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'Compromise' transit plan OK to Oakland executive

A compromise plan on southeast Michigan transportation plans might be an acceptable to Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

The compromise plan is the work of Wayne County Board Chairman Roscoe L. Bobo. It's designed to reorganize the board of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) to give counties a voice and to finance the 1990 plan of public transportation.

"It's a take-off on what I suggested," said Murphy of the Bobo plan. "I don't see anything horrendous about it."

BOBO PROPOSED SEMTA have a nine-member board with three appointments made by the governor and six from county and local governments.

The six appointees from county and local units of government should be appointed by chairmen of the boards of commissioners of the counties of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne, said Bobo.

The formula would delegate one appointee per 500,000 to one million in population, and one additional appointee per each additional 500,000 in population. Wayne County would get four appointees—two by the mayor of

Detroit, one by the chairman of the county board and one jointly by the chairman and the mayor.

Bobo calls for the county-city appointments to be confirmed by the general assembly of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

MURPHY SAID he was "not too much for or against" the Bobo plan, although it might be acceptable.

"One difference is that his formula calls for a board seat for every 500,000 population," said Murphy. "While mine was one seat for every 300,000."

"I'm against his financing plan," Murphy added. Bobo calls for a three-county motor vehicle tax, although more heavily weighted toward commercial vehicles than one proposed by Gov. William Milliken.

Murphy is pushing a joint Oakland-Macomb plan to levy the vehicle tax on all 83 Michigan counties instead of only the three in the metropolitan Detroit area as Bobo and Milliken ask.

Murphy's plan also calls for an average \$7.50 per vehicle instead of the \$10 proposed by the governor, and Murphy's plan would give half the revenue to county road commissions.

Murphy said his financing plan is "getting a lot of talk" across the state, especially from county officials.

AT PRESENT, SEMTA has a nine-member board—three appointed by the governor and six by SEMCOG. Milliken and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young have proposed a 13-member board for SEMTA with the mayor appointing five Detroiters, SEMCOG five suburbanites and the governor three, with the governor's nominees subject to approval of six of the other 10.

Murphy's proposal calls essentially for the counties to make the local appointments, and Bobo's resembles it, except that it would have the county and Detroit appointments subject to SEMCOG confirmation. Bobo unveiled his compromise plan in a mid-November letter to legislators, county officials Milliken, key legislators, Young, Murphy, SEMTA and SEMCOG leaders and county boards.

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Workers are needed in agricultural industry

About 7,000 jobs open each year in Michigan's agricultural industry and the supply of qualified workers comes nowhere near meeting the demand.

This is shown in a research project conducted by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Education Institute (ANREI) at Michigan State University and the MSU College of Education.

As a result, Director C. H. Wambhoff and other ANREI specialists are developing ideas and materials that would help increase the number of qualified applicants in the agricultural job market.

The state is being urged to develop more, and a greater variety of, teaching programs at the high school level. ANREI and College of Education experts are developing new and improved instructional programs for existing teaching facilities based on industry skill needs.

By improving and intensifying educational programs at the high school, university short course and industry levels, we hope to eliminate the discrepancies between job market demand and applicant skills," Wambhoff said.

Most of the Michigan vocation programs prepare students for jobs in agricultural production, he said. "But there aren't even enough graduates in this area to fill the 3,600 yearly job openings at the farm level."

Other segments of the agricultural industry that have an annual need for skilled and semi-skilled workers include:

Ornamental horticulture: 1,800 openings per year.

Agricultural mechanics: 500 openings per year.

Supply and service industries such as feed, seed and fertilizer distributors: 310 openings per year.

Food products and processing industry: 100 openings per year.

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Food Film available from MSU

A new color movie called "Unfinished Miracles" is showing in Michigan but you won't see it in your local theater.

The film is about science and nature and people and how they all fit together to generate food for the ever-increasing world population.

"This is a film for everybody, because everybody is in the food business," said Dr. S. H. Wittwer, director of the Michigan State University agricultural experiment station and chairman of the national committee which produced the film.

"Some of us grow food, some process it, some ship it, some sell it, some study it and all of us eat it," Wittwer said.

"Unfinished Miracles" was produced to help observe the 100th anniversary of formal agricultural research in the U.S. It runs 28-and-a-half minutes.

The film captures the depth and scope of U.S. agriculture from coast to coast and examines milestones of discoveries over the past 100 years. It also identifies lingering problems facing agricultural producers "as they struggle to feed the hungry world," Wittwer said.

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