



RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DISTRICT

Board Meeting

March 4, 2003

Meeting Began At: 10:05 A.M.

Meeting Ended At: 10:55 A.M.

Members Present: Coleen Seng, Jonathan Cook, Glenn Friendt, Larry Hudkins, Deb Schoor

Members Absent: Ray Stevens

Others Present: Roger Figard, Fran Mejer, Dick Nuernberger, Bruce Sweney, Charlie Wilcox, Roger Ohlrich, Bill Kuester, Wynn Hjermstad, Tom Leikam, Tina Mackel

Order No. 03-01 Call to Order. Approval of the Previous Minutes.

Friendt motioned to approve the previous minutes. Cook seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0. Schoor abstained. Seng welcomed Deb Schoor to the RTSD Board.

Order No. 03-02 Report of Treasurer.

Dick Nuernberger presented the treasurer's report. As of February 7, 2003, the District had investments in various banks totaling \$9,360,128.79. As of January 31, 2003, a balance of \$1,760,810.55 was carried in the District's checking account. As of January 31, 2003, the County Treasurer's balance for the District was \$389,093.81. The amounts invested are based on the size of the banks and what the accounts are insured for.

Hudkins motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Schoor seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Order No. 03-03 Draft 2003-04 Budget & CIP.

Figard welcomed Deb Schoor to the Board and introduced himself along with staff members that assist the RTSD.

Figard presented an overview of the Proposed Draft 2003-04 Budget and CIP.

- **Salary, Management** - City waits until close to the end of the fiscal year to bill the District.
- **Salary** - Recommending \$41,000 be reduced to \$37,500.

- Keep \$4,000 in **Contingency Contractual Services** just in case something comes up.
- **Maintenance of the 3rd & F Underpass** will be taken off the budget list.
- \$250,000 for **Miscellaneous Crossings** - Don Thomas is going to want to fix the crossing on South 120th Street and also another crossing in the Waverly area.
- **Firth Road Overpass** - County has taken bids, awarded a contract and should be signed in the next 2 weeks. County will be billing us \$2,000,000 in the next month. We will probably only budget \$100,000 for that project in the next fiscal year for clean up or any change orders.
- **Antelope Valley** - Proposing \$1,800,000 as additional funding support.
- **3rd and A** - We have expended just a little under \$4,000,000. We will be adjusting that in the next 4 months and will carry over only what we think we'll need to finish that project.
- **Southwest 40th Street** - Expenditures for finishing up City study and moving on into the next phase.
- **Baseball project** will be dropped off the budget.

Friendt asked if auditing services were contracted with outside agencies.

Figard stated that an outside agency, Micek and Associates, does our auditing. They help with budget preparation and prepare the annual audit. Bill Kuester's firm does the legal services.

Seng added that once the City Engineer was elected to be the RTSD Executive Director, there was a need to hire outside agencies.

Cook asked about 14th and Highway 2 and if there is anything else left to be done. Figard stated that it needed to be cleaned out. Cook asked about an accident that required work to be done there. Figard replied that we did pay for new rubber material, but the material was old enough to be replaced.

Figard stated that the levy was 0.021954 down from the maximum. We will be asking the maximum of 0.026 for the next fiscal year. If the County Board cannot support that, then we will need to adjust the cash flow accordingly.

Figard added that in the future we may need to budget some money for an overpass on Southwest 40th Street. He urged the Board to start thinking along the lines of Antelope Valley. There is a phase 2 which provides another underpass at 29th, 33rd and 35th. We have asked the County to review their records for any other project activity. When we come back in June, we'll have a final budget that you would be recommending to send onto the County Board for their consideration. Then there would be a follow up final meeting to set the levy and approve the budget in September.

Hudkins stated the County will do it's best to maximize that levy and put as much money as possible in this because the infrastructure of Lincoln and Lancaster County are important.

There is a hearing at the legislature Thursday afternoon on the potential of sales tax exemption

on interlocal agreements. The proposal is that the RTSD, by amendment, get added to that proposed exemption.

