



**INYO COUNTY
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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Ted Pedersen, Executive Director

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING**

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Independence Lions Club House
131 S. Edwards Street, Independence, CA**

April 22, 2009

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

Robert Ennis, C&C Railway
Brad Mettam, Caltrans
Deston Dishion, City of Bishop
Miya Edmonson, Caltrans
Jon Klusmire, Eastern CA Museum
Forest Becket, Caltrans
John Helm, ESTA
Jill Batchelder, ESTA

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 March 18, 2009.

Susan Cullen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2009. Beverly Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 4 Request Commission adopt Resolution #2009-03, a resolution making certain findings and adopting the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan as prepared by Fehr and Peers.

Courtney Smith read and distributed copies of a letter from Caltrans commending the Regional Transportation Plan. He noted that the last RTP had been done in 2001/2002. He said that a new plan should be done every five years, as it is important to be in place for the development of the 2010 STIP. He explained that the RTP could be amended as necessary. He summarized comments received on the Draft Negative Declaration and explained how the RTP complies with CEQA, is consistent with the Inyo County General Plan, was developed in accordance with the Public Involvement Procedures, and complies with the Caltrans 2007 RTP Guidelines.

Doug Thompson moved to adopt Resolution #2009-03, a resolution adopting the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan. Bruce Dishion seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 5 Request Commission adopt Resolution #2009-04, a resolution amending the 2008 STIP regarding Dehy Park Visitor Center Project and Gill Station - Coso Road Improvement Project.

Courtney Smith explained that the Public Works project engineer had requested that the construction phase of both of these projects be pushed out until 2012/2013, because of environmental and cultural concerns.

Beverly Brown moved to adopt Resolution #2009-04, a resolution amending the 2008 STIP regarding the Dehy Park Visitor Center Project and Gill Station – Coso Road Improvement Project. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEM NO. 6 Request Commission adopt Resolution #2009-05, a resolution adopting American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Section 1511 certification, and authorizing the Chairman to sign the certification.

Courtney Smith reported that with the passage of Assembly Bill X3 20 it was decided that the ARRA funds would be distributed using the Regional Surface Transportation Program formula instead of the STIP formula. The final allocation amount is \$1,367,998.

The City of Bishop has proposed Hanby Avenue Rehabilitation project, which was originally estimated at \$340,000. The City reduced the requested allocation to \$320,000. The FSTIP amount for this project was programmed at \$320,000. City staff then raised the cost estimate to \$450,000. Deston Dishion said this could be downsized to about \$350,000 by eliminating one block from the project.

The County is proposing the rehabilitation of North Barlow Lane, and portions of Dixon and Saniger Lane at a cost of \$1,047,998. Given the increased cost for the Hanby Avenue, this amount will be reduced to \$1,017,998.

Courtney Smith noted that under ARRA, the LTC would receive \$25,525 for TE projects. He said he had received tentative eligibility approval for the Virtual Transportation Museum Project from Caltrans. Museum staff indicated that the scope of work for the project could be reduced to fit the amount of funding available. Doug Thompson commented that he felt that the LTC should go ahead with this project.

Richard Cervantes expressed his objection to the method of selection of projects, saying that he takes strong exception to the fact that Whitney Portal was a priority, and has now been omitted. Courtney Smith noted that it had been ranked #1 if the STIP formula had been chosen for ARRA funding, but the RSTP formula is the one that will be used. Mr. Smith referenced the staff report from the March meeting, in which projects were prioritized and ranked for the two funding scenarios. Beverly Brown stated that the Board of Supervisors had chosen the Barlow Lane Rehabilitation Project, and the other four members voted to go along with the ranking.

Bruce Dishion moved to adopt Resolution #2009-05, a resolution adopting American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Section 1511 certification, and authorizing the Chairman to sign the certification. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1, with a no vote from Richard Cervantes, and an abstention from Doug Thompson.

By minute order, the Commission agreed on the split of ARRA funds between the City and County for Hanby Avenue and North Barlow Lane Rehabilitation Projects; programming of TE funds for the Virtual Transportation Museum; directed staff to amend the FSTIP; and authorized the Executive Director to sign any further documents necessary to implement the ARRA projects.

Motion by Doug Thompson. Second by Bruce Dishion. Motion carried 5-1, with a no vote by Richard Cervantes.

ITEM NO. 7 Request Commission authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter of support for the submittal of Surface Transportation Authorization Projects Request forms.

This item was postponed until after the MOU Workshop.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 8 Public Workshop regarding unmet transit needs.

There was no one who wished to speak regarding unmet transit needs.

Brad Mettam stated that the Unmet Needs process is only required if money is to be allocated to local streets and roads.

Bob Kimball noted that the process has been helpful, as ESTA has been able to implement some route/schedule changes to help meet the needs of the county's population.

Doug Thompson suggested a press release regarding CREST service.

Beverly Brown requested that out-of-area shopping not be emphasized in any advertising for the CREST route. John Helm replied that CREST is primarily funded by 5311, and shopping is one of the needs required to be met, but he would try to comply with Mrs. Brown's request. A primary use of CREST is to connect with other modes of transportation.

ITEM NO. 9 MOU Workshop presented by Caltrans

Caltrans staff brought a power point presentation explaining MOU agreements. Brad Mettam stated that in 1998, the agreement between ICLTC and Caltrans was a precursor to the present Memorandums of Understanding. The first formal 3-County MOU was developed in 1999 for Olancha/Cartago, North Mojave, and Highpoint. Another 3-County MOU was entered into in 2001 for the Freeman Gulch and Inyokern Four Lane projects. In 2002 Inyo and Mono LTCs, Kern COG and SANBAG developed a 4-County MOU to jointly fund the development of the US 395 corridor from I-15 to SR 58.

Mr. Mettam explained that the standard formula for MOU projects is 40-40-10-10. This means that 40% is paid by the host County, 40% by the State, and 10% for each of the other counties.

The Highpoint project in Mono County, can now be funded through the safety program instead of the STIP.

Freeman Gulch is the last section of Hwy 14 to be four-laned. This project will be broken into three sections.

A corridor is being reserved for US 395 from Kramer Junction, south.

The construction component of Olancha/Cartago is scheduled for 2012/2013.

Bob Kimball asked if there would ever be money for local streets and roads. Brad Mettam explained that Olancha Cartago makes it difficult, but after its completion, Inyo will only need to contribute 10% instead of 40% for MOU projects outside of Inyo County.

Doug Thompson said he feels that a road tax is necessary.

At this time, the Commission returned to Item #7.

Ted Pedersen reported that he had received notification Monday night that Surface Transportation Authorization Project Request Forms are due to Congressman McKeon's office by the close of business on this date (April 22, 2009).

Richard Cervantes moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter of support for the submittal of a Surface Transportation Authorization Project Request for Whitney Portal Road. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0, with an abstention by Doug Thompson.

Beverly Brown moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter of support for the submittal of a Surface Transportation Authorization Project Request for Olancho/Cartago. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Beverly Brown commented that she feels it is appropriate to use federal funding for a road leading to a federal recreation area.

Bob noted that both projects are "top-notch"!

The current authorization legislation, SAFETEA-LU, will expire on September 30, 2009. A new transportation bill called MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century) will establish policy and provide funding for transportation nationwide. There is also a chance to apply for high priority transportation projects as congressional earmarks.

ITEM NO. 10 Introduction of 2009/2010 Overall Work Program

Courtney Smith stated that the Overall Work Program implements the RTP and is basically a contract between Caltrans and the LTC to monitor tasks to be completed, and funds expended. The draft document is being sent to Caltrans, the City of Bishop, and the five local Indian tribes for review. He gave a brief overview of how the 2009/2010 OWP will differ from the 08/09 OWP. It will be brought back to the Commission for approval in June.

ITEM NO. 11 Request Commission consider the designation of ESTA as the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency.

Courtney Smith explained that the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) is appointed by the LTC to coordinate transit services. He said that the recently adopted Coordinated Transit Plan recommends that the CTSA be ESTA. The Board of Supervisors currently has this designation, probably as a carryover from when ESTA was Inyo Mono Transit, which was a county entity.

The LTC would still administer TDA funds, but ESTA would have more leverage in mobility management grants. He noted that ESTA is the CTSA in Mono County.

Bob Kimball asked what would happen to IMAAA if ESTA has control.

Mr. Smith stated that IMAAA would still be eligible to receive up to 5% of TDA funds allocated to Inyo LTC as IMAAA provides community transit services.

John Helm said they would not control, but *coordinate*, and could help other agencies with grants.

Mr. Smith reiterated that the LTC would continue to administer TDA funds, and receive reports from ESTA.

Bob Kimball said he would still like to have more information; Brad Mettam stated that he is in favor of the change.

This will be brought back at a later meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 12 ESTA Report

Jill Batchelder presented ESTA's monthly service and financial report. She said this March is up 7% up from last year, and the fare box ratio is 18%. Mammoth ridership is up, but others have dropped, probably because of the economy.

Bob Kimball asked if they had started the Reds Meadows route. Jill said the contracts have not been signed yet. They will lease eight buses from Mammoth Mountain, and the Forest Service plans to buy twelve new buses. The Forest Service contacted ESTA; the firm that had previously operated the route was notified that their contract would not be renewed.

Ms Batchelder said that ESTA had submitted ARRA applications, and expects to hear back in August. They have applied, through Mono County LTC, for an automated voice system/transponder with texting capabilities so regular customers can check to see that buses are running on schedule. She said they had applied through Mono County because of timing.

She also noted that there would be a meeting in Lone Pine this afternoon to gather public input regarding bus schedules.

ITEM NO. 13 Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 14 Caltrans Report

Brad Mettam noted that this is the largest construction season for this district, with work going on at South Sherwin, Little Lake, Black Rock, and Independence/Manzanar. He stated that the passes are starting to open. Monitor Pass is already open.

ITEM NO. 15 City of Bishop Report

Deston Dishion reported that the South Second St. is 2/3 completed.

Bishop has gone out to bid for the Grove Street Safe Routes to School project. The bids close May 2.

ITEM NO. 16 Executive Director's Report

Ted Pedersen reported that the Ed Powers project is scheduled to start May 6. The bid to complete construction is \$894,000. Schabell Lane will be starting soon, at a cost of \$196,000. He noted that Inyo is applying for ARRA funds also.

Courtney Smith reported that he had attended the initial Blueprint Planning Grant public meetings in Lone Pine and Bishop. He said there would also be workshops with the Board of Supervisors and the City of Bishop.

ITEM NO. 17 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Doug Thompson said that some of the roads in the Alabama Hills have been closed lately. Ted Pedersen said the closure was for a military training film, which had been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Bruce Dishion said he agrees that Olancha/Cartago is important, but would rather make decisions when they come about, and not commit all four cycles.

Doug commented that he still wants to look at taxes as a means to fund local roads.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Attest:

Ted Pedersen, Executive Director

by Linda Baffrey, Secretary