



Siskiyou County Local Transportation Commission
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY

Melissa Cummins, Executive Director
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Minutes of the Siskiyou County Local Transportation Commission

Date: September 26, 2024

The Siskiyou County Local Transportation Commission meeting of September 26, 2024, was called to order by Commissioner Deutsch at 9:31 a.m. at the Siskiyou County Transit Center conference room located at 190 Greenhorn Road, Yreka, California.

Commissioners in attendance included:

Bruce Deutsch
Michael Kobseff
Nancy Ogren
Susan Tavalero
Ed Valenzuela

Commissioners absent from the meeting:

Paul McCoy
Julia Mason (Alternate)
Brandon Criss (Alternate)

Other Staff Present In-Person:

Melissa Cummins, Executive Director
Angie Stumbaugh, Transportation Services Manager
Andy Gilman, Transportation Services Coordinator

The agenda items included:

- 1) Roll Call – Commissioner Deutsch called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Commissioners present included Deutsch, Kobseff, Ogren, Tavalero, and Valenzuela.

- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Presentation from the Public
None
- 4) Consent Agenda Items



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Fiscal Reporting – Informational Only - Reports of Expenditures and Revenues from August 10, 2024, to September 19, 2024, for:

- A. Local Transportation Commission (Fund: 2505)
- B. Regional Transportation Planning (Fund: 2506)
- C. Local Transportation Funds (Fund: 2536)
- D. Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (Fund: 2537)
- E. State Transit Assistance (Fund: 2538)

Regular Informational Items

- F. Transportation Staff Report - Monthly report from General Services on transportation activities and ridership.
- G. Commission Staff Report - Monthly report from Executive Director on activities, reporting, and other projects.

Consent Agenda Action Items

- H. Approval of Minutes of the:
 - Regular Meeting held on August 20, 2024
 - Special Meeting held on September 10, 2024

A motion was made by Commissioner Valenzuela and seconded by Commissioner Kobseff to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ayes: Deutsch, Kobseff, Ogren, Valenzuela
Noes: None
Absent: Criss, Mason, McCoy, Tavalero
Abstain: None

Motion passed unanimously.

- 5) Discussion/Direction/Action - Discussion, direction, or possible action regarding the recent closure of the Collier Rest Area.

The Executive Director provided an overview of the agenda item including the recent notification by Caltrans that the Collier Rest Area was closed on September 16, 2024, and was expected to remain closed indefinitely.

Mike Mogen, Caltrans District 2 Maintenance Division Chief, and Roger Matthews, Yreka Area Maintenance Superintendent, were present in-person to hear concerns



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from the Commission and explain what led to the closure, what alternative options have been pursued, and what steps are being taken to open it as quickly as possible.

Mr. Mogen explained that the water system at the rest area is completely clogged due to sediment from the dam removal. They tried to fire up the pumps in August and one of the pumps ended up burning up. They must go through the entire system to clean it out, which won't happen until the sediment has settled in the river. They are evaluating options for a well. They have tried to dig two wells in the past, which were both unsuccessful.

Caltrans discontinued use of the system when KRRC started removal of the dams in the Klamath River. They will have to dig up the system to determine the extent of the required repairs. Commissioner Deutsch inquires if anything is going to change before spring. Caltrans was hoping they could reopen by Thanksgiving, but at this time they are unsure if that is realistic. They are trying to work with KRRC to determine a permanent fix.

Commissioner Ogren asks the Caltrans representatives what their relationship is with KRRC and how much support they are receiving from KRRC. Mr. Mogen states if Caltrans goes the route of a new well, they will be responsible for the costs. If they try to repair the existing system, they will have to work with KRRC. Caltrans has not filed a claim with the mitigation fund prior to this meeting.

Mr. Matthews explains that the original agreement was executed in December 2024 (approximately). The agreement was for KRRC to provide deliveries of potable water to the rest area. The best option was to accept water deliveries from KRRC, which began in January and continued until May. The water deliveries never stopped until they closed the rest area two weeks ago. The agreement states that KRRC was responsible for damage to the system and all water testing, except for testing required by Caltrans for the potable water.

Caltrans worked diligently with KRRC to keep the rest area open as long as they could. The intake tubes for the system run into the river. The irrigation pumps could only be run for about two hours. The normal water usage for the rest area is 50,000 gallons per day. They reduced usage to about 30,000 gallons per day to attempt to keep everything alive. Once they reduced it to 15,000 gallons per day it was no longer sustainable to keep the rest area open.

Caltrans agreed to turn off the irrigation during high turbidity levels, which were supposed to be short windows. The windows of high turbidity levels turned out to



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be longer than expected. They burned up the potable pump, which was replaced by KRRC.

