



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Doug Wilson
Executive Director

TO: Inyo County Local Transportation Commission

FROM: Doug Wilson, Executive Director

DATE: June 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Unmet Transit Needs Findings - Recommendations

Recommended Action

Your Commission is being asked to a) adopt Unmet Transit Needs Findings as presented by staff and b) approve Resolution No. 2011-08 regarding unmet transit needs.

Unmet Transit Needs Findings

I have reviewed the information presented at the February 24, 2011 Social Services Transit Advisory County meeting and the April 20, 2011 and May 18, 2011 Unmet Needs Hearings. I have also reviewed the information provided by the Social Service Transit Advisory Committee. Finally, in order to evaluate the items presented, I have reviewed the definitions of "Unmet Transit Need" and "Reasonable to Meet." The definitions for the mentioned items were adopted by the ICLTC on May 23, 1995 and are as follows:

An Unmet Transit Need exists if an individual or individuals of any age or physical condition are unable to transport themselves from one location to another. An Unmet Transit Need is, at a minimum, those public transportation or specialized transportation services that are identified in the Regional Transportation Plan and that have not been implemented or funded.

A documented Unmet Transit Need is reasonable to meet if:

A service can be provided which meets a minimum farebox ratio of 10% of operating costs; and

- a) It is transit service for essential intra-county purposes which are defined as medical or dental services, shopping, employment, personal business, or social service appointments; or,
- b) It is a transit service for essential inter-county purposes which are defined as medical or dental services or social service appointments not available in this county or the out-of-county destination is the closest location where the services are available to the origin of the trip; and,

The origin and/or destination of the trip is within two miles of the established area of operation or cohesive community.

20011/2012 Unmet Needs Hearing Context

The Inyo County Local Transportation Commission will not allocate TDA funds to local streets and roads in the 2011/2012 year. All TDA funds will be allocated to TDA eligible set-asides (2% to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, 5% for administration, and 5% for community transit services) or to transit.

Since the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) is not receiving additional TDA funds, ESTA will be able to respond to unmet transit needs that will require additional funding. It is because of these circumstances that the findings below recommend that ESTA should (not shall) investigate serving those unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

Findings/Recommendations

1. There are **no** new transit needs that satisfy the definition of an *unmet transit need* and *reasonable to meet*.

ESTA will still be encouraged to consider providing evening service to Cerro Coso Community College.

Below is a synopsis of comments received and an evaluation of whether these comments meet the definition of *unmet transit need* and *reasonable to meet*.

Testimony Presented at the Social Services Transit Advisory Council Meeting February 24, 2011 Bishop, California			
Name	Need	Unmet Transit Need that is Reasonable to Meet	Next Step
Jean Turner, IMAAA	There is a need for transportation from Tecopa and Shoshone to Pahrump for medical appointments.	This service is currently available on a weekly basis from Shoshone and Tecopa to Pahrump. This is a coordination issue and not an unmet transit need. There have been requests in the past to add a second day to the route. However, the current route does not meet farebox, so a second day of service is not yet needed.	None needed.
Edie Schrader, HHS (1)	Is there any way to get a better connection to the VA Hospital in Reno?	This is a coordination issue. As an informational point, the VA Hospital can be accessed either via bus or cab. Additionally, clients may be able to arrange transportation by the VA Hospital if they call ahead of time.	None needed.
Edie Schrader, HHS (2)	Is there Dial-a-Ride from the Alabama Hills?	There is service on the Lone Pine DAR bus to the Alabama Hills. This is not an unmet transit need.	None needed.
Edie Schrader, HHS (3)	Is there bus service to Cerro Coso College?	This service exists, but not after 5:30 p.m. This is a scheduling issue and not technically an unmet transit need. Since most classes at Cerro Coso are after 6:00 p.m., the Dial-a-Ride services do not really serve the community college when it most needs the service.	Providing this service will require additional service hours. ESTA is encouraged to provide the service at least once nightly when funds allow.
Edie Schrader, HHS (4)	Is it possible to provide bus service to the	The Mammoth Express bus can provide north or southbound service on a call-stop basis from Rovana	None needed.

	Rovana and Round Valley area?	and Round Valley. Riders need to contact ESTA the day before their trip.	
Edie Schrader, HHS (5)	Is there mid-day service to Mammoth?	Yes. The schedule for this bus was recently changed to provide mid-day service. The Mammoth Express route leaves Bishop for Mammoth at 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. Return trips are at 2:05 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.	None needed.
Edie Schrader, HHS (6)	Is there any chance of getting Sunday service to Wilkerson?	There is currently mid-week service to Wilkerson. This is technically a scheduling issue and not an unmet transit need.	None needed.

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**Testimony Presented at the Unmet Transit Needs Workshop
on April 20, 2011 at Independence, California:**

No new unmet transit needs were presented at this meeting.

<p>Testimony Presented at the Unmet Transit Needs Workshop May 18, 2010 Bishop, California</p>

Name	Need	Analysis	Next Step
Jane McDonald (1)	Bishop Dial-A-Ride prices are prohibitively expensive.	This does not qualify as either an unmet transit need or reasonable to meet.	None needed
Jane McDonald (2)	Transportation is needed from Walker to a place that has jobs	Please note that Walker is in Mono County. This will be forwarded to Mono County Local Transportation Commission staff. Additionally, transit service to employment does not qualify as an unmet transit need.	Forward to Mono County LTC
Jane McDonald (3)	There is a need for public transit to San Bernardino from Lone Pine	This has been a continued unmet transit need in the Owens Valley. It is not reasonable to meet because the destination is more than two miles from any current destination. The CREST southbound provides transport to Lancaster and MetroLink.	None needed
Jane McDonald (4)	There is a need for public transit to and from Darwin	This is not reasonable to meet. Darwin is more than two miles beyond any existing public transit service. Give the very small population of Darwin, it is clear that this route will not meet farebox.	None needed
Jane McDonald (5)	There is a need for public transit from Tecopa to Bishop.	This qualifies as an unmet transit need but it is not reasonable to meet. This is more than two miles beyond any existing service. Additionally, the size of the need is such that it is not reasonable to assume this route will meet farebox. There is currently transportation from Tecopa to Pahrump and the route does not meet farebox.	None needed
Nel Hecht (1)	There is a need for specialized medical transit to Loma Linda Hospital in San Bernardino	This has been a continued unmet transit need in the Owens Valley. It is not reasonable to meet because the destination is more than two miles from any current destination. The CREST southbound provides transport to Lancaster and	None needed

		MetroLink. There is currently no service between Ridgecrest and San Bernardino.	
Nel Hecht (2)	There is a need for a shorter layover than 8 hours for individuals traveling to Mammoth Lakes for medical appointments from Bishop.	This is a coordination issue and not technically an unmet transit need. There are three buses per day traveling roundtrip between Bishop and Mammoth and the layover is more like 4 hours.	None needed
Diane Moore	There is a need for fixed route transit or more reliable time sensitive Dial-A-Ride service in the Bishop area.	This is a coordination issue and not an unmet transit need. Fixed route services in Bishop did not meet Farebox and were tried for several years. Therefore, this is not an unmet transit need that is reasonable to meet. There is currently Dial-A-Ride service in the Bishop area. Ms. Moore can schedule an appointment a day ahead of time to have the Dial-A-Ride bus pick her up at a pre-arranged time.	None needed.
Selma Calnan	ESTA should provide monthly charter trips for senior citizens	This is not technically an unmet transit need because it does not access necessary services.	The Bishop Senior Center should coordinate with ESTA regarding this matter.

attachments: -Resolution No. 2011-08
-Selma Calnan May 18, 2011 letter

**INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2011-08**

A RESOLUTION REGARDING UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2011 the Social Services Transit Advisory Committee held a duly noticed Public Hearing to receive testimony identifying or commenting on unmet transit needs that may exist in the County; and

WHEREAS, on April 20 and May 18, 2011, the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission (LTC) held duly noticed public hearings to receive testimony identifying or commenting on unmet transit needs that may exist in the County; and

WHEREAS, the LTC notified persons and organizations that it knows to have an interest in the subject of the hearings; and

WHEREAS, the LTC Executive Director received written communications concerning transit assistance; and

WHEREAS, the LTC has also considered the following factors in its transportation planning process:

1. Identified the size and location of groups with potential transit dependence.
2. Evaluated the adequacy of existing transportation services.
3. Examined potential alternate transportation services and service improvements that would meet potential travel demands; and

WHEREAS, the LTC adopted its definition of "Unmet Transit Needs and "Reasonable to Meet" on May 23, 1995, which are:

"An Unmet transit need exists if an individual or individuals of any age or physical condition are unable to transport themselves from one location to another. Documentation regarding the unmet need and the person's residential address must be provided in a letter addressed to the Executive Director of the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission or by testimony at a public hearing held for the purpose of determining unmet transit needs. An unmet transit need is, at a minimum, those public transportation or specialized transportation services that are identified in the Regional Transportation Plan that have not been implemented or funded."

A documented unmet transit need is "reasonable to meet" if a service can be provided which meets a minimum farebox ratio of 10% of operating costs, and:

- a) It is a transit service for essential intra-county purposes, which are defined as medical or dental services, shopping, employment, personal business, or social service appointments, or
- b) It is a transit service for essential inter-county purposes, which are defined as medical or dental services, or social services appointments not available in this

county or the out-of-county destination is the closest location where the services are available to the origin of the trip; and the origin and/or destination of the trip is within two miles of the established area operation or a cohesive community; and

WHEREAS, the LTC has considered all available information, including that presented at the public hearings, all of which is contained in the ICLTC findings report dated June 15, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ICLTC finds that through the 2011 unmet transit needs process, no medical and social services needs raised meet the definition of being an *unmet transit need* and *reasonable to meet*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Eastern Sierra Transit Authority will be encouraged to investigate the feasibility of those recommendations specifically described in the findings presented on June 15, 2011. After completing an analysis of the cost to provide this expanded service, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority will be requested to present their findings to the LTC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ICLTC has determined that there will be no remaining Local Transportation Funds available to the City of Bishop and County of Inyo for local streets and roads.

Passed and adopted this 15th day of June, 2011, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstains:

Absent:

Chairman, Inyo County Local Transportation Commission

Attest:

Doug Wilson, Executive Director

From: Selma Calnan [selmacalnan@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 9:36 AM

To: Courtney Smith

Subject: unmet transportation needs

Mr Smith

I was unable to attend the unmet needs meeting this morning, but I do want to add to testimony on behalf of the elderly depending on public transportation. . I hear from so many who would like the monthly charter day trips reinstated. They have ignored by ESTA even though the Executive Director acknowledged that cost of the driver was within the budget. The excuse has been that the need to notify all charter service would overwhelm the staff, although it would only involve the creation of an email notice to be cc'd by email. It is logical that the large urban services would not be interested in monthly day trips to the surrounding areas that must return in time for people who have to make connections with their late afternoon, bus trips home.

Thanks for holding this important meeting.

Selma Calnan
advocate for many seniors at the Bishop Senior Center
Vice Chair of IMAAA Advisory Committee
Member of the Board of Directors of IMACA
Past Chair of Social Action, Bishop United Methodist Women.

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