Hudkins motioned to approve Roger Figard to represent the RTSD at the upcoming legislative hearing regarding sales tax on interlocal agreements. Cook seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Order No. 03-04 2002-03 Antelope Valley Interlocal Agreement.

RTSD has provided budget support annually for a number of years. The organization does use interlocal agreements signed during the budget year to authorize the actual expenditure or transfer of those funds. They are now in need of this year's budget support of \$1,400,000.

Friendt asked how long the RTSD has been funding the Antelope Valley project.

Figard replied that it started sometime in 1991. To date, Antelope Valley has expended a little under \$17,000,000. The RTSD has provided \$5,670,000 which has included an environmental document, clearance, an approved project, amended the comp plan, etc. The RTSD has been a partner since the very beginning in funding. The RTSD is responsible to pay as much as 80% of the big bridge crossings (ie. Bob Devaney Center). This structure is in the range of \$35,000,000 to \$50,000,000 by the time you get all the connecting roads done. To date, we have paid in the neighborhood of 25-30% but as other federal funds come in, our percentage of participation of the whole project will go down a bit.

Friendt would like to see a recap of our Antelope Valley investments by year compared to the total investments.

Figard stated that one other project that the District sponsored that set the stage for Antelope Valley was the removal of the Union Pacific X Street track line that went all the way thru the. In being a funding entity and helping the County and City on projects, we do not have to pay sales tax. The \$1,400,000 is not subject to a sales tax expenditure. The City has to expend the money on the project and then bill the RTSD. Roger will ask the current project manager to provide enough documentation to say that the work expended on the design of the new overpass or the railroad structures in that 16th Street area covers that.

Cook motioned to approve the authorization of the Board Chair and Executive Director to sign the Antelope Valley Interlocal Agreement. Friendt seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Order No. 03-05 Project Updates.

The County should be signing a contract on the Firth project and should be starting late winter, early spring.

Tom Leikam gave a brief update on the 3rd and A Street Overpass.

- The construction work has been going well. Urban Development has not received any complaints from the neighborhood. We are ahead of schedule and haven't had any major problems occurring. We are hoping to get an early spring so we can start on street construction. All the girders are up and are in the process of building the concrete deck.
- Bids open tomorrow at 12:00 for Salt Creek Bridge project. This work will probably start around the end of March. A Street will be closing around the 1st part of April. If the overpass is completed before the Salt Creek Bridge, residents will have to detour and go down 1st Street to South Street down to Folsom. Once the overpass is completed, we will open that up to local traffic for circulation.

Figard added that there will be a resolution next Monday on Council agenda to approve that multi-year contract. Wastewater Division is planning the next phase of the Salt Creek relief sewer. All the divisions are trying to keep these projects coordinated in meeting with the neighborhoods and trying to reduce conflicts and congestion.

F Street Underpass - Bruce Sweney had some curbs installed along the sidewalks and ramps going down into that area to keep the water directed. Since that has been completed, the pumps have handled the rain and has been relatively dry.

Wynn Hjermstad added that the neighborhood loves this area and uses it a lot. She advised the Board to go out and take a look at it sometime this spring. We were able to get tracks removed from 4th Street which now leaves a wide corridor. We did street paving down there as part of this effort to mitigate those double tracks. It gave us the opportunity to use that corridor to eventually get it paved. We are working with some folks that are interested in doing some trail connections thru there using 4th Street. Tomorrow we have a meeting with Olsson Associates to start looking at the 4th Street corridor between A and J to see what we are going to do with that now that the tracks are gone.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16th @ 8:00 a.m. We will need to have election of officers at that time because Coleen will no longer be serving on this Board. Ray Stevens, the Vice Chairperson, will need to be notified that he will be acting Chairperson that day.

Hudkins motioned to adjourn the meeting. Friendt seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by: _____
Tina Mackel, Public Works & Utilities