.

IF APPROVED, the plan would be the third major organizational change in the 40-year life of SEMTA, begun in 1967 as a method of consol-

dating Detroit's public bus system with a handful of failing private bus companies in the suburbs.

Currently, SEMTA is run by a 15-member board, but Detroit's Department of Transportation is still a separate entity under Young's appointment.

Latest effort is called House Bill 5571, sponsored by Rep. Curtis Hertel, D-Detroit, chair of the House Transportation Committee. It has some resemblance to a 1986 bill passed in the Senate last year sponsored by Richard Fessler, R-Commerce.

Hertel's bill would set up a Regional Transit Coordinating Council under the so-called Big Four: Young, Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy, Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara and Macomb board Chairman Mark Steenburgh. Their decisions would have to be

unanimous. "It's the best way to protect each entity's interests. We're absolutely convinced it's the only way," said Nowak, recognized as Murphy's voice on major political issues.

DDOT CONTINUES intact under the Hertel bill.

SEMTA continues as the suburban operating authority under the Big Three of Murphy, McNamara and Steenburgh.

The Big Four's RTCC will make all federal and state money applications for the subordinate groups.

"There is wide latitude for privatization," said Nowak, who with Murphy is an advocate of paying private contractors rather than governmental employees to perform services.

"It's strictly a governance bill. There's nothing on taxation or finance," said Michael McGee, attorney

from the firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone and himself a former aide to McNamara when he was mayor of Livonia.

"Can the board of commissioners withdraw from SEMTA?" asked Commissioner Dennis Aaron, D-Oak Park.

Yes, said McGee, though Oakland would be unable then to contract with SEMTA for bus service.

FOUR OUTER counties — notably Washtenaw, which has extensive public transportation — are now part of SEMTA but would be excluded under the new bill.

"The outer counties have no say," objected Commissioner Don Jensen,

R-Birmingham, also a member of the transportation committee of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

"The outlying counties can decide for themselves," said McGee. "The Big Four doesn't want to dictate to them. The outer counties can withdraw and contract with SEMTA or just withdraw."

"How much money would Oakland have to put in?" asked Commissioner Ruel McPherson, D-Hazel Park.

"The bill doesn't get into that at all," said Nowak. "There is no provision for taxation."

"Our people won't vote for a tax until they see a system operating."

SEMTA was set up in 1967 with a nine-member board, three appointed by the governor and six by the SEMCOG General Assembly.

In 1976 it was reorganized in a deal between Mayor Young and then-Gov. William G. Milliken to provide for a 15-member board on which Young would have five direct appointments. The outlying counties and SEMCOG appointed their own members.

Young resisted merging DDOT with SEMTA because Detroit was subsidizing its fare-box losses and SEMTA, with no taxing authority, couldn't guarantee to maintain Detroit's level of service.

Volunteers are needed

Children's Hospital of Michigan, 3901 Beaubien, Detroit, needs patient care volunteers, age 15 and older. Persons will assist staff in caring for children and with play activities. Four hour weekly commitments between 7 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. are required. Volunteer clerical positions for photocopying, filing and answering telephones are available. Application, interview and training are required. Call Volunteer Services, 745-5326 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Downtown YWCA, 2230 Withersell, Detroit, needs volunteers, 15 and older, for flexible commitments between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Depending upon activity selected, certification or experience is needed. For information, call Joann Watson, 961-9220, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays.

A reminder for guys and girls, 14-17 years of age, who are needed by American Red Cross Youth to volunteer one or two days a week for summer 1988 in the tri-county area. Work with patients, the elderly, handicapped children. Jobs include office work and work on Red Cross bloodmobiles and donor centers. Call 494-2858, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For information on other opportunities or if your organization needs volunteers, call The Center for Volunteerism, United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, 225-9429 weekdays, or write 1212 Griswold, Detroit, Mich. 48226-1899.



Lenox
Orrefors
Hosta BoNa
Wood

25% OFF
ALL GIFT ITEMS
In stock only



Brass
Barware
Patio Ware
Heller

Sale Ends
Sat., May 28

50% OFF
In stock
Royal Doulton
figurines

HOURS
Mon., Tues., Wed.,
Sat. 10-6
Thursday 10-9



255-5222

West Bloomfield
Orchard Mall
(Maple & Orchard Lk.)

WANTED!

YOUR USED HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS AND DECOR ACCESSORIES


We are now acquiring quality furnishings... bedroom sets, dining room sets, sofas, tables, chairs, lamps, crystal, brass, art work etc. for resale to discriminating buyers.

PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY and Avoid the Hassle, expense and disappointment of home sales. We do the pricing, pick-up, display and advertising to Sell Your Goods! Fast and worry free!



ESTATE SALES

34769 GRAND RIVER AVENUE, FARMINGTON, MI
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. — Sun. Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Thurs. and Fri. 'till 9:00 p.m.



Oakland Community College
Orchard Ridge Campus

SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM

THEATRE • DANCE • ART • MUSIC • KARATE • MAGIC AND MUCH MORE!

Join the SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM and perform in "GREASE" or "ALICE IN WONDERLAND"

AGES 8-18

<p style="text-align: center;">DANCE</p> <p>Beginning Jazz Ballet Dance Workout Tap Dance Jazz</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ART</p> <p>Cartooning Pottery Photography Origami Drawing & Painting Art Potpourri Mixed Media</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">P.E.</p> <p>Tumbling Karate Swimming Gymnastics Softball/Basketball Tennis</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION I June 20 - July 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SESSION II July 11 - July 29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SESSION III August 1 - August 19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THEATRE</p> <p>For Beginners Clowning & Mime Musical Theatre Theatre Skills Theatre Activity Video Production</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OTHER</p> <p>Computers Magic World of Numbers Self Esteem Role Playing Games Science Through Discovery Wilderness Training CPR First Aid Training</p>

*AGES 13-18 - Grease - All three sessions take Musical Theatre
**AGES 10-12 - Alice in Wonderland - First two sessions Theatre Skills


***\$50 Deposit to Reserve Space by May 31st**

Classes meet 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday
FREE T-Shirt to all students

471-7596
Ask for Frances

EXTENDED HOURS & HOT LUNCH AVAILABLE

Celebrate the Opening of our 25 new stores with music, fashion and fun!



This is it. The Celebration of the opening of our 25 exciting new stores here at Twelve Oaks. Join us for a weekful of festivities and fun including:

The famous Tommy Dorsey Orchestra—playing in our Center Court on Thursday, May 26th at 3pm and 7pm.

Elegant music from our concert grand pianist—in our Center Court Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, May 25, 27 and 28th.

Hudson's Fashion Show—Liz Claiborne for women. Claiborne for men at 1pm—Hudson's Men's Claiborne Department, Polo for men and Ralph Lauren for women at 6:30pm—Hudson's men's Polo shop, Thursday, May 26th.

Special tours of our new stores—each hour from 4pm to 7pm from Thursday, May 26th through Saturday, May 28th.

Pick up your "Passport"—to Twelve Oaks' \$1,000.00 Shopping Spree at the Information Center.

Come See Our New Stores: Lillie Rubin • Aplomb • Mallards • Sandilar • Benetton • JW-Units • T. Deane • Bob Saks Auto Show • Custom Shop Shirtmaker • Saga Furs & Leather • Chamber Image • Games by James • San Francisco Music Box • Art Works • J. Riggings • And more!

t w e l v e o a k s .

Just look at us now!

Hudson's, Lord & Taylor, Sears, JC Penney and over 170 great stores and services.
Monday-Saturday, 10am-9pm. Sunday, Noon-5pm (313) 348-9400. I-96 at Novi Road, Exit 162.