



**INYO COUNTY  
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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Ted Pedersen, Executive Director

**MINUTES**

**INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Inyo County Courthouse  
Superior Court Department 3  
168 N. Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526**

**July 15, 2009**

Bob Kimball called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEM NO. 1** Roll Call

**Commissioners Present:**

Bob Kimball  
Bruce Dishion  
Susan Cullen  
Doug Thompson  
Richard Cervantes

**Others Present:**

Beth Himelhoch, IMAH  
David Grah, City of Bishop  
Brad Mettam, Caltrans  
Robert Ennis, C&C Railway  
John Helm, ESTA  
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 June 17, 2009.

Susan Cullen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2009. Bruce Dishion seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 4** Request Commission adopt Resolution #2009-12, a resolution approving the submittal of an FTA Section 5310 grant application by Inyo Mono Association for the Handicapped. This resolution authorizes the Executive Director to sign documents related to this grant application.

Courtney Smith explained that LTC staff had given IMAH's Section 5310f application a score of 98. He said that last year, the top score had been 98, and funding had been granted down to an 82.

Bob Kimball commented that the 5310 applications are more difficult now, and that IMAH's looks good.

Beth Himelhoch thanked Courtney for all his help with the application process.

Doug Thompson moved to adopt Resolution #2009-12, a resolution approving the submittal of an FTA Section 5310 grant application by Inyo Mono Association for the Handicapped, and authorizing the Executive Director's signature on any documents related to the application. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 5** Request Commission approve the ranking of three projects and authorize the submission of grant applications for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funding for these projects.

Courtney Smith explained that this is the final round of stimulus funding. He said that grant applications are being judged on an individual basis. The County has already submitted a notice of intent to apply for three projects, these being reconstruction of South Lake Road, and local match for Riverside Bridge and Sabrina Bridge. Approval of the LTC is required before submission of the final grant application. This must be done before July 27.

Ted Pedersen stated that local match is being sought to free up Prop 1B funds. Mr. Smith added that the local match was originally set at 20%, but has been changed to 11.47%.

The County is seeking TIGER funds because of the freeze on STIP funds and the timing requirement for the project. Mr. Smith said the County is also awaiting confirmation that the bridge projects qualify for TIGER funds.

Richard Cervantes asked about the status of Whitney Portal Road. Mr. Smith replied that Congressman McKeon is supportive of Whitney Portal Road as part of the Transportation Reauthorization program.

Mr. Cervantes said that he had been up to Whitney Portal because of the fire at the campground. He noted that the road definitely needs attention. He said the fire is contained, and commended the local agencies for their prompt action.

Bruce Dishion asked what work is to be done on South Lake Road. Mr. Pedersen said it is reconstruction, starting at Hwy 168. He said he wants to work with the Forest Service regarding county roads that access forest service land.

Susan Cullen inquired when the money would be awarded. Mr. Smith answered that construction must be completed by 2012, with the work scheduled for summer of 2011.

Doug Thompson moved to approve the ranking of the three projects and authorize the submission of grant applications for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery funding for these projects. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 6** Request Commission approve an amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan Appendix 4E to include the South Lake Road Rehabilitation project.

Bob Kimball inquired why the addition of South Lake Road is being done now, after the ranking of the projects. Courtney Smith explained that the two bridge projects are already in the Regional Transportation Plan, but South Lake was not. It is required that the proposed projects be listed in the RTP.

Doug Thompson moved to approve an amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan Appendix 4E to include the South Lake Road Rehabilitation project. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **ITEM NO. 7** ESTA Report

John Helm distributed ESTA's June monthly report. He noted that there has been a reduction in ridership. The numbers are down 5% from last year. He said they plan to step up their marketing efforts to try to remedy the situation.

He reported that seven additional vehicles now have the new graphics. These are all CREST vehicles. He said the funding has been exhausted, so no more of the old vehicles will receive the new graphics.

Mr. Helm reported that public hearings had been held regarding the revision of the Mammoth Express route. He noted he had received a letter from IMAH in favor of the change, saying it will be beneficial to their agency.

