



**INYO COUNTY
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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Doug Wilson, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Bishop City Council Chambers
377 W. Line St., Bishop, CA 93514**

September 21, 2011

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball
Susan Cullen
Doug Thompson
Jim Ellis, alternate

Others Present:

Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
David Bloom, Caltrans
Selma Calnan, IMAAA & ACT 4 Bishop Neighborhood
Tom Meyers, Caltrans
David Grah, Bishop Public Works
Courtney Smith, Inyo County
Ryan Standridge, Inyo County
Linda Baffrey, Secretary

ITEM NO. 2 Public Comment

Selma Calnan referred to two organizations with which she is involved: the Participatory Budget Advisory Committee, and ACT 4 Bishop Neighborhoods to find solutions for affordable public transportation. She said she has enlisted the aid of Mary Franke, Caddy Jackson, and Brad Mettam. She said that she will bring a power point presentation to the next meeting.

She also noted that she now has a newspaper column in the Inyo Register.

Ms Calnan thanked Courtney Smith for his help.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3 Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 17, 2011.

Susan Cullen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 17, 2011. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

ITEM NO. 4 Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2011-12, a resolution amending Resolution No. 2010-07 by reducing the allocation of FY 2010-2011 Local Transportation Funds to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority from \$589,230 to \$588,447.

Bob Kimball noted that this is a “bookkeeping item”.

Courtney Smith explained that in June 2009 two resolutions had been approved for appropriations and allocations of TDA funds for FY 2010/2011. This resolution is to amend the ESTA allocation only, reducing it by \$783 to reflect the actual funds received.

Susan Cullen moved to approve Resolution No. 2011-12. Jim Ellis seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

ITEM NO. 5 Request Commission approve the loan of up to \$21,500 of TEA Exchange funds for the County to use as up front funds for the installation of security fencing and lighting at the ESTA headquarters at the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport.

Courtney Smith explained that Transit Security Grant Funding had been allocated to ESTA for the past four years to be used for lighting and fencing for the bus parking area. He said that the County had not yet received the money from the fourth round of funding, and he is not sure how long the delay might be. This project has been bid twice - the first time being for lighting only, received no bids. The second time it was advertised for lighting and fencing, with bids coming in higher than anticipated. The County has only one month to accept or reject bids. Since there is a timing issue, the loan of up to \$21,500 is requested until such time as the remainder of the Transit Security Grant funding is received. Bob Kimball suggested that the minute order should specify that the loan shall be applicable to this request only.

Jim Ellis asked what the total cost of the project would be. Mr. Smith replied that it would be approximately \$58,000, but could be reduced somewhat if a water line is not installed. He noted that \$9,000 had already been spent for staff time, and advertising.

Doug Thompson asked what would happen if ESTA moves out. Mr. Smith said the improvements would remain with the airport and would probably be used for long-term parking. Bob Kimball said he would like to have a time line for ESTA’s plans. Mr. Smith said that much depends on what LADWP will allow. He said that ESTA wants to have a full maintenance facility onsite.

Bob Kimball asked if the decision could be put off until next month, and Mr. Smith said that it could not because of time constraints for awarding a contract.

Jim Ellis commented that if ESTA were to construct a new facility, it would not be for at least four or five years, and the security measures are needed now. He said he would like assurance that if the project does not happen, that the money would go back to the TEA Exchange fund.

Jim Ellis moved to approve the loan of up to \$21,500 of TEA Exchange funds for the ESTA lighting and fencing project, with the stipulation that the money would be returned, and would not be a permanent allocation. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

ITEM NO. 6 Request Commission authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter of support for splitting US 395 Corridor Realignment Project in San Bernardino County into two projects.

Courtney Smith explained that the Inyo LTC had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with SANBAG, Kern COG, and Mono LTC to fund the US 395 Corridor Realignment Project between Interstate 15 and State Route 58. SANBAG and Caltrans want to split the project into two sections, and start the environmental portion on the northern section. The southern portion will cost \$1.7 billion, and the northern section will cost \$363 million. They want to make this split in order to move forward with the environmental on the south end of the project. Costs have gone up considerably since the inception of the MOU.

Doug Thompson moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter of support for splitting US 395 Corridor Realignment Project in San Bernardino County into two projects. Susan Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7 STIP workshop

Courtney Smith stated that new STIP funding will be \$12,793,000. Phases 1 & 2 of the Freeman Gulch Project will take most of this. \$9.06 million was set aside for Olancho / Cartago as part of the 2008 STIP. There is hope that some type of grant funds will be available when the time comes, to fund the construction component so the LTC will have no new funds for local streets and roads projects for 4 or 5 STIP cycles. Bob Kimball commented that the funding amount available to LTC has been reduced since 2008. Courtney Smith said the shortage is statewide. Bob noted that our responsibility doesn't end with Olancho / Cartago. There are still more MOU projects. There will be no money for local streets and roads. Doug Thompson noted that Bishop is the only incorporated city in Inyo County. The other towns have no tax base to use. Courtney Smith said that LTC is still supporting the pavement management system to help manage what funds are available.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 8 ESTA Report
None

ITEM NO. 9 Tribal Report
None

ITEM NO. 10 Caltrans Report

Dave Bloom announced that Brad Mettam will be returning to his position at District 9 on Monday, September 26, 2011.

ITEM NO. 11 City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah said that the mobility element doesn't include a truck route. Mailings were sent to 2400 addresses, along with news releases. He reported that there had been a successful open house in May. There was an interest in improvements to Main Street, including a landscaped median, and parking. About 2/3 of the traffic on Main Street is local, and they expect truck volumes to increase. A truck route east of town was suggested as a means to alleviate this. An open house was held on Sept 15, where they received 100 pages of comments, overwhelmingly against a truck route. It was pointed out that a mandatory truck route would not be possible on US 395, because it is on the national network for trucks.

Mr. Grah said the mobility element documents will be ready within the next month or two. He thanked the LTC for their help with funding Warren St.

Bob Kimball noted that at one time there had been an idea to have Warren Street be one way southbound, and Main Street one way northbound. This idea was dropped, as it would have large negative impacts created by disturbances at the tie-ins, and there was little interest.

Doug Thompson asked about the possibility of a business alternate route. Tom Meyers said the law says truck traffic cannot be restricted, but a more convenient route could be made around the town. Mr. Thompson noted that there is a "new culture" created by new businesses in the downtown area. There are more businesses that stay open at night, and are of interest to tourists. Lone Pine is "walkable". It has a wider right of way, and not as much local traffic.

Jim Ellis noted that in Bishop it is hard to find parking. This is needed for growth.

Tom Meyers stated that there will be an ADA upgrade project for Bishop in 2015. All corners and driveways will be torn up, causing significant disruption.

ITEM NO. 12 Executive Director's Report

Courtney Smith stated that the next LTC meeting would focus on Eastern Sierra Transit. He has heard that the Whitney Portal Rd application was not successful and the Ed Powers/ Red Hill Rd. BTA application was also unsuccessful, though he has not yet received written confirmation

ITEM NO. 13 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC
None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10:05.

Attest:

Doug Wilson
Executive Director

By Linda Baffrey, Secretary