



**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**

March 18, 2009

Chairman Bob Kimball opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

He welcomed new LTC commissioner, Susan Cullen, and noted that Laura Smith will be the alternate for the City of Bishop.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball
Bruce Dishion
Susan Cullen
Richard Cervantes
Doug Thompson
Beverly Brown

Others Present:

Beth Himelhoch	IMAH
Brad Mettam	Caltrans
Bob Ennis	C&C Rwy
Jim & Linda Maxfield	Pine Creek Village
Jill Batchelder	ESTA
Ryan Dermody	Caltrans
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 February 18, 2009.

Richard Cervantes moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 18, 2009. Bruce Dishion seconded the motion. Susan Cullen abstained. Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM NO. 4 Appointment of two members of the LTC to serve on a project development team along with representatives from LADWP, the County, and other stakeholders to help determine the preferred alternative route for the Olancha/Cartago Four-Lane project.

Beverly Brown moved to appoint Bob Kimball, Doug Thompson, and Richard Cervantes to a development team to help determine the preferred alternative route for the Olancha/Cartago Four-Lane project. Bruce Dishion seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 5 Approval of revision of 5311 Program of Projects for FY 09/10, to conform to possible stimulus funding.

Request Commission adopt Resolution #2009-02, a resolution approving and authorizing the submission of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Federal Transit Administration Non-urban Section 5311 Grant 2009 Program of Projects (POP) with Eastern Sierra Transit Authority as the sub-recipient of \$126,167; and authorize the Executive Director to sign the Certification and Assurances.

Item No. 5 was postponed until later in the meeting so that a representative from ESTA could be present.

ITEM NO. 6 Review and approval of streets and roads projects, with two possible funding scenarios, for the second round of stimulus funding.

Courtney Smith explained that \$2.57 billion has been apportioned to California, and, according to State law, is to be distributed using the following formula: 30% through the Surface Transportation Program, 67% for SHOPP and STIP, and 3% for TE activities. It is possible that the funds could be distributed exclusively through the Surface Transportation Program. Regional Transportation Planning Agencies have been requested to program FTIP and FSTIP amendments assuming both funding scenarios.

The RTPAs must submit a list of projects for an FTIP amendment by March 27, 2009.

If the STIP formula is used, Inyo County could receive from \$5,866,000 to \$8,722,000 in addition to the first round of Surface Transportation Funds. These projects need to have a Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendment and be “shovel ready” in 120 days.

The South Bishop Resurfacing project is the only currently programmed city or county STIP project that would qualify. The proposed list of projects is: 1) Whitney Portal Rd., 2) North Fowler Street, 3) South Lake Road, 4) Onion Valley Road, 5) Glacier Lodge Road, 6) Old Spanish Trail, and 7) South Bishop Resurfacing. This funding scenario would also include Round 1 STP funds that are currently estimated at \$955,729 and an estimated \$550,000 in TE funds.

If the Surface Transportation Plan scenario is used exclusively, the County will receive an estimated \$1.9 million. Proposed projects for this case are 1) North Barlow/Dixon Lane, 2) Hanby Street, and 3) miscellaneous guardrails.

The TE priority list is 1) Eastern California Museum Virtual Transportation Museum, and 2) Father Crowley Vista Point.

Both scenarios are somewhat uncertain at this point, and the numbers are subject to variation. Given time constraints, it could be necessary to convene a special meeting of the LTC.

Beverly Brown moved to approve the ranking of streets and roads projects, with two possible funding scenarios, for the stimulus package. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Doug Thompson abstained. Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7 Public Workshop regarding unmet transit needs.

Public input was invited regarding unmet transit needs. Jim Maxfield of Pine Creek Village presented a petition signed by members of that community requesting bus service. This request will be forwarded to Eastern Sierra Transit Authority for consideration of route adjustment. There are now 87 families living in Pine Creek Village.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 8 ESTA Report
None

ITEM NO. 9 Tribal Report
None

ITEM NO. 10 Caltrans Report
Brad Mettam reported that the High Point Curve project was approved as a safety project. He said that the 2010 STIP fund estimate would be delivered in August, with allocations unlikely in the first years of programming.

Bob Kimball commented that with the level of funding being so small, it has been necessary to do “piece meal” work, and inquired about money for local streets and roads.

Brad said that Olancha Cartago will use much of the STIP funding for the next few cycles. Construction is expected in 2015. Possibly stimulus funding could be used for local roads.

Bob Kimball noted that it is easier to get construction money when a project is ready to go.

Brad Mettam suggested that the commission agendize an MOU workshop for the April LTC meeting.

ITEM NO. 11 City of Bishop Report

Destin Dishion reported that the construction phase of South Second Street has started.

The environmental document for Grove Street was approved by the City Council, and trees have begun to come down.

E76 forms are in hand for the two bike paths, and consultants have been hired for the environmental work.

Project A will go to the CTC in July.

ITEM NO. 12 Executive Director's Report

Status report on County STIP funded projects:

Ted Pedersen reported that construction is complete on Trona Wildrose Road, Pleasant Valley Dam Road, and Mustang Mesa roads. Contracts were recently awarded to Granite for work on Schabbell Lane and Ed Powers/Red Hill roads.

ES&P allocations have been delayed by the CTC for Coso Road, See Vee Lane, and Independence Town Rehabilitation.

PS&E allocation will be requested at the May CTC meeting for the South Bishop Resurfacing project.

Blueprint Planning Grant

US 395 Corridor Enhancement

The first public meetings are scheduled for April 20 in Lone Pine and Bishop for the Blueprint Planning Grant and the 395 Corridor Enhancement Grant. The Blueprint deals mainly with creating a traffic model analyzing different area-wide growth scenarios, while the Corridor Enhancement pertains mainly to the main streets in the towns.

A County workshop with the Board of Supervisors will be held.

Mr. Smith also reported that a meeting will be held next month with the local tribes regarding the Regional Transportation Plan and the Overall Work Program. He said Caltrans has recently completed a needs assessment on tribal roads.

At this time, the Commission returned to **ITEM NO. 5** which had been postponed earlier in the meeting.

Jill Batchelder stated that Inyo County has been apportioned \$126,167 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Section 5311 funds. ESTA proposes to use these funds for ADA Para transit, Mobility Management, a phone system, and computer equipment. The 5317 mobility management grant \$103,800, can be transferred to ARRA with no match. The majority of this will go to staff salaries.

Bob Kimball asked if 5311f funds can be used for vehicles. Ms Batchelder said 5311f is only for CREST, and is used entirely for operations.

She said the POP would need to be adjusted, as the purchase of a utility vehicle will be put off until a later time.

Beverly Brown asked, since these are one-time funds, and ESTA plans to use them for salaries, what will happen after the first year?

Ms Batchelder said the ESTA board had considered this, and decided this would help them to achieve a balanced budget.

Bob Kimball asked if ESTA is on schedule with their payments to the four entities from whom they borrowed money, and Jill said they are.

Ms Batchelder reported that ESTA will use the old ESTA design on their buses, rather than new graphics to save money.

Bruce Dishion moved to adopt Resolution #2009-02, a resolution approving and authorizing the submission of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Federal Transit Administration Non-urban Section 5311 Grant 2009 Program of Projects (POP) with Eastern Sierra Transit Authority as the sub-recipient of \$126,167; and authorize the Executive Director to sign the Certification and Assurances. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 13 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Richard Cervantes expressed his disappointment that only one of the County STIP projects was in his district.

He also said that some of the streets in Lone Pine are almost not useable. He noted that if deferred maintenance continues to be ignored there will never be enough money to address the problems.

Bruce Dishion asked if these needs had been submitted.

Mr. Smith stated that the Lone Pine Rehabilitation project had indeed been submitted, as part of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, by the LTC. The Lone Pine Town Rehabilitation Project was not included in the STIP. The CTC will not fund local roads when there are needs on the State highway.

Doug Thompson commented that there is no continuity; the workload is overwhelming.

The County is so big, and with so few people. There is nobody to do projects at the southern end of the County, and it takes many hours to get something to the funding cycle.

The Commission agreed that the next LTC meeting should be changed to April 22.

CORRESPONDENCE – INFORMATIONAL

None

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10 a.m.

Attest:

Ted Pedersen
Executive Director

by Linda Baffrey, Secretary