John Helm stated that the California Transportation Association had won a suit against the State of California, saying it was illegal for the State to divert transit money to other uses. He also noted that there is no money right now, and the State will probably appeal the decision.

Ridership on the CREST southern route is up now, and the northern route is down. Susan asked if this was a reflection of the economy in Mammoth, and Mr. Helm said it probably was.

Mr. Helm said that the majority of people traveling north go to the Reno Airport, and now they are including a stop at the Greyhound station. Bob Kimball noted that air travel has been down lately.

Ms Cullen said there had been complaints about ESTA's service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mr. Helm replied that they had been overwhelmed by the requests for transportation to the fireworks in Mammoth, but will be better prepared for this next year.

Doug Thompson said he thought there might be some confusion because of the name change to ESTA, suggesting there might be some problems with internet links to the service. John asked that he pass along any of these problems he encounters.

**ITEM NO. 8 Tribal Report**

None

**ITEM NO. 9 Caltrans Report**

Brad Mettam said that the State budget is still \$26 billion "out of whack", and the CTC is not making any allocations.

He said that Caltrans now has furlough days the first three Fridays of each month, and may soon have a fourth day.

Invitations were distributed for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Black Rock Four-Lane project, to be held on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Mettam said the Board of Supervisors would adjourn their meeting to attend.

The contract for the Coso Rest Area will be awarded soon, and the rest area will close within 30 days. The Division Creek Rest Area is now open.

Caltrans will pave the Sand Dunes parking area in Death Valley, and the National Park Service will install restrooms.

He said the Lone Pine CAPM meeting had been very lightly attended. Only six members of the public were there. The Lone Pine Chamber is supportive of the work. He noted that this project would add a few parking spots.

Praxis is applying for stimulus funding to improve broadband service through several communities along Hwy 395. Doug Thompson commented that this would be an asset to all three counties. This would involve a fiber optic cable from Kern County to northern Nevada. There is concern whether, given the short time frame for this funding, the environmental process could be completed within the scheduled time.

Mr. Mettam said he will provide more information as it comes available.

Richard Cervantes asked about the dates for the Lone Pine CAPM project. Mr. Mettam said he would provide Mr. Cervantes with the starting date. Doug Thompson noted that it had been published as starting mid-August, the height of the tourist season, which would be costly to the community. Mr. Mettam said the job would involve grinding down an inch and a half, and repaving. It would be very similar to the project done in Big Pine, which took about a month.

Ted Pedersen asked when the film festival would take place. Doug Thompson said it is always early in October.

**ITEM NO. 10** City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah reported that the Grove Street sidewalk project (Safe Routes to School) is about half done, and will be finished by the time school starts.

Project A was not voted in by the CTC, so may not be done until next summer.

Hanby repaving is an ARRA project, and the understanding is that curb ramps will be required. He said they would improve the dips on Hanby, but not eliminate them, as they have a traffic calming effect.

West Pine and Sneden have been delayed.

Environmental and Right of Way phases are ongoing for Wye Road. The Pine to Park TE project is moving ahead. Public meetings will be held for the Seibu to School path. BTA funds may be used. The City is working with the tribe.

There will be three new PSRs.

**ITEM NO. 11** Executive Director's Report

Ted Pedersen said that the Ed Powers project is finished except for some clean up.

Schabbell Lane is under construction.

Plans were approved for Barlow, and the project is advertised. The work will be done from Hwy 395 north to the first cul-de-sac, and will also include portions of Saniger and Dixon.

Brad Mettam said he just found out that the Lone Pine CAPM project is scheduled for August 19 through October 16. There is a 40-day window, so they can direct the contractor to coordinate for the film festival.

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

Richard Cervantes noted that CHP officer, Sergeant Francone will be stationed in Lone Pine.

Doug Thompson said that a main focus through all the towns should be controlling speed. He thanked Caltrans for conducting public meetings in Lone Pine.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Copy of invoice for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter RPA funds

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 9:52.