



**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**

**June 17, 2009**

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

**ITEM NO. 1** Roll Call

**Commissioners Present:**

Bob Kimball  
Doug Thompson  
Richard Cervantes  
Susan Cullen  
Bruce Dishion

**Others Present:**

Beth Himelhoch, IMAH  
Cedrik Zemitis, Caltrans  
Terry Erlwein, Caltrans  
Forest Becket, Caltrans  
Robert Ennis, Carson & Colorado Rwy  
Brad Mettam, Caltrans  
Jean Turner, Inyo HHS, IMAAA  
Laura Smith, Bishop City Council  
Ted Pedersen, Executive Director  
Courtney Smith, Inyo County  
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 May 20, 2009.

Susan Cullen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 20, 2009. Bruce Dishion seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 4** Overall Work Program

Request Commission adopt Resolution #2009-06, a Resolution adopting the 2009-2010 Overall Work Program and authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Overall Work Program Agreement and Transportation Planning Process Certification.

Courtney Smith reported that Caltrans commended the LTC on “providing an organized and well-written OWP”.

He noted that an email had been received from Bob Ennis regarding a local sales tax initiative for funding local streets and roads. Mr. Ennis suggested that the LTC consider asking Caltrans about getting a planning grant to hold a series of community meetings discussing the results of the Pavement Management System and the possibility of increasing the local sales tax to pay for improving the condition of local streets and roads. Bob Kimball commented that he would not recommend this, as it would be very difficult to enact any new taxes at this time. Susan Cullen concurred. Ted Pedersen added that the State is already considering an added tax of up to 15 cents a gallon on gasoline.

Richard Cervantes moved to adopt Resolution #2009-06, a resolution adopting the 2009-2010 Overall Work Program and authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Overall Work Program Agreement and Transportation Planning Process Certification. Bruce Dishion seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 5** Request Commission adopt Resolution #2009-07, a Resolution approving an administrative allocation of \$35,212, of FY 2009/2010 Local Transportation Funds.

Mr. Smith explained the priority for allocating TDA funds and stated that the administrative allocation would be more than last year to allow for the expense of completing the triennial performance audit.

Susan Cullen moved to adopt Resolution #2009-07, a Resolution approving an administrative allocation of \$35,212 of FY 2009/2010 Local Transportation Funds. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 6** Request Commission adopt Resolution #2009-08, a Resolution approving an allocation of \$16,328 for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Mr. Smith explained that up to 2% of TDA funds can be allocated for pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The money would be set aside each year until needed. The City and County will need to gain approval from the LTC before using these funds.

Bruce Dishion moved to adopt Resolution #2009-08, a Resolution approving an allocation of \$16, 328 for pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Richard Cervantes seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*Mr. Smith explained that the next two items were agendized incorrectly. Resolution # 2009-09 should have been listed as the request from IMAAA, and Resolution # 2009-10 should have been listed as the request from ESTA. According to TDA protocol, the IMAAA allocation needs to be considered before that of ESTA.*

**ITEM NO. 8 (7)** Request Commission consider allocation request from the Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging, and the adoption of proposed Resolution ~~#2009-10~~, **(2009-09)** a Resolution allocating \$40,532 of FY 2009/2010 Local Transportation Funds to the Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging.

Doug Thompson moved to approve Resolution #2009-09, a resolution allocating \$40,532 of FY 2009/2010 Local Transportation Funds to the Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging. Richard Cervantes seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 7 (8)** Request Commission consider allocation request from the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, based on FY 08/09 ESTA budget, and the adoption of proposed Resolution ~~#2009-09~~ **(2009-10)**, a Resolution allocating \$718,567 of FY 2009/2010 Local Transportation Funds to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority.

Richard Cervantes moved to approve Resolution #2009-10, a resolution allocating \$718, 567 of FY 2009/2010 Local Transportation Funds to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 9** Request Commission adopt Resolution # 2009-11, a Resolution designating the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority as Consolidated Transportation Service Agency.

Courtney Smith explained that the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan found that it would be beneficial for the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority to hold the designation of Consolidated Transportation Service Agency, when applying for grants, such as mobility management. This would also make ESTA eligible to claim an additional 5% of TDA funding. They will not apply for the 5% this year, as 100% of the anticipated funds have been allocated. Bob Kimball noted that Mono County LTC has already designated ESTA as CTSA.

