



**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**

**September 16, 2009**

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

**ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call**

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

Beth Himelhoch, IMAH  
Brad Mettam, Caltrans  
Bob Ennis, Friends of ECM  
Cedrik Zemitis, Caltrans  
Forest Becket, Caltrans  
Tom Meyers, Caltrans  
Bruce Klein, Bishop Paiute Tribe  
Seth Roberts, Bishop Paiute Tribe  
David Grah, City of Bishop  
John Helm, ESTA  
Jill Batchelder, 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 July 15, 2009.

Susan Cullen moved to approve the minutes of July 15, 2009. Richard Cervantes seconded the motion. Beverly Brown abstained. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM NO. 4** Request Commission approve a TE Call for Projects. Courtney Smith stated that the only funding available in the 2010 STIP is for TE projects. He said that approving the Call for projects would also approve the ICLTC procedure for submitting and evaluating TE applications. The proposed procedures use the scoring criteria adopted by the LTC in past cycles in addition to mandatory selection criteria added by Senate Bill 286.

The deadline for submitting a TE application is December 31, 2009.

These require that sponsors of TE projects agree to hire the Community Conservation Corps or the California Conservation corps. If they attempt to employ these services, but are unable to, they may request an exemption on the TE application.

The projects must be programmed in the RTIP prior to February 12, 2010.

The scoring system splits the eligible TE categories into four divisions that will be scored differently.

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and the preservation of abandoned railway corridors will receive 4 points.

Transportation Aesthetics and Scenic Value will receive 3 points.

Historic preservation, archaeological research, and transportation museums will receive 2 points.

Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff, and the reduction of vehicle-caused wildlife mortality will receive 1 point.

The LTC staff will rate the projects according to this priority list and the adopted scoring criteria, and program the projects accordingly. The Commission will then be asked to review and adopt the final ratings and programming.

Bob Kimball asked if changes or additions could be made to staff's ratings. Mr. Smith said it would be at the discretion of the commissioners.

Beverly Brown inquired if the projects need to be on state highways, and Mr. Smith said they do not.

Brad Mettam stated that they must be on a federally eligible roadway.

Mr. Kimball asked if public hearings were required. Mr. Mettam said they are not required, but they are recommended to demonstrate public support. The final approval lies with the FHWA.

Susan Cullen inquired as to the dollar amount involved. Courtney Smith said the estimate is \$1,388,000, and will not be available for programming until 13/14 and 14/15.

Bob Kimball asked where the call for projects would be advertised. Mr. Smith said it will be advertised in the Inyo Register, and mailed to various agencies.

Doug Thompson moved to approve the TE Call for Projects. Beverly Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **ITEM NO. 5** ESTA Report Presentation of 2007/2008 Fiscal Audit

John Helm distributed copies of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority 2007/2008 financial audit. He explained that he had just received it; this was ESTA's first operating year, so consequently their first audit. He noted that Brad Koehn, ESTA's internal auditor is in the process of resolving differences in the fund balance amount, and variances in salaries and benefits expenses with Fechter and Company, CPA. ESTA began with a fund balance from Inyo Mono Transit. Their expenses exceeded revenues by \$200,000 due to cuts in State funding, and increased fuel prices. This amount was made up from the fund balance.

Mr. Helm said the auditor determined that deferred revenue is not due to the LTC, in that much of the money was expended on transit, and some of the fund balance was from Mono, which operates under a contract.

John Helm stated that in 09/10 ESTA has budgeted to increase the fund balance. He noted that last year, ESTA had to borrow \$80,000 from each participating entity. This year they will only need to borrow \$50,000.

Bob Kimball asked if they have been able to repay their debts, and Mr. Helm said they have.

Bruce Dishion asked if they would be starting a Sunday route to Mammoth for skiing.

Mr. Helm said there is no money at this time. He said that the CREST bus is operating at a 70% fare box ratio, but all other routes are below last year's ridership numbers.

Mr. Kimball inquired about the Reds Meadow shuttle.

Mr. Helm reported that they had estimated that it would serve 50 – 55 thousand passengers at \$6.20 each, but the actual number was 64 thousand, thereby exceeding the projection. He said the excess money goes to ESTA.

Susan Cullen asked about a mid-day route to Mammoth. Mr. Helm said it had just started, and now serves Rovanna two days per week on a call stop basis.

Doug Thompson commented that the northbound CREST misses connecting with the YART bus to Yosemite by 15 minutes. Mr. Helm said that by adjusting the Bishop to Reno run to link with the Lone Pine to Bishop route, this problem had arisen. He said they would look at it over the winter.

**ITEM NO. 6 Tribal Report**

Bruce Klein introduced Seth Roberts, the Director of Public Works for the Bishop tribe.

He said they have a contract for two miles of road reconstruction on the Bishop reservation at \$2.5 million, and there is a similar project at Fort Independence through the BIA.

The tribe is proposing a TE project that would consist of a sidewalk on the north side of West Line St. from the Bishop Care Center to Barlow Lane, except for the portion in front of DMV. The cost is estimated to be about \$1 million. They are working with Caltrans on the design and engineering.

Mr. Klein stated that the tribe might host a transportation academy next year.

**ITEM NO. 7 Caltrans Report**

**Quarterly Project Status Report**

Brad Mettam said that Caltrans is still on furlough 3 days per month.

Tom Meyers said that Granite hopes to have the town of Independence finished by the end of October, and the four-lane highway open this fall unless the weather gets too cold. He noted that there had been an error on the angle of the bridge over the aqueduct that had been corrected. He also said that the trees had been delivered, and were ready to be distributed.

Bob Kimball asked if they guaranteed that work would be finished by the end of the month. Mr. Meyers said there is no guarantee. He said the sidewalks should be poured next week. There have been a few surprises, such as a buried concrete bridge that was found outside of town.

At this time, they are one month behind. The temperature must stay over 55 degrees for 5 hours for paving. There could be a winter shutdown.

Richard Cervantes stated that he had received complaints about driveways to the Catholic church being blocked, after he was told they would remain open. Mr. Meyers said he would take care of it.

Mr. Cervantes also mentioned the red curbing in front of several Lone Pine businesses, noting that this makes deliveries very difficult. He suggested that a loading zone was needed.

Mr. Meyers said that Black Rock is in closeout. There have been some claims from Skanska - 5% contingency has been exceeded, so they will have to draw upon G-12 funding. They will need to go back to the CTC for this.

Bob Kimball asked where the money would come from, and Mr. Meyers said it would be from Caltrans.

The Father Crowley project will shift out of TE to ARRA.

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities come first. They must employ CCC workers. This frees up other TE money. The CTC will vote on this in December, and it must be approved by March 2. This will entail a temporary closure of the road to Father Crowley Point.

The Sand Dunes Scenic Pullout is in construction now. Caltrans can't install a restroom using ITIP TE funds, but the Park Service will do it during the project.

Coso Rest area closed last week for reconstruction, which should take 4-5 months. They may have a winter shutdown.

The Joshua Tree Drainage Project, which is one third of the Centennial Wash Project, will raise the roadbed four feet.

The Highway Interpretive Displays Project has been reduced, with two turnouts in Inyo and two in Mono.

Cedrik Zemitis reported that the North Little Lake Project is in closeout.

Ed Powers is complete, except for landscaping.

The South Sherwin Project started phase 3 today, with crossovers ending. They hope to finish by October 15.

The Lone Pine CAPM project is in construction now, with one lane open each way. They expect to finish next week.

The draft environmental document for Olancha/Cartago will be done next May. Bob Kimball asked if there were any danger of losing the money. Mr. Zemitis said no, we already have the funds for right of way acquisition, environmental, and design. The construction money could be a challenge, but the fact that it is the last section in Inyo County should help.

Mr. Kimball asked if Caltrans were applying for stimulus funding. Mr. Zemitis said they are, for maintenance - possibly for Hwy 190 and Cerro Coso bike lanes.

The draft environmental document for Towne Pass is in review, and will be available to the public in November.

Feasibility studies are being done for Laws Rehab and Meadow Farms access management projects. A signal study will be done next quarter.

The High Point Curve Realignment project has been downsized, and approved as a SHOPP project.

#### **ITEM NO. 8** City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah reported that the Grove Street sidewalks are half done. Eighty trees have been planted, and thirty are left.

Project A is ready, but has not yet been voted upon by the CTC.

Hanby Street is an ARRA project, for pavement only. Curb ramps are required, at a cost of \$40,000.

There are no design funds for W. Pine and Sneden due to the CTC freezing allocations.

Wye Road is in the environmental and right-of-way phase.

There will be a public meeting regarding the Pine to Park Path. Some concern by neighbors is anticipated.

Meetings are being held to tie down the alignment for the Seibu to School pathway. BTA funds may not be available for this. Project Study Reports have been done. The project straddles the city limits.

The CTC says funding is limited. State highway projects are emphasized, and projects must stand on their own merit. Bob Kimball commented that money is needed to help the local communities.

Mr. Kimball asked if the dips would remain on Hanby Street. Dave Grah replied that they would be improved a little, but not eliminated, as they help to reduce speed.

**ITEM NO. 9** Executive Director's Report  
STIP, TE, and HBP County Project Summary

Courtney Smith gave a brief overview of the proposed schedule for the adoption of the 2010 STIP, noting that there is no new programming capacity and currently programmed projects may need to be delayed.

Mr. Smith reported that work has stalled on the environmental document for the long-term realignment of US 395 in the Victor Valley. This was programmed through an MOU, Inyo's portion being \$2 million. The cities of Hesperia, Adelanto, and Victorville have not been able to agree on an alignment, and have been resistant to the re-alignment. They want the funds to be used for improvements on the existing alignment. Inyo, Mono, Kern COG, and District 9 staff want the realignment project to continue. In order to change the MOU, the partners would need to agree, by formal correspondence, for the funding to be moved.

Beverly Brown asked if it were decided not to use the money for the original purpose, if it could be taken back? Mr. Smith said it probably could, but some has already been spent.

Forest Becket said that work had stopped on the corridor because of all the construction in the area. Homes and businesses have been constructed over the corridor. Kern COG wants work to continue on the realignment, or to be done on the portion of Hwy 395 north of Adelanto.

Ms Brown asked why they would want to change the goal, if they want the road to be safer. Mr. Becket said the cities are squabbling over tax-based land.

The South Lake Road Improvement Project was not included in the California package of TIGER projects, but was submitted for consideration to the FHWA.

The Laws Railroad project is waiting for a response from LADWP regarding the right to enter, and the granting of an easement.

Mr. Smith reported that consultants have completed a draft Pavement Condition Report for all paved roads in Inyo County and the City of Bishop. The report will be available for public viewing in the near future.

Ted Pedersen reported that Schabbell Lane and Ed Powers are in construction.

Proposals have been received for Riverside and Sabrina Bridge projects. Staff is working on the selection of a contractor.

A pre-construction meeting is being conducted for the Barlow Lane ARRA project  
Beverly Brown asked about funding for Whitney Portal Road. Mr. Pedersen said it is  
tied to reauthorization, and not moving forward yet.

Mr. Cervantes requested that the Visitor Center be added to the distribution list for the TE  
Call for Projects, and Ms Brown asked that the Laws Museum be added as well.

**ITEM NO. 10** Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC  
None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Attest:

Ted Pedersen, Executive Director

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by Linda Baffrey, Secretary