



**INYO COUNTY
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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Ted Pedersen, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Bishop City Council Chambers
377 W. Line St., Bishop, CA 93514**

February 18, 2009

Bob Kimball called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball, Chairman
Bruce Dishion
Frank Crom
Richard Cervantes
Doug Thompson
Marty Fortney, alternate

Others Present:

Brad Mettam, Caltrans
Forest Becket, Caltrans
Jan Miller, Caltrans
Bob Ennis, C&C Rwy
Bruce Klein, Bishop Paiute Tribe
David Grah, City of Bishop
John Helm, ESTA
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
Ted Pedersen, Executive Director
Courtney Smith, Inyo County
Linda Baffrey, Secretary

ITEM NO. 2 Public Comment

None

SCHEDULED ITEMS

None

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3 Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2009.

Frank Crom moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2009. Bruce Dishion seconded the motion. Richard Cervantes abstained. Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM NO. 4 Request Commission authorize Executive Director to sign the Certification and Assurances for the FTA Section 5311 Apportionment for Eastern Sierra Transit.

Courtney Smith explained that the 5311 Program of Projects had already been approved, but authorization of the Director's signature was still required.

Richard Cervantes moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Certification and Assurances for the FTA Section 5311 apportionment for Eastern Sierra Transit. Marty Fortney seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 5. Discussion of Economic Stimulus funds

Courtney Smith stated that the City and County had been asked to compile project lists. The first round of the Economic Stimulus funds is estimated to be \$375,000 of Regional Surface Transportation funds. He explained that there are federal limitations that must be complied with, such as NEPA, and project readiness in 90-120 days.

Bob Kimball asked how the money was to be split. Mr. Smith said that he, Doug Wilson, and Dave Grah had discussed it, and agreed to use the entire amount on one County project, namely North Barlow Lane. Bob Kimball noted that the projected amount is \$300,000 on the initial list, and the actual amount is \$375,000. He asked what would be done with the balance. It was explained that the job would be tailored to fit the entire amount. An FSTIP amendment was submitted on February 13.

Mr. Smith reported that more economic stimulus funding is expected for STIP and TE projects, and it can only be used on federal aid routes. He said that weekly teleconferences are being held to prepare for the stimulus funding.

Mr. Smith said this would need to be added to the RTP. He said the RTP may be presented for adoption at the March meeting. No action is required by the LTC today. LTC staff will update the commission at the March meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6 ESTA Report

FY 08/09 mid-year operating statistic reports including comparisons to the prior year's performance.

Jill Batchelder reported that during the first half of the year, there were 219,000 rides, representing a 32% increase. She said the Short Range Transit Plan had set a minimum goal of serving 8 riders per hour, and at the present time, they are serving 9. Their target goal is 10.

Passenger fares have increased by 45%. The fixed route service in Mammoth is free. Bishop's Night Rider route has shown a ridership increase of 51%, the Mammoth Express has increased by 28%, and the north CREST route has increased by 21%. Bob Kimball asked if ESTA is on schedule to repay the money they borrowed. Ms Batchelder said they are.

Doug Thompson referred to an article in the local paper regarding transportation to the trailheads. Jill Batchelder said that ESTA is looking at partnering with the Forest Service to provide service to Reds Meadow. John Helm added that there is a federal grant available, but it only provides for capital purchases, and not operating costs. He said that Mammoth Supervisor Bauer is trying to get operating costs added. Bob Kimball asked why the service to Reds Meadow should be changed. Mr. Helm explained that they have access to federal money to buy buses. The forest service has been contracting with a private company. ESTA can charge a fare, as with their other fixed routes, and this would cover the cost of operation. Bob Kimball urged caution with regard to taking on such a large service when they are not financially solid. He said they should make sure the route will be self-sufficient.

Northern California Internet Trip Planning Feasibility Study - Google Transit

Jill Batchelder reported that two consulting agencies were hired by Shasta County to study the feasibility of using Google Transit for rural transit agencies in nine counties. Four agencies were selected to participate in the pilot project. ESTA was not chosen. Ms Batchelder explained that when the final plan for all nine northern counties goes into effect, each agency will have a password to change their own routes, and other pertinent information on the Google Transit website.

ITEM NO. 7 Tribal Report

Bruce Klein reported that the Federal Transit Administration had awarded the tribe \$55,000 for a bus. It was ordered by ESTA, and should arrive in May. He said that the request for bus shelters had been denied. He stated that the reservations need transportation planners, and mentioned the possibility of hiring one to work with all the tribes. He said that Caltrans had conducted a needs assessment for all Inyo County tribes.

ITEM NO. 8 Caltrans Report

Brad Mettam said Caltrans is still trying to piece together information on the economic stimulus program, and put them in a position to take advantage of any opportunities. He said that the Black Rock 4-lane project is in winter suspension, Independence/Manzanar is continuing, and the Ed Powers project has begun. Bruce Dishion asked if the state had discontinued funds for Independence/Manzanar, and Mr. Mettam said they had not.

State Safe Routes to School presentation

Forest Becket said the call for projects deadline for State Safe Routes to School is April 15. He said the program has been extended to 2013. It provides funding to make travel to school safer. Eligible applicants are counties and cities only. A 10% local match is required. Bob Kimball asked if TE funds can be used for match. Mr. Mettam said he didn't know, but would check on it.

Mr. Becket stated that SR2S funds could be used for sidewalks, paths, traffic control devices, bike facilities, bike bridges, corner ramps, flashing beacons, shoulder widening, or education components. He mentioned that CHP has conducted bicycle rodeos, and other safety programs.

He said that when applying, a clear description of need, evidence of community support, and sustainability must be shown, along with construction estimates.

The Bishop tribe wants a sidewalk from See Vee to Barlow Lane on West Line Street. He feels it is preposterous that only government, and not tribes can apply. Bob Kimball asked if there were any chance of partnering with tribes. Bruce said if the tribe were a sub-recipient, the city or county must take fiscal responsibility.

ITEM NO. 9 City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah commented on the economic stimulus funds, saying that \$375,000 is not a lot of money for the city and county, especially considering the short time frame. He said the city has three back-to-back projects now, and feels Barlow Lane would be a more effective usage of the funds.

He said they had 6 bids for South Second Street, and have awarded the job to V&C construction. Work should begin March 2.

Grove St. is a Safe Routes to School project. He said that the city is looking closely at how the money is coming from the state.

West Pine and Sneden environmental documents are out for public comment. Mr. Grah said they are looking at reimbursability for Project A.

The City has two TE funded path projects that are waiting for an E76 form. Work is progressing on project study reports that were funded by the LTC

Bruce Dishion asked how far Jay Street would be extended. Dave Grah said it would cross the canal.

ITEM NO. 10 Executive Director's Report

Courtney Smith reported the draft RTP environmental document has been released. He is expecting a few more responses.

There will be a kick-off meeting with Nichols Consulting for the Pavement Management System.

Staff is working on the 09/10 OWP.

The steering committee for the US 395 Corridor and Blueprint Plan will meet on February 27th.

Mr. Smith welcomed the new Executive Director, Ted Pedersen.

ITEM NO. 11 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Doug Thompson reported that he had met with Dick Noles regarding dual road use (allowing quads to cross county roads). Mr. Smith noted that when this had been discussed in the past, Public Works was not receptive to the idea, citing concerns about vehicle codes. Mr. Thompson stated the county should consider allowing this use.

Frank Crom stated that this would be his last LTC meeting. He has been on the commission for 10 years.

Richard Cervantes reported that he had attended a Forest Service workshop regarding the travel management plan. He said options presented would eliminate some roads. He also noted the fact that Inyo has historically been a mining county, and this was not mentioned at the workshop.

Marty Fortney said there are many flaws in the economic analysis. Meetings will continue every two weeks until the end of March. They are open to the public. Bob Kimball said that the Travel Management Plan is a living document, so coordination meetings are important. Richard Cervantes said there are inconsistencies in the document, and the Board has issues with the stats.

Mr. Fortney mentioned that the Forest Service wants to purchase the Yaney Street property from DWP.

Bruce Klein reported that Fire Safe Grant applications are due Friday at midnight. He said the Bishop tribe has received \$400,000 in the past for removal of brush on or near the roads. This is to facilitate safe evacuations in case of fire.

CORRESPONDENCE – INFORMATIONAL

None

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Attest:

Ted Pedersen
Executive Director

by Linda Baffrey
Administrative Secretary