



**INYO COUNTY
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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Ted Pedersen, Executive Director

**INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Bishop City Council Chambers
377 W. Line St., Bishop, CA 93514**

MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2010

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
Jane McDonald, IMACA
Brad Mettam, Caltrans
Brian Biehl, CHP
Seth Roberts, Bishop Paiute Tribe
Ryan Dermody, Caltrans
Bob Ennis, Carson & Colorado Railway
David Grah, Bishop Public Works
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
John Helm, ESTA
Forest Becket, Caltrans
Ted Pedersen, Executive Director
Courtney Smith, Inyo County
Linda Baffrey, Secretary

ITEM NO. 2 Public Comment

Jane McDonald, representing IMACA, said that IMACA is surveying their members for unmet transit needs.

She presented several questions regarding the Unmet Needs process. She referenced page 6 of the TDA manual, and inquired why this commission was no longer holding Unmet Needs hearings, and what sections of the Public Utilities Code apply.

Bob Kimball explained that the LTC is not required to hold “hearings” since no money is available for local streets and roads, and all TDA funds are allocated for transit- related purposes. Courtney Smith went on to explain that the Commission has chosen to conduct workshops to solicit public input, and continues to hold an annual SSTAC meeting. Information gathered at the SSTAC meeting is presented to the LTC. The unmet transit needs process is only different now, in that the LTC holds workshops instead of hearings and does not make formal findings because no funds are being allocated to local streets and roads.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3 Request Commission approve minutes of February 17, 2010

Beverly Brown moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2010. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 4 Election of Officers

Beverly Brown nominated Bob Kimball as chairman. Doug Thompson seconded the nomination.

Susan Cullen nominated Beverly Brown as vice chair. Bruce Dishion seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were received for either office.

The appointments of Bob Kimball as chairman and Beverly Brown as vice chair were approved 6-0.

ITEM NO. 5 Select City and County projects for inclusion in the “Jobs for Main Street” program, and amend RTP action element to include those projects.

Courtney Smith explained that projects for the ARRA II stimulus bill need to be selected, and the action element of the Regional Transportation Plan must be amended in order to amend the FSTIP. As with ARRA I, there are two possible funding scenarios. The first (the STIP formula) could net \$6.4 million, and if the funding were based strictly on population, the amount would be \$1.4 million of funds for local streets and roads and \$554,000 for TE projects. Staff has received direction from the State to program for the higher amount. Bishop has proposed the reconstruction of pavement and construction of curb, gutter, and sidewalk on a portion of West South Street, or a portion of West Elm Street, depending on which funding amount is received. The County has proposed pavement overlay with shoulder backing on Old Spanish Trail for a distance of 5.5 miles

or a distance of 30 miles, also depending on which funding scenario is selected. The County is also proposing a \$554,000 TE project for 3 to 4 feet wide bicycle lanes on Ed Powers Road. The new bill requires that 50% of new projects need to have a contract awarded within 90 days of when the State implements the distribution of funds. The remaining 50% needs to be awarded to contract within one year.

Mr. Smith said there might be a need to exchange funding with another RTPA. Bob Kimball asked if there had been any conversation with Kern COG or Mono LTC.

Mr. Smith replied that there had, and there were possibilities with both, and with other RTPAs.

Beverly Brown commented that the tribe is not in favor of a bike path at the end of Keough. Dave Grah said that is true. They are in favor of a path, but not on the reservation. Seth Roberts of the Bishop Tribe said the tribe couldn't support the proposed alignment. They would continue to use the old Indian Trail. They want the path to connect at Diaz. Dave Grah noted that there would be a complete path, but only within the city. He expects this to be done in the fall. Courtney Smith noted that the action before the Commission was limited to Jobs for Main Street projects.

Marty Fortney moved to amend the RTP action element to include the proposed projects. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 6 Amend FSTIP to include City and County "Jobs for Main Street" projects.

Courtney Smith stated that the FSTIP amendment formalizes the selection of the "Jobs for Main Street" projects. This will put the County and City in a position to deliver ARRA II projects depending on the timeline set forth by the Federal and State governments.

Susan Cullen moved to amend the FSTIP to include City and County Jobs for Main Street projects. Beverly Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7 ESTA Report

Jill Batchelder reported that there had been decreases in ridership for the Lone Pine Dial a Ride (11%), Lone Pine to Bishop (9%), Tecopa (21%), CREST Northbound (31%), and Bishop fixed route (4%). Ridership is up on the Mammoth Express, Night Rider, and southern CREST route (17%). She noted that the economy is down, and fares were recently increased. They may enact some promotional fare decreases. They believe the new discount air service between Mammoth Lakes and Reno may be lowering ridership on the northbound CREST route. She said they may also roll back the Bishop fixed route to \$1, and offer day passes in Lone Pine. Bob Kimball cautioned about fare reductions, with the price of fuel going up. Ms Batchelder said they would be 90-day promotions.

Susan Cullen asked how many days per week the northern CREST bus operates, and asked if that could be cut back. Ms Batchelder said they are under a 5311 contract for four days a week, which requires them to operate a certain number of days. She noted that there is no advertising money in their budget at the present time.

ITEM NO. 8 Tribal Report

Seth Roberts reported that the tribe has been awarded \$2 million for a road project on the reservation, and are currently waiting for a notice to proceed from the BIA. They have a received a \$39,000 ARRA grant for maintenance; they will be buying maintenance equipment.

Mr. Roberts said that the tribe is working with Caltrans to seek grant funding for an updated Transportation study.

He said that the cultural center is scheduled to re-open by Mule Days. They were unsuccessful in their application for a grant to refurbish it, but have chosen to reopen it.

Bob Kimball asked about the apartments that are being built adjacent to West Line St. Mr. Roberts said there are six buildings with four apartments each. They will have a laundry facility next door. The tribe has done most of the work. He said the housing would be available to tribal members. They will have extensive CCRs. No alcohol or drugs will be allowed.

ITEM NO. 9 Caltrans Report

Brad Mettam reported that the northbound lanes of the Independence/Manzanar four-lane project are open now, except for the area between the reservation and town. Work on the southbound lanes has resumed. Marty Fortney asked if there would be an overlay on the existing four-lane section through the Fort. Mr. Mettam said he did not think so, but would check. Forest Becket noted that a turn pocket would be put in at Dusty Lane, and the tribe will relocate the entrance to the casino.

ITEM NO. 10 City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah reported that bids would be opened on the 25th of March for the Hanby stimulus project. Construction should occur in mid-May, and take about a month. Work on Wye Road may take place this summer. Stimulus II funding will be used for West South Street or West Elm, depending upon which funding scenario is used. Neither project is "on the shelf", so would need to be completed from the start.

ITEM NO. 11 Executive Director's Report

Ted Pedersen reported that the Public Works Department has been waiting for a price for the guardrail over the canal on the Barlow Lane project. He said the estimate was \$60,000 over the budgeted amount, and will be reviewed during the coming week.

He said that discussions have taken place about the rehabilitation of Engine #18 in Independence.

The environmental study for Old Spanish Trail is estimated to be \$90-100 thousand. The department will need to go to Board for authorization to go out to bid.

Preliminary work has been done on the ESTA parking lot, and Prop 1B money has been received for county roads.

Courtney Smith reported that a SSTAC meeting had taken place on February 25, and an unmet needs workshop would be conducted in conjunction with the April LTC meeting.

ITEM NO. 12 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Marty Fortney commented on the “gas tax swap” that the assembly had approved, but the governor had refused to sign.

Doug Thompson noted that attendance had been very good at the Fred Hall Exhibit.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Attest:

Ted Pedersen, Executive Director

by Linda Baffrey, secretary