

Auto club supports bus portion of governor's transportation plan

Automobile Club of Michigan has endorsed Governor Milliken's concept that improvements in Michigan's public transit must be planned, built and financed on a regional basis.

"We reject his recommendation that motorists be singled out to support public transportation in any larger way than they do today," Auto Club executive vice-president Richard R. Dann said. "And we urge planners to carefully review population trends and projections on which the suggested program is based to see that they are valid so they serve the greatest number of persons at the least possible cost."

In an analysis of the governor's five-point program, Auto Club enthusiastically embraces expanded regional bus service, bus rapid transit and increased commuter rail service and present commuter lines. It casts serious doubts on economic feasibility of fixed rail rapid transit and subways for Michigan and CBD People Mover for Detroit.

"To Governor Milliken's suggestion that motorists license plain fees in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties be raised an average of \$10 a year to raise \$20 million yearly to finance the program, Auto Club responds that regional public transit should be supported by a regional tax, but a tax on the motorist is not broad enough based," Dann said.

"Auto Club advocates instead a broader-based tax, such as a special levy on sales, income or property."

"NO ONE segment of the population should be singled out to pay for public transit which should benefit all," Dann said. "Auto Club does not believe the automobile state, which particularly now needs encouragement in sale and use of cars, should give impetus to the concept of the motorist being singled out to support public transit."

Auto Club points out that Michigan motorists are heavily taxed now, paying an average \$200 a year in various taxes for the privilege of owning an auto. Of this, \$85 is now diverted to mass transit and Michigan's general fund.

Auto Club notes that after referendums allowing voters to choose in other states, a regional sales tax generates the basic support for mass transit in Atlanta. Property taxes offset operating deficits in Boston. A regional sales tax, a regional property tax and toll bridge revenues finance San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit System.

Auto Club's detailed analysis of Governor Milliken's suggested program follows.

•Expanded regional bus service—The existing level of bus service throughout the three-county area should be expanded in scope and improved in operation. The projected program, which would provide a system almost 900 miles in length, serving about 15,000 riders per day, should be given top priority in the SEMTA program because of its relatively low cost and because it will become the backbone of the regional transit system. This is a basic level of service which should be readily available to all citizens at a reasonable fare.

•Bus Rapid Transit—The use of buses on reserved freeway or street lanes or even on private right-of-way can provide a rapid transit system which is flexible enough to meet changing needs as population changes occur within the metro area and can be programmed to meet fluctuating demand throughout the day or other time frame.

The first test program, which is planned for a reserved lane on the Jeffries Freeway, should be undertaken as soon as possible and should be monitored very carefully to provide the data needed for proper evaluation of the system.

Auto Club notes that Ford, Lodge and Southfield Freeways are the travel desire corridors where rapid bus transit would most likely succeed. But these freeways are already running at

capacity during peak hours and it may not be legally possible or politically feasible to usurp a freeway lane for transit.

So the feasibility of providing continuous service drives along these freeways which could be reserved for transit vehicles during the morning and afternoon peak hours should be studied.

Progressively timed traffic signals along these service drives would permit the efficient operation of a bus rapid transit lane in peak hours. The possibility of two elevated lanes above freeways to be used by buses in morning and evening rush hours and by trucks at other times should also be examined.

It is logical to get all possible use out of existing rail and freeway rights-of-way, which will conserve other land for non-transportation use.

•Commuter Rail Service—Auto Club believes a high priority should be given to improvement of the Grand Trunk Western commuter service from Pontiac to downtown Detroit, noting that the Woodward-Chrysler Freeway corridor is congested during peak traffic hours.

A second commuter service which should be given reasonably high priority is the Detroit-to-Jackson service paralleling Michigan Avenue and the western section of the I-94 Freeway.

•Fixed Rail, Rapid Transit Lines—

There is serious doubt that the population density in Southeastern Michigan can support fixed rail rapid transit systems such as a subway system.

•CBD People Mover—The proposed People Mover system for downtown Detroit is appealing. However, it has not been demonstrated yet that present "people mover" technology can insure trouble-free operation at a reasonable cost. Operating difficulties with some of the new systems in other cities have raised questions which require careful exploration.

