

SEMTA fare hike goes to hearings

A package of fare hikes will be the subject of public hearings in Oakland County by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority.

Fares would be increased 15 cents for large buses, park & ride express buses and commuter rail, and more for small-bus routes.

The increases would take effect July 1.

Hearings will be held:

- At 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, Room 223-224, 25000 Evergreen.
- At 7:30 p.m. April 26 in the Kimball High School auditorium, 1500 Lexington, Royal Oak.

A downtown Detroit hearing will start at noon April 26 in 614 Veterans Memorial Building, 151 W. Jefferson.

SEMTA FACES A \$41 million revenue "shortfall," according to General Manager Gary Krause, because of state and federal funding cuts.

"Although fare increases will certainly help," he added, "they are not a solution."

"To avoid having to cut service by two-thirds, we must have a guaranteed source of revenue. We will soon be approaching the Michigan Legislature for permission to place either an income or property tax question on the ballot in

the tri-county area. This appears to be the only possible solution for saving public transit in this region," said Krause.

UNDER THE rate proposal, large bus fare would rise 15 cents to 90 cents. Park & ride and limited fares would rise 15 cents to \$1.10. Commuter rail would go up 15 cents to \$1.30.

"SEMTA connector" small bus fares would rise 30 cents to \$1.80. Local connectors, such as those in Birmingham, Ferndale and Waterford, would go up 35 cents to \$1.30.

SEMTA's half-fare policy for senior citizens and the handicapped would be unchanged, though they would be increased as base fares are increased.

Other fare proposals call for reducing the youth fare discount from 25

cents to 20 cents off regular bus fare and from 50 cents to 40 cents off connector fares. Still another proposal is to charge 10 cents for transfers.

MEANWHILE, Gov. Milliken signed a bill to assure the 90-10 split of state transportation revenues between roads and public transportation.

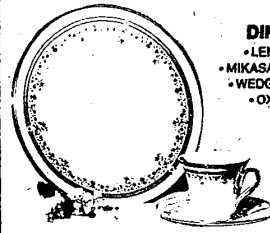
A State Court of Appeals decision held that vehicle weight taxes earmarked for SEMTA, when combined with state transportation taxes, would give SEMTA more than 10 percent of the constitutionally established transportation fund.

The bill frees \$8 million from an escrow account for SEMTA and guarantees the 90-10 split. In addition, the bill extends for nine months (to Dec. 31) SEMTA's current taxing power.

Thursday, April 15, 1982

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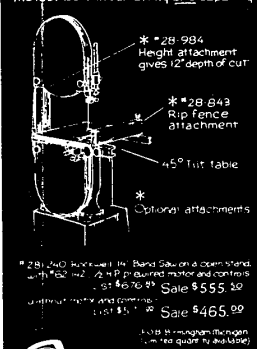
To assist people in learning about their finances, Oakland Community College is hosting an estate planning seminar 7:30-10 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Center Building of the Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

Admission is \$2 per person in advance and \$3 at the door. Call OCC at 363-7191, Ext. 358, to register.

The discussion will cover how to build an estate, how to minimize individual and corporate taxes and how to transfer ownership with minimal taxation.

The seminar will be conducted by Francis G. Seyferth, attorney and CPA, partner in the firm of Currie, Steper, Hadrill and Seyferth; Stanley B. Dickson Jr., attorney and CPA with the accounting firm of Dickson & Co.; and John Muschinski, investment counselor and branch manager of Integrated Resources Equity Corp.

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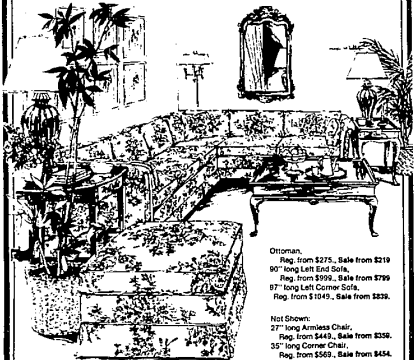
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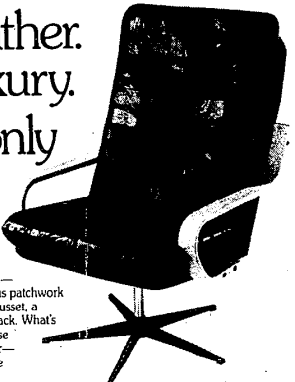
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