
Guide to the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission Records

Collection number: 06-DPGTL

Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library and Archives
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Los Angeles County Transportation Commission records

Dates: 1976-1993

Collection number: 06-DPGTL

Creator: Los Angeles County Transportation Commission

Collection Size: 6 boxes(3 linear feet)

Repository: Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library and Archives.
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Abstract: This collection documents the business activities of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) from 1977 to 1993. Especially well documented are the agency's public relations efforts via the many publications (both internal and external) it issued. Also of interest is the documentation on the LACTC and SCRTD merger found in the Projects series. Most of the material is in paper format, although meeting minutes are also available digitally. Some documentary photos are also included.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Please contact the Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library and Archives for information on collection access and restrictions.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Los Angeles County Transportation Commission records, 06-DPGTL. Dorothy Payton Grey Transportation Library.

Acquisition Information

The material was produced by the LACTC and passed into the library and archive when the LACTC and SCRTD merged to become the LACMTA in 1993.

Custodial History

The LACTC records were originally produced by the LACTC offices themselves. After the LACTC merged with the SCRTRD in 1993 to form the LACMTA, the records passed into the custody of this new agency.

Biography / Administrative History

As traffic and congestion continued to worsen in 1970's Southern California, civic leaders realized that a new approach to regional transportation planning was required. The last two public transit agencies, the LAMTA and its successor, the SCRTRD, were not legally equipped to deal with the fractious political landscape that characterized the Southern California region, nor were they authorized to develop the economic or political clout needed to address region-wide transportation issues.

In an attempt to remedy the agencies' shortcomings, in 1976 the state legislature enacted AB1246, the County Transportation Commissions Act, by Assemblyman Walter Ingalls. AB1246 established transportation commissions in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties and charged these commissions with providing efficient oversight of public transit, coordinating between transit providers, and developing a highway policy.

In order to make the agency an effective and potent player in the transportation arena, AB1246 gave the LACTC approval power over the plans and funding of all the transportation agencies in its region. In addition, the most important and powerful movers-and-shakers in Southern California were given important representation on the LACTC board, further amplifying its power. The LACTC board consisted of the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, the five Los Angeles County Supervisors, the Mayor of Long Beach, two city council members from other cities in Los Angeles County and one additional appointee of the Mayor of Los Angeles.

The LACTC achieved many successes. It put much effort into public accountability and developing community support through communications and community relations. As a result the LACTC gained voter approval for two countywide half-cent sales tax increases, Proposition A in 1980 and Proposition C in 1990, to support regional transportation improvements, including a countywide rail transit program. Other achievements were the construction and completion of the Metro Blue Line, Metro Green Line through a specially created subsidiary, the Rail Construction Corporation (RCC). The LACTC also took over the construction of the Metro Red Line from the SCRTRD. LACTC's assumption of the Metro Red Line was indicative of its stormy relationship with the SCRTRD. "Issues between the two agencies came to a head in 1988 with an 'Eight-Point Plan' adopted by both boards. Among the elements of the plan were provisions for LACTC to release \$140 million in funding for SCRTRD operations if SCRTRD agreed to move responsibility for the Metro Rail subway construction project to LACTC's newly formed Rail Construction Corporation, and also drop opposition to the formation of the Foothill Transit zone, which was carved out of SCRTRD's service area in the San Gabriel Valley".

The battle over the "Eight-Point Plan" made it pointedly clear that an unhealthy rivalry had developed between the two agencies, a rivalry which would have to be overcome in order for rational and efficient mass transit planning and operations to move forward in Southern California. A plan eventually crystallized that entailed merging the LACTC and the SCRTRD. "...Citing overlapping administrative functions and achievable cost savings that could be redirected toward additional transportation improvements for the region, the legislature passed AB152 (Katz) merging the Los Angeles County's largest transportation operator with the primary planning, funding and construction agency". This new agency was the Los Angeles County Transportation Authority (LACMTA), which went into official operation on April 1, 1993.

Note

List of Sources

- Barrett, Matthew, Introduction to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 2001 (available on LACMTA intranet).
- Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library, Los Angeles Transit History, available at http://www.mta.net/about_us/library/transit_history.htm , (accessed July 17, 2006).

Note

List of Abbreviations

- LACMTA - Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- LACTC - Los Angeles County Transportation Commission
- LAMTA - Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority
- PUC - (California) Public Utilities Commission
- RCC - Rail Construction Corporation
- SCRTRD - Southern California Rapid Transit District

Scope and Content of Collection

The material in this collection consists mainly of the LACTC's publications (newsletters, press releases, bulletins). There are also numerous studies and reports on transit projects in the Los Angeles area. An almost complete set of board meeting minutes is an invaluable resource for researchers, as well. Please see series level descriptions for further details.

