

# SEMTA money woes continue; may ask for new tax

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

SEMTA may ask voters in November to approve an income or property tax hike so that new revenue can be pumped into the transportation authority.

Public Affairs Director Marvin Meltzer explained that SEMTA (the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority) may have to cut its services

by up to 80 percent in March if new funding resources are not developed.

"The board will consider a method of handling the financial crisis and it may be in the form of a referendum," Meltzer told a meeting of local government officials in Oakland County Tuesday.

SEMTA'S ACTING General Manager Gary W. Krause said in a letter, "Now we are being forced to cut 20 percent additional route miles. Virtually every

route will be affected. There will be longer waiting times between buses, in some case no service weekends or midday, in other cases, routes shortened or eliminated."

Meltzer said it is the first time since SEMTA was organized in 1967 that its curtailing services.

The disclosure wasn't new because for several years SEMTA General Manager Larry Salci, who resigned last August, had warned new revenue

would be needed to implement its 1990 plan.

"During the entire period (since '67), we were able to work toward expansion. But we're faced with a different financial situation where substantial cuts are necessary," Meltzer said.

FROM NOW until February, SEMTA is holding public hearings around the tri-county area to explain its financial situation, discuss proposed cut-

backs and ask for voter input.

The schedule for public hearings in Oakland County is:

- Jan. 25 - 7:30 p.m. in the Royal Oak Kimball High School cafeteria, 1500 Lexington, Royal Oak.
- Jan. 26 - 1 p.m. in the lower level of the Southfield Parks and Recreation building, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield. Another hearing will be at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 26.
- Jan. 26 - 7:30 p.m. in the commissioners' auditorium of the Oakland County Service Center, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.
- Jan. 27 - 7:30 p.m. in the West Bloomfield Fire Station No. 1, 4601 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield.
- Feb. 2 - 7:30 p.m. in the Troy Community Center, 520 W. Big Beaver.

In Wayne County, hearings are set for 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday (today) in Henry Ford Centennial Library, 1603 Michigan, Dearborn.

our budget savings account and use it to pay administrative costs. We have until the end of the budget year - June 30 - to come up with more money," he added.

SEMTA previously built its surplus fund from \$2 license-plate taxes and \$6 license-transfer fees collected from residents of Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties. But the Oakland County Road Commission and the state attorney general took the transportation authority to court, claiming the tax collection method was unconstitutional, Meltzer said.

"The court ruled that receiving the money is constitutional but that the legislature should establish a collection method," he added.

"The money is in escrow, and until there is a legislative outcome, we can't touch it. If the money comes to us in a few months, then the board will reverse its cuts."

Aside from worrying about that money, SEMTA officials see their operating expenses increasing at the same rate their funding decreases.

"Everything we do is in jeopardy," Meltzer said.

## MSU finds job outlook good for some fields

There are pockets of prosperity in the job outlook for June graduates, according to a nationwide recruiting trends survey done by Michigan State University's Placement Service.

Jack Shingleton, director of Placement Services, says graduates in certain fields, particularly engineering and computer science, will be in high demand, while the demand has leveled off or in some cases fallen off in some non-technical fields.

"What we're finding are pockets of

high demand," says Shingleton. "In some areas of engineering and computer science, for instance, there will be more jobs to fill than there will be graduates to fill them."

Patrick Scheetz, assistant director of Placement Services, says the same is true in other fields.

"In education, for instance, there is great demand for science and math teachers, while many elementary teachers cannot find jobs."

OVERALL, the placement officials say they expect the demand for graduates to be about the same as last year, when 87 percent of the graduates found work within three months of graduation.

Their survey of 428 businesses, industries, government agencies and educational institutions nationwide also showed that salary offers to new graduates would be up about 5.2 percent more than offers to June 1981 graduates.

The highest starting salaries will be paid to chemical, electrical and mechanical engineers, who will earn an average of more than \$22,000 per year.

Next highest salaries will be paid to metallurgical engineers (\$21,137), civil engineers (\$20,915), computer science majors (\$19,763), and petroleum engineers (\$19,735).

The lowest starting salary offers are expected for social science majors (\$14,112), human ecology graduates (\$14,579).

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Americana including a 19th century cigar store Indian, 18th century Chippendale cherry-wood tall chest of drawers, an 18th century pine rocker and corner cupboard, two early 19th century poster beds, a tiger maple drop-leaf table circa 1830, etc.

Fine Art Deco jewelry including three diamond bracelets, one of which totals approximately 22 carats, assorted rings, and a brooch, diamond rings ranging in size from 1.36 carats to 4.58 carats, 14 karat 18 carat gold antique pocket watches, stick pins, a slide bracelet, and other fine pieces.

A good collection of oriental porcelain, bronzewares, cloisonne and other decorative arts, featuring a fine 18th century Rose Medallion warming dish and Imari punch bowl of impressive size.

Items of interest such as Copeland Spode, Royal Worcester, Wedgwood and Sevres porcelain, Durand and Sieben artglass, a 188 piece set of "Hampton" pattern Tiffany sterling flatware, an Art Nouveau carved onyx and marble figural lamp, a signed Polipoint lamp, large ivory tusks in their natural state, a signed Rorholt etching, Georgian silver, Navajo saddle blankets, turn of the century wicker, Baccarat and Waterford crystal, Bambara carving, fireplace accoutrements, Royal Doulton figurines, a Hummel figural lamp, brass and pewter wares, 19th century earthenware, a very good period artglass hanging poinsettia shade.

A collection of over 20 oriental carpets including an antique Tabriz, and antique Tekke Bokhara tent door, and a semi-antique Tekke Turcoman.

EXHIBITION Wednesday, January 27, 1982, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, January 28, 1982, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, January 29, 1982, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AUCTION Saturday, January 30, 1982, at 11:00 a.m., and Sunday, January 31, 1982, at 12:00 noon.

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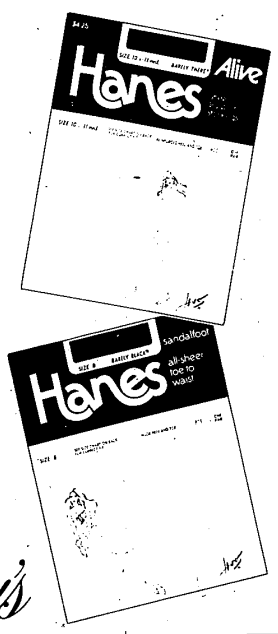
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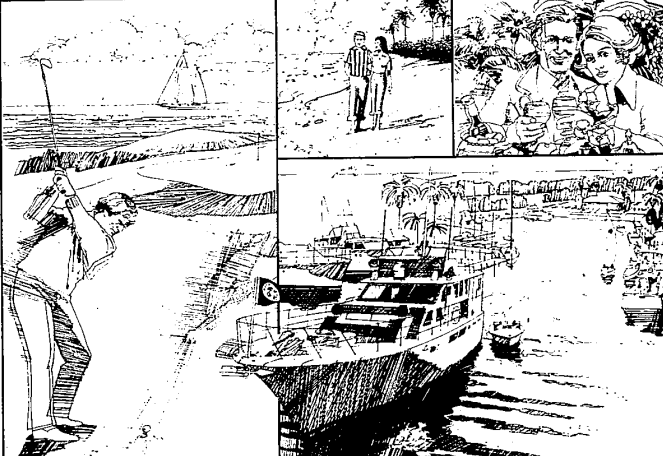
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