If Caltrans needs something they contact KRRC. KRRC sends a contractor to address the issues, such as cleaning the wellhead. Mr. Matthews believes KRRC is working on an agreement that will allow a contractor to run a camera up the system to identify the problem.

Additional questions from the Commission included the length of the lines that draw water from the river, the impacts to the water flow during fluctuating water levels, and the general sense of how long the river will be impacted.

Commissioner Ogren provides information on the negative impacts to the Collier Interpretive and Information Center including loss of employment, loss of volunteers, other negative impacts to the surrounding communities, the traveling public, and the potential for fire danger due to the vegetation.

Commissioner Deutsch asked if it was possible to keep the building open. Mr. Matthews advised there are no services available. The water and restrooms are both shut off. During past closures they have had issues with users continuing to utilize the rest area inappropriately resulting in unsanitary conditions and required clean-up.

A gravity fed tank is in place for the irrigation of the vegetation. They made the decision to close due to the significant loss of vegetation including four mature maple trees and the potential damage from visitors walking across the grounds.

Commissioner Kobseff asks about the capacity of the tank. Mr. Matthews advised it is approximately 30,000 gallons. He suggests Caltrans make KRRC fill that tank. Mr. Matthews advised it also requires one person from his crew to accept the water deliveries. This person cannot perform regular maintenance as a result. Commissioner Kobseff states that the Board of Supervisors was told that all these issues were being mitigated by KRRC.

The Collier Interpretive Center is there to promote Oregon and California tourism, and advertisers pay CIIC for that service. This revenue is now gone. He requests the rest area be reopened within the next thirty days. Commissioner Kobseff will support Caltrans with this matter. He does not expect Caltrans to handle it and states KRRC needs to fix the situation.

Commissioner Valenzuela agrees it is KRRC's responsibility to address the situation. This is also on the State of California since they were pushing the dam



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removal. There were unintended consequences, but Commissioner Valenzuela stresses that we need the rest area open.

Mr. Matthews states the resources are coming from the Yreka Caltrans crew. He also confirmed they have not invoiced for any costs related to receiving water deliveries, but they are tracking all costs. They are still sending a water truck to the rest area four or five times per day to get water on the vegetation to keep it out of the critical phase. He is hopeful that with fall rains they can open it back up.

Commissioner Valenzuela feels a well is the long-term solution. Mr. Matthews confirms they are actively working on options for a well that will service the rest area.

Commissioner Kobseff would like a letter drafted expressing the economic damage and the negative impacts of the closure. He also wants the letter to request additional resources for our local Caltrans team. The Commission would like the letter addressed to KRRC, the State of California, and the Governor's Office.

Direction was provided to the Executive Director to draft a letter expressing the Commission's concerns. The draft letter will be sent to Commissioners Kobseff and Ogren to review prior to sending to the various agencies.

- 6) Discussion/Direction/Action – Request to amend the FY 2024/2025 Overall Work Program to incorporate the FY 2023/2024 carryover funds of \$ 55,384.51 and incorporate the grant award for the Siskiyou County Evacuation and Preparedness Plan.

Ms. Cummins provided an overview of the agenda item.

Part 1: The Commission is required to amend the FY 2024/2025 Overall Work Program to incorporate the FY 2023/2024 carryover amount of \$ 55,384.51. Most of these funds are being added to Work Element 605.1 to facilitate a workshop for the various transportation providers in the region to identify existing services, gaps in services, and how we can work together to fill those gaps.

Part 2: This portion is the request to amend the FY 2024/2025 Overall Work Program to include the grant award for the Siskiyou County Evacuation and Emergency Preparedness Plan for a total of \$ 250,136.



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Ms. Cummins notified the Commission there was one correction on the resolution included in the agenda packet. The second paragraph should read:

WHEREAS, the Siskiyou County Local Transportation Commission (SCLTC) was the recipient of a Climate Adaptation Planning grant award of \$ 250,136 for the Siskiyou County Evacuation and Preparedness Plan from the California Department of Transportation's Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program which must be incorporated into the FY 2024/2025 Overall Work Program; and;

Commissioner Kobseff asks about the cost for the proposed consultant for the stakeholder workshop. Additional discussion followed between the Commission and the Executive Director regarding the proposed project. The intent would be to update the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan in conjunction with a workshop for transportation providers throughout the region.

Commissioner Kobseff would like to see positive outcomes with actionable items and not another plan that sits on a shelf.

A motion was made by Commissioner Valenzuela and seconded by Commissioner Tavalero authorizing the acceptance of the FY 2024/2025 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant from Caltrans, adopt a resolution approving the amended FY 2024/2025 Overall Work Program, authorizing the Auditor-Controller's office to amend the Regional Planning Assistance and Local Transportation Administration budgets to incorporate the additional revenues and expenditures for FY 2024/2025, and authorizing the Executive Director to execute all documents necessary to secure funds and to make line-item adjