



**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**

May 20, 2009

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

Brad Mettam, Caltrans
Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
Ryan Dermody, Caltrans
Tom Meyers, Caltrans
Denee Alcalá, Caltrans
Cedrik Zemitis, Caltrans
Forest Becket, Caltrans
John Helm, ESTA
Bob Ennis, Carson & Colorado
Ted Pedersen, Executive Director
Courtney Smith, LTC staff
Linda Baffrey, Secretary

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 April 22, 2009.

Bruce Dishion moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2009. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Richard Cervantes arrived at the meeting subsequent to the vote being conducted.

ITEM NO. 4 Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Section 5311 ARRA Public Hearing, and authorize the Executive Director to sign certification thereof.

Courtney Smith stated that the 5311 ARRA allocation had been approved previously, but a public hearing is a condition of the application submittal.

John Helm stated that ESTA had applied for a \$216,000 grant, with \$126,000 for Inyo and \$90,000 for Mono. This money can be used to replace equipment, for preventive maintenance, and safety and security training. The preventive maintenance and security training will enable ESTA to cover some operating expenses.

A 5311f grant for \$200,000 has been sought for an automated information system, for use with cellular phones or PDA.

Bob Kimball asked if operating expense is an allowable expense, and John Helm said that it is.

Ted Pedersen inquired if ESTA was holding a public hearing in Mono County also. John replied that they were.

Chairman Bob Kimball opened and then closed the public hearing. There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

Beverly Brown moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign the certification of the public hearing. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 5. California Transportation Plan update presented by Caltrans
Dave Bloom narrated a Power Point presentation giving an update of the California Transportation Plan 2035. He stated that the plan is designed to guide transportation investments and decisions, to address the mobility of people, goods, and services, and to integrate transportation planning with environmental and natural resources.

The California Transportation Plan for 2025 was approved in 2006, and the CTP 2030 was approved in 2007. It is expected that the CTP 2035 will be approved by October 2010.

Caltrans is consulting with MPOs and RTPAs on the content of the CTP, starting with the draft strategies. Comments on the strategies made by June 18th will be provided to the

Policy Advisory Committee. The draft strategies include six goal areas, plus a rural issues section.

Courtney Smith asked if there were any particular goals that apply to rural areas. Brad Mettam said he believes there are only five that really apply to rural areas. Caltrans is looking for input from the Commission and staff.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6 ESTA Report

Quarterly report

John Helm presented the quarterly report, saying ridership has been up this year, mainly on the Mammoth fixed route. Overall, the results have been mixed. The CREST route north is down 32%, the Benton to Bishop route is down 54%, and the Lone Pine Dial-a-ride is down 23%. The CREST route south is up about 100%, attributed in large part to the ridership on the southern end of the route.

The local Bishop routes (fixed and Dial-a-Ride) are down somewhat, partly because of two fare increases in a 9-month period, and the gas prices dropping.

Bob Kimball inquired about the takeover of the Reds Meadow shuttle. Mr. Helm stated that the ESTA board had approved a contract with the Forest Service to operate the route for the summer. He expects that it will be fully funded by passenger fares, but the Forest Service will subsidize it if necessary. The service will run from June 13 through September 9.

Beverly Brown asked if they would be leasing buses from Mammoth Lakes. Mr. Helm said they would, and that provision for the maintenance of the buses is included in the lease. He stated that the Forest Service has applied for a grant for 12 new buses to be used on the route.

Susan Cullen complimented ESTA on the new logos on the buses. Mr. Helm said the majority of the fleet would be done by June.

ITEM NO. 7 Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 8 Caltrans Report

Quarterly report

Tom Meyers reported that the Independence/Manzanar project is progressing. They are pouring concrete on the bridge over the aqueduct. This is expected to be a 6-8 week project. The switchover of the lanes is expected to occur in mid July or August. The contractor hopes to have all four lanes open by October.

Paving within the town of Independence will begin next week, with the switchover scheduled to occur the second week in June.

Mr. Meyers said that some old underground gas station tanks had been discovered. It is expected that more will be found. So far this hasn't caused much of a delay.

It is hoped that the Black Rock Four-Lane project will open in mid-July.

The paved visitor pullout at Father Crowley Point is scheduled for the 10/11 funding year.

Bids will be opened on the 27th for the Stove Pipe Sand Dunes parking area.

The Coso Rest area will be advertised in June, with a possible winter shutdown. The rest area will be closed during this time, though Black Rock Safety Rest Area should be open.

The Joshua Tree drainage project on CA 190 has been downsized from fixing three washes to just the main wash. It is proposed for the 2010 SHOPP.

A proposed Caltrans TE project is a history of US 395, including paved turnouts and kiosks.

A SHOPP project is planned for the Caltrans yard in Bishop.

A CTC funding shortfall is possible, and the CTC is postponing all new allocations.

Susan Cullen asked about sidewalks in Independence. Mr. Meyers said they would start to pour concrete this week.

Cedrik Zemitis reported that the North Little Lake Rehab project is ongoing, and should be done by mid-summer.

Ed Powers is almost finished. The culvert work will continue throughout the summer.

The South Sherwin Summit job will use "cross-overs" to keep traffic moving, and to keep the job to one season, saving money.

The Lone Pine CAPM project received early funding, and will advertise on the 27th of June, with work expected to be complete this year. They will enhance some crosswalks, while removing paint on others.

Bob Kimball noted that when there is an overlay project in Big Pine, the manhole covers need to be raised.

Richard Cervantes asked about a flashing warning light for Lone Pine. He said his constituents want one by Carls Jr. for Lone Pine Elementary School.

Bob Kimball noted that crosswalks alert motorists. Brad Mettam stated that the number of crosswalks in Bishop has been reduced. He said Caltrans worked with the school district to use certain intersections, noting that it is a matter of changing habits. It will take time to adjust.

Mr. Zemitis reported that the Olancha/Cartago public meeting, which was held in December, had 60-70 attendees. He said the environmental process is moving forward. A kick-off meeting will be set up for the Olancha/Cartago working group.

Work on Townes Pass Rock Fall is scheduled for construction in 2012.

Rehab work on Highway 6 will be done in the Laws area.

There is no state funding available at this time for improvements in the Meadow Farms area. They are looking at federal funding. Sidewalks may need to be done on a "piece meal" basis. He said he could bring copies of the feasibility study to the next meeting.

The Highpoint Curve Realignment project can be funded with Caltrans safety funds, which will free up STIP money. Inyo's MOU share would have been 10%. This work will entail cut and fill, and the creation of 8-ft shoulders.

Doug Thompson asked if anything from the UC Berkeley traffic safety study is to be implemented at the north end of Lone Pine. Striping across the road was not included – also no flashing lights or signal. Mr. Zemitis said the consolidation of the crosswalks and warning teeth painted at the approach to the sidewalks will implement some recommendations of the study. Other improvements can be considered later.

Richard Cervantes expressed his dislike of the new red curbs in Lone Pine. He said that 30% of the parking on the Main Street has been taken away. Cedrik Zemitis explained that this was done as a safety measure for sight distance, noting that there are still about 100 parking spots. The red curbing was not part of the Lone Pine CAPM project.

Mr. Cervantes said that there had been no public input, before the curbs were painted, and he feels the most convenient places for people to stop in the town were eliminated. He believes there are no sight distance issues in Lone Pine.

Doug Thompson commented that he agrees that the sight distance needed to be remedied, but he feels that something needs to be done for traffic calming within the town of Lone Pine. He suggested a center turning lane, and only one lane of traffic each direction. Mr. Zemitis said that mobility and safety are the top concerns of Caltrans. Brad Mettam offered to have a traffic engineer attend an LTC meeting.

Mr. Cervantes stated that he feels the handling of site distances is not consistent throughout the state, citing some narrow alleyways in Bishop as an example. Bruce Dishion mentioned that there is a great deal of red curbing in front of the hospital.

Ted Pedersen asked about outreach to the communities regarding the elimination of crosswalks. He suggested local meetings in advance.

Mr. Mettam said they have met with the sheriff, police department, schools and elected officials. He said that notices are posted 30 days before the removal of any crosswalk.

Mr. Pedersen requested that a meeting be held in Lone Pine.

Mr. Cervantes asked how many crosswalks were to be removed, and was told that there would be 3 (one at Tim Holt St. and two at intersections that already had two crosswalks).

Ryan Dermody complimented the City, County, and LTC staff on their work with stimulus projects, given the short timeline and extensive paperwork required to implement these projects.

ITEM NO. 9 City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah thanked Caltrans for all their help with delivering the city's projects.

He said that South Second Street is under construction. 50+ trees have been planted, and the paving is complete.

The Grove Street sidewalks will begin in early June and finish before school starts on August 19.

Project A has been requested from the CTC; West Pine is scheduled for 2010, and Sneden for 2011. Beverly Brown mentioned the levels of the houses on Sneden, compared to the level of the street. Mr. Grah said this had been taken under consideration.

The intersection of Wye Rd and Hwy 6 is in the environmental phase now, with construction planned for 2010. The circulation element in the General Plan will be updated.

ITEM NO. 10 Executive Director's Report

Ted Pedersen said that Congressman McKeon's staff informed the County that his office would support the funding of Whitney Portal Road as part of the federal reauthorization. The amount has been revised down from \$8.6 million to \$7 million.

He noted that the Ed Powers Rd project is proceeding, and Schabbell Lane will begin June 1. Granite Construction is the contractor for both projects.

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

Richard Cervantes thanked Public Works and other agencies for their support for the proposed Whitney Portal project.

Mr. Cervantes also noted that much of the pavement is missing on the Cottonwood Creek Rd.

Doug Thompson commented that the work in the southern half of the county is moving along quickly.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10:30.

Attest:

Ted Pedersen, Executive Director

by Linda Baffrey, Secretary