Susan Cullen moved to adopt Resolution #2009-11, a resolution designating the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority as Consolidated Transportation Service Agency. Richard Cervantes seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 10** Request Commission receive comments regarding the California Transportation Plan 2035.

Doug Thompson inquired about measures pertaining to rural areas. Brad Mettam said that the measures are statewide. He said there are not many that are rural only. He said Caltrans would continue to keep the LTC apprised on the development of this plan.

Doug Thompson moved to approve a letter to the Department of Transportation presenting the following comments on the Draft Strategies for the California Transportation Plan 2035: Goal 2, Policy 5 (Preserve and Protect the Transportation System) – “We strongly recommend adding strategies to identify long-term sources of funding for the construction and maintenance of local government streets and roads. Consider the creation of a SHOPP-like program at the state level to maintain local streets and roads, and Goal 6, Policy 13, Strategy 172 – The comment to “Add explicit mention of coordination with local Area Agencies on Aging” is well taken. We recommend expanding this to “Area Agencies on Aging and Social Service Agencies”. Bruce Dishion seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **ITEM NO. 11** Proposed modification to Mammoth Express schedule

John Helm reported that ESTA wants to add a mid-day round trip from Bishop to Mammoth to replace one of the current Bishop to Mammoth evening routes.

Bob Kimball commented that he feels it is unnecessary to cater to “every whim”.

Mr. Helm replied that there is now redundant service in the evening, and if he could deploy one of the routes to a different time, it should increase ridership. The modified schedule would involve an increase of three vehicle hours per week and would provide three roundtrips each weekday (morning, mid-day, and evening) plus the CREST service Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Mr. Helm reported that the Mono County LTC has reviewed this information and supports the adjustment to the Mammoth Express schedule to provide a mid-day route.

Doug Thompson asked if this adjustment would create a continuous link from Lancaster to Mammoth. Mr. Helm said this had already been accomplished.

Bruce Dishion asked about the possibility of adding a Sunday trip to Mammoth instead. John Helm said there would probably be a demand in the winter.

Richard Cervantes commented that he has ridden the bus both directions from Lone Pine. He said in each case, the trip has started out with 4 or 5 people, but the bus has been almost full by the time it reaches its destination.

John Helm said he would continue to seek public input and would put the change in service through a public process.

Richard Cervantes and Susan Cullen both commented that many of the people who use public transportation do so for medical appointments.

Doug Thompson said it makes sense to change the schedule. It is not logical to have two services in a five-minute period as it is now. He also noted ESTA should consider a Mammoth to Lone Pine bus on Sundays.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **ITEM NO. 12** ESTA Report

John Helm reported that the Reds Meadow shuttle service commenced last weekend. It is a partnership between ESTA and the Forest Service. It is fully funded by passenger fares and a Forest Service grant. It will run until just past Labor Day.

He reported that federal funding is a significant part of the budget. They are providing the same service as last year except for the Mammoth Express route.

The 5311f match may be paid by the State this year.

A dozen of the buses now have the new graphics. Some will be used on the fixed routes.

Susan Cullen asked if the vanpool is operating yet. Mr. Helm said it is not, but should be within a month.

### **ITEM NO. 13** Tribal Report

None

### **ITEM NO. 14** Caltrans Report

Brad Mettam said that since the State budget is still “up in the air”, he does not know what the impacts will be. The CTC is not allocating except for emergencies.

Bruce Dishion asked about the funding for Grove Street, and Mr. Mettam said it is okay because the funds were already allocated.

Richard Cervantes said he has been monitoring the budget situation on the Internet. He said there are indications that the State may borrow or confiscate Prop 42 funds.

Bob Kimball noted that the paving in the Black Rock area is almost finished. Brad said they hope to have it open by the end of next week.

Work is proceeding in Independence on the curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, and some driveways are being fixed. Caltrans is working with the contractor to make sure the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade will be impacted as little as possible.

Doug Thompson asked about asphalt certification, noting that Granite’s had failed. Another test strip is planned. Ted Pedersen said that work should finish on the northbound lanes by July 3.

Doug mentioned the red curbing in Lone Pine, saying that it is sometimes difficult to turn onto or cross the highway because of sight distance problems. He also mentioned the Traffic Study done by Cal Berkeley. He said some of the issues that were discussed 10 years ago have never been addressed, such as parking, traffic calming, and various safety issues.

Terri Erlwein of Caltrans said that the Lone Pine CAPM project is a “blank canvas” as far as changes to crosswalks, striping, etc.

Bob Kimball asked about a pedestrian-activated light similar to what has been installed in Mammoth. Terri Erlwein said she would talk to the County if they were interested. She said that pedestrian volumes haven’t shown warrants, but she would be willing to conduct the study again. She said there is a traffic signal in Lone Pine already, and overhead

beacons have not proven completely effective. They still must meet warrants. She noted that Mammoth's had been put in under permits.

Forest Becket stated that if these are installed under permit, they are a liability. Bob asked how liability differs in marked vs. unmarked crossings. Terri explained that any crossing from one curb to another is permissible. However, a crosswalk or beacon indicates that this is where people should cross, which makes it a liability, thus, meeting warrants is important.

Richard Cervantes expressed displeasure with blueprints of proposed curb painting and crosswalks in Lone Pine. Ms Erlwein assured him that she would send him a more complete set. She also indicated that there will be a public meeting on July 9, and at that time more thorough user-friendly exhibits will be available. Forest stated that staff would be available at the meeting to explain the plans and answer questions.

Doug Thompson asked if a contract had already been awarded. Cedrik Zemitis said that it had not, but they had advertized for bids, and bids would close on June 24. He noted that even though the public meeting isn't until July 9, plans could be changed if necessary. Mr. Thompson commented that the last time work was done there, the town was basically closed down, with no notification to the residents. He commented that traffic still travels too fast through town, and calming effects are needed at the edges of town.

Ted Pedersen observed that law enforcement is more effective for slowing traffic than signs are.

Mr. Kimball asked about a completion date for the overlay project in Big Pine. Mr. Zemitis said they were figuring on twenty working days.

Bruce Dishion asked if there is a formula to determine how much red curb is needed. Ms Erlwein said that there is, and in the case of the hospital, the number of accidents at that site influenced it.

Cedrik Zemitis said that in Lone Pine there was a net loss of five parking spots, which doesn't require the installation of off-street parking lots. The red curbing should wrap around the corners of the side streets for 20 feet, to eliminate the chance of vehicles backing out of diagonal parking spots onto the highway, though red curbing County streets is the County's prerogative. Caltrans will not red-curb County streets without the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

Ms Erlwein mentioned that the marking of parking spots on US 395 could improve the parking situation.

She said that the preferred option of the Berkeley study is to remove all parking on the highway, and install a center turn lane. This plan is safety-oriented. Another option would be to leave parking, have a center turn lane, and one lane of traffic each direction. This would create back-ups at either end of town, and is not acceptable to Caltrans.

**ITEM NO. 15** City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah said that South Second Street is finished, and work has started on Grove Street. The CTC delayed Project A. Hanby Street (the ARRA project) requires the hiring of a consultant for the environmental phase.

**ITEM NO. 16** Executive Director's Report

Ted Pedersen reported that the State's budget issues will impact the County, and staff is trying to prepare for any funding cuts.

He said that paving has started on Ed Powers and Red Hill Roads, and Schabbell Lane work will begin on Monday. Other STIP projects are on hold because of suspension of STIP allocations by the CTC.

The Laws and Eastern CA Museum Railroad Wing projects are both waiting for a response from LADWP.

Advertising has been done for an engineering consultant for Riverside and Sabrina Bridge projects.

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

Doug Thompson commented on the highway construction that is occurring from Little Lake to Crowley. He said it will help businesses.

Richard Cervantes reported that he would travel to Victorville tomorrow to meet with State and federal agencies regarding the designation of renewable energy sites in the Mojave Desert. He said this area has many geothermal sites, and one of the largest geothermal plants. The number of solar days here makes this area ideal for solar power development.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Attest:

Ted Pedersen,  
Executive Director

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by Linda Baffrey, Secretary