A two-and-a-half mile people mover under construction for three years in West Virginia has yet to carry a passenger. Its costs have soared from \$15 million to \$125 million.

GARAGE DOOR OPERATORS

FOR ANY DOOR

GENIE "450"

\$175 Installed

1 Year Warranty

Any Suburb

ALLIANCE

AUTOMATIC DOOR CO.

531-0890

SOUTHFIELD



THINKING OF BUILDING A NEW HOME OR MAJOR REMODELING?

Take the "PERSONAL" approach with... A.W. KING CONST. CO.

WE OFFER YOU...

35 years experience and professional designing for people who...

Admire Beauty, Desire Luxury, Require Quality.

A.W. KING CONST. CO.

642-4470

4036 Telegraph

Bloomfield Hills

RCA FACTORY SERVICE... In or Out of Warranty!



For RCA TV Owners

• Fast, dependable repairs on your RCA TV... call your local RCA Factory Service branch!

• We're specialists—RCA's own technicians know RCA TV best.

• We guarantee our work—90 days on parts, 15 days on labor.

For top reception... on any make set. Count on an RCA Permacolor antenna!

• Installation by RCA's own Permacolor antenna specialists.

• Satisfaction guaranteed—or we'll remove antenna and refund your money within 7 days of installation.

• 5% discount with this ad on antenna installation. Limit... one coupon per installation. Other copies 12/31/73.

522-4852

11805 Mayfield

Livonia, Mich. 48150

287-6644

13233 Hancock Rd.

Taylor, Mich. 48180

RCA Service Company

A Division of RCA

335-6118

4895 Highland Rd.

Pontiac, Mich. 48054

781-4370

3950 Jackson

Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103

RCA

Nice work and you can get it.

You could be in field radar. Or you could be in electronics. Or data processing. Or meteorology. Or policework.

You could be in Alaska, Panama, Hawaii, Korea, or Europe. Or any number of places in the U.S.A. And you could be in better shape physically and mentally, than you've ever been before.

Today's Army has over 200 job-training courses for you to choose from. And each one comes with a good salary, in-service educational opportunities, as well as a chance to meet new people and see more of the world.

For more information about opportunities in today's Army, see your local Army representative.



Join the people who've joined the Army.

250 Martin St.
Birmingham
645-2543/44

29210 Orchard Lk. Rd.
Farmington
626-5517/18/19

29537 Ford Rd.
Garden City
261-9010/11

15195 Farmington Rd.
Livonia
261-7380/81

819 Penniman
Plymouth
455-7770

623 N. Main St.
Rochester
652-0620/30

136 N. Main St.
Royal Oak
541-2255

Sexuality course at Kingswood

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—A course titled Human Sexuality in Literature will be offered by Michigan State University June 23 through July 24 at Kingswood School, Cranbrook.

Dr. Michael Steinberg, MSU professor in American Thought and Language, will teach the course. Undergraduates as well as graduates may obtain three university credits upon completion.

Other summer courses designed for the undergraduate student in the Detroit metropolitan area include English 213—A Writing Workshop; Psychology 245—Introduction to Child Psychology and a 10-day outdoor environmental conservation program offering credits.

Further information may be obtained from the MSU Southeast Graduate Center at Kingswood.

Golf benefit

The second annual non-celebrity outing to benefit the Boy's Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit will be held June 23, at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester.

Jule Famularo, of Famularo Insurance agency in Troy is sponsoring the outing, and Dick Turner Ford has provided a 1973 Granada as a hole-in-one prize on the 18th hole. WKYC-TV's Bill Bonds will be master of ceremonies for the dinner which will include a raffle of valuable door prizes. The \$75 ticket donation includes golf, a choice of cart or caddy, breakfast, lunch, and steak dinner and refreshments. Ticket information and tee times can be obtained by calling 884-0000.

Charley's
RAW BAR & SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
985-0200
SUPERB SEAFOOD IN THE CHUCK MUER TRADITION.
IN-HOTEL PARKING
11001 PARKVIEW
1 WOODWARD BLVD.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN