



**INYO COUNTY
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

P.O. DRAWER Q
INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526
PHONE: (760) 878-0201
FAX: (760) 878-2001



Ted Pedersen, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

February 17, 2010

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball
Bruce Dishion
Susan Cullen
Beverly Brown
Marty Fortney
Doug Thompson

Others Present:

Roger Rasche	Lone Pine IMAAA Advisory Council
Beth Himelhoch	Inyo Mono Assoc for the Handicapped
Brad Mettam	Caltrans
Miya Edmonson	Caltrans
Selma Calnan	Senior Citizen
Laura Smith	City Council
Jane McDonald	IMACA
Ryan Dermody	Caltrans
David Grah	Bishop Public Works
John Helm	ESTA
Jill Batchelder	ESTA
Ted Pedersen	Executive Director
Courtney Smith	Inyo County
Linda Baffrey	Inyo County

ITEM NO. 2 Public Comment

None

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3 Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2010.

Beverly Brown moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2010. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 4 Unmet Transit Needs and Transit Service Planning Workshop.

Bob Kimball stated that Unmet Needs hearings are optional, since there has been no TDA funding for local streets and roads for a number of years. ICLTC has chosen to continue the process in the form of workshops to solicit information on the health of the transit system. Though ESTA has not had additional revenues, they have come up with creative ways to meet unmet needs without increasing their operating costs.

Roger Rasche of Lone Pine said he is grateful for Dial-a-Ride, and stated that he is thankful that people can now travel to Reno from Lone Pine on the CREST bus without a layover in Bishop, and he also appreciates the service to Lancaster.

Selma Calnan, commented that with the new transit grant in Mammoth, only the disabled elderly could ride the night bus, and they must have a note from a doctor to do so. She said they need to make an appointment 24 hours in advance in order to ride. She is concerned that this policy might be coming to Bishop. John Helm of ESTA said that the Mammoth Lakes Mobility Commission had recommended that service hours be transferred from the night route to daytime to facilitate students going to and from school in an area where a school route was cut. He noted that under ADA rules, complimentary para transit service is only for those who qualify. They must apply for this, and a professional opinion is required. He said that temporary eligibility could be granted, and noted that age is not considered a disability.

Beverly Brown asked if this were likely to happen in Inyo, and John Helm said it is not.

He noted that Dial-a-Ride runs everyday until 7 pm for everybody.

Jane McDonald of IMACA asked about potential service cuts. Bob Kimball said that everyone is subject to the budget situation, but said that no service cuts are in the foreseeable future.

Ms McDonald inquired as to the LTC's responsibility in regard to transit funding. Courtney Smith explained that the LTC administers TDA revenues, and must be in compliance with the TDA Guidelines. John Helm noted that the money flows through the LTC. LTC determines the allocation, and ESTA determines the implementation. He suggested that people attend ESTA Board meetings. He said that they review transit services twice annually.

In conclusion, Bob Kimball stated that the workshops are done at the courtesy of the LTC. There is no funding for streets and roads; all goes to transit. He also reviewed the

definition of “Unmet Transit Needs”: “An unmet transit need exists if an individual or individuals of any age or physical condition are unable to transport themselves from one location to another.” A documented unmet transit need is reasonable to meet if a service can be provided which meets a minimum fare box ratio of 10% of operating costs, and is essential for inter-county or intra-county purposes which are defined as medical or dental services, shopping, employment, personal business, or social service appointments.

ITEM NO 5. Request Commission adopt Resolution #2010-03, a resolution allocating \$85, 073 in FY 2009-2010 Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) funds to Eastern Sierra Transit (ESTA) for mobile high pressure wash and a covered concrete maintenance pad at the ESTA headquarters at the Eastern Sierra Regional airport in Bishop.

Courtney Smith explained that this grant would fully fund a high-pressure wash station and concrete maintenance pad. The high-pressure wash will be purchased with this year’s PTMISEA allocation and the maintenance pad will be funded with a combination of this allocation and the 2010-2011 allocation. Bruce Dishion asked if there is someone at the airport to run the washer. Mr. Helm said there is not yet, but a part-time employee will be hired when the equipment becomes available. This person will also clean bus shelters, etc.

Bob Kimball asked if this equipment will be within the enclosed area. John Helm said ESTA is working with Public Works for a new parking area, and to build a concrete pad to chain up, for inspections, and for light maintenance work.

Beverly Brown asked if this is in the easement area. Mr. Smith said they have preliminary approval from DWP. A lease agreement amendment will be needed.

Ted Pedersen added that DWP has approved the parking area fencing and lighting within the existing easement. Courtney Smith provided the commission with an attachment to demonstrate that this application is in compliance with the RTP.

Bruce asked the cost of the pad, and Mr. Helm said it would be \$100,000. Bob Kimball asked if it would have a drain, and Mr. Helm said that it would.

Susan Cullen moved to adopt Resolution, #2010-03, a resolution allocating \$85,073 in FY 2009-2010 Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account funds to Eastern Sierra Transit for a mobile high pressure wash and a covered concrete maintenance pad at the ESTA headquarters at the Eastern Sierra Regional airport in Bishop. Marty Fortney seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 6 Request Commission adopt Resolution #2010-04, a resolution approving Amendment No.1 to the ICLTC Overall Work Program for the 2009/2010 Fiscal Year.

Courtney Smith explained that this amendment is to reflect where money is being spent. Local Project Development expenses have been ahead of expectations, necessitating an amendment to effectively use RPA and PPM funds.

Beverly Brown moved to adopt Resolution #2010-04, a resolution approving Amendment No. 1 to the ICLTC Overall Work Program for the 2009/2010 Fiscal Year. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 7 Request Commission approve the programming of Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Section 5311 Program of Projects, with the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority as the sub recipient of the \$73,879 in Federal funds for the operation of general public transit services in Inyo County.

Jill Batchelder explained that this is annual funding that is based on population. In the past it was for operating costs only. It can now be for other uses, but ESTA continues to use it for operating expenses. Susan Cullen asked what amount was received last year. Jill said it was approximately \$76,000. She noted that 5311f funds are specifically for inter-regional service.

Marty Fortney moved to approve the programming of Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Section 5311 Program of Projects, with the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority as the sub recipient of 73,879 in Federal funds for the operation of general public transit services in Inyo County. Beverly Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 8 Discussion of the new stimulus bill “Jobs for Main Street”

Courtney Smith explained that the stimulus bill requires that 50% of new projects must be awarded within 90 days of the bill being signed. The remaining funds must be awarded to the contractor within one year. The project must be on a Federal Aid Route. The City and County will have to bring new projects forward, and because of time constraints, they will have to move projects forward with very limited environmental and design phases. Overlays, and guardrail replacement are possibilities. The Board of Supervisors will meet on March 2, to approve a list of stimulus projects, and the LTC will need to convene a special meeting later that week to approve RTIP and FSTIP amendments, and to approve projects. It is unclear how much funding will be received. The estimate is \$6.4 million. A tiered approach is suggested, for projects with higher or lower amounts. Ted Pedersen reiterated that projects must require little or no environmental work. Public Works staff is working with the pavement management system to determine likely projects. Mr. Smith mentioned the possibility of a trade with another county to attain optimum benefits. Some other counties have more projects “on the table”. He noted that Mono is agreeable, while Kern is reluctant. Caltrans is lobbying for the timeline to be changed. Dave Grah said the City would not be able to come up with any projects to meet the first timeline, but will bring projects to the LTC to meet the second tier.

Beverly Brown suggested that environmental work could be done ahead of time, so projects will be ready. Mr. Pedersen said the cost could be substantial to do the environmental work. In this instance, the County needs to start a project from scratch.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 9 ESTA Report

John Helm stated that declines in ridership are continuing. Inyo is down 10% since last year, probably due to the economy. He said that ESTA plans to do some promotional programs. To initiate this, they will conduct a passenger satisfaction survey. He remarked that the Governor's proposed budget will be detrimental to transit, especially PTA funds in the STIP, but said that the LTF funding should not be affected.

Susan Cullen asked about the CREST route. Mr. Helm reported that the south route is up by about 30%, while the north route is down by about the same amount. He noted that the discount fares to fly from Reno to Mammoth are competitive with the price to ride the bus. Bob Kimball suggested reduction of service during the time that the flights are operating.

ITEM NO. 10 Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 11 Caltrans Report

Brad Mettam reported that the governor proposes to eliminate the \$.18 gas tax, and replace it with an excise tax. This could eliminate Public Transit Account funds. This act would circumvent Prop 1B. Bob Kimball asked if the State had repaid the money it had borrowed previously. Brad replied that not all of it had been repaid.

Winter maintenance is going well, and has not been affected by furloughs. The projects were stopped for the winter, although some work has been done on the bridge.

He stated that there would be an ECTPP meeting at Four Corners on February 22.

An origin and destination study will be conducted at Coso and Benton. This is done every ten years.

The northbound lanes of the Manzanar four lane have been striped for northbound traffic only. Work on the southbound portion will be done one lane at a time. It will be completed when the weather warms up.

ITEM NO. 12 City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah said that there are still outstanding stop notices on the Grove St. project.

Project A has been ready for construction since June.

Hanby will advertize the last week of February. It will consist of pavement and ramps only.

Wye Road is moving forward, and should be done this summer.

Funds for the bus stops environmental component have been used, and they are trying to identify more funding.

The path projects are waiting on TE funds - hopefully in the fall.

ITEM NO. 13 Executive Director's Report

Ted Pedersen said the County is waiting for costs on guardrails over the canal for the Barlow Lane Stimulus Bill project. He said the County has been selected to receive HSIP funds for a guardrail project for Nine Mile Canyon Road.

Courtney Smith stated that the election of officers would be conducted at the March meeting.

He congratulated IMAH on a successful 5310 application. IMAH scored 98%!

He also mentioned that the second quarter RPA invoice is included with the agenda, and noted that expenditures are on pace.

ITEM NO. 14 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

None

CORRESPONDENCE

2nd Quarter RPA Invoice

Letter regarding HSIP funding for guardrails on Nine Mile Canyon Road

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10:05

Attest:

Ted Pedersen
Executive Director

by Linda Baffrey
Secretary