Arrangement

The collection has been arranged into seven series, based on department and function. Note that Series #2: Photos, and Series #6: Communications, Community Relations were created by the same department. Also, a set of the legislative history of the County Transportation Commission Act provided to (but not created by) LACTC legal counsel was arranged as its own series. Please see individual series level descriptions for further details.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Neely, Sharon

Perdon, Albert

Peterson, Neil

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Los Angeles County Transportation Commission

Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority

Rail Construction Corporation

Local Transit - California - Los Angeles County - Archival Resources

Transportation - California - Los Angeles County - Archival Resources

Local Transit - Design and construction - California - Los Angeles county

Local Transit - Government marketing - California - Los Angeles County

Local Transit - Community relations - California - Los Angeles County

Local Transit - Legislative history - California - Los Angeles County

- California State Archives, Public Utilities Commission Records
- Jackie Bacharach Office Files, 02-DPGTL. Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library.
- Southern California Rapid Transit District Collection. Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library.

Series #1: Reference 1977-1993

Creator: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series was created by the Archive for user reference. Contains copies of articles providing historical information about LACTC. The material is not necessarily created by LACTC.

Arrangement

All material is one folder.

Series #2: Photos 1989-1993

Creator: Los Angeles County Transportation Commission

Physical Description: 2 folders, 1 album

Series Scope and Content Summary

There are two sets of photos in this series. One set contains publicity photos taken at LACTC events. They are all black and white glossy, 7" X 5". The second set consists of a collection of employee photos amassed by LACTC Executive Director, Neil Peterson. Peterson used the photo collection to familiarize himself with LACTC staff. The employee photo albums run from 1990 to 1993.

Arrangement

Event photos are arranged in two folders. Employee photos are contained in a separate binder. Employee photos are arranged alphabetically by employee surname.

Series #3: General Operations 1977-1992

Creator: Los Angeles County Transportation Commission

Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains material related to the general business operations of the LACTC. It includes, for example, administrative codes, organization charts, and even a seating chart.

Arrangement

Items are individual folders, arranged by date. A complete container list is available at the archive.

Series #4: Projects 1977-1991

Creator: Los Angeles County Transportation Commission

Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains material documenting specific projects carried out by the LACTC's Transportation Programs and Analysis Division. The division was arranged into four sections: Transit, Highways/TSM, Local Assistance, and Fiscal Analysis. Projects concern construction, service, or administration. Of particular interest are the 1987-1988 transit restructuring files of Albert Perdon, Assistant to the General Manager.

Arrangement

Items are in individual folders, arranged by date. A complete container list is available at the archive.

Series #5: Legislative History 1984

Creator: Los Angeles County Transportation Commission

Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content Summary

In August of 1984 a company called Legislative Intent Service provided Richards, Watson, Dreyfuss & Gershon (LACTC Legal Counsel) copies of the legislative history up to that point of Public Utilities Code Sections 130000, "The County Transportation Commission Act".

Arrangement

The legislative history is contained in 4 folders, arranged chronologically. The cover letter from Legal Intent Service is included in the first folder and provides a table of contents for the series.

Series #6: Communications, Community Relations 1977-1992

Creator: Los Angeles County Transportation Commission

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

The LACTC's Government and Public Affairs Division was organized into three departments: Marketing/Communications, Community Relations, and Government Relations. One of the main functions assumed by this division was fostering and nourishing relationships with the public and community, and thereby gaining public support for LACTC projects. One community outreach tactic was the dissemination of information through various channels. This series contains many of the printed materials published by the LACTC Marketing/Communications Department. It also contains internal publications for employees.

Arrangement

Items are contained in three boxes, arranged alphabetically within each box. A complete container list is available at the archive.

Series #7: Board Meeting Minutes 1977-1993

Creator: Los Angeles County Transportation Commission

Physical Description: approx. 84 .pdf files

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains detailed transcriptions of the proceedings at the LACTC's Board of Directors monthly meetings. Meetings were held at the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration in downtown Los Angeles. Transcription was the responsibility of the board secretary. Meeting minutes were made available to the public under the auspices of California's Brown Act, which governs access to meetings held by local public bodies.

Arrangement

Naming convention for files: LACTC [date of meeting].pdf

Access Note

The complete set of meeting minutes are digitized. The .pdf files are available for searching and viewing via a google search interface. The series resides on the LACMTA's intranet, which is accessible to the public at the Dorothy Peyton Gray Library and Historical Archives. Please contact the library and archive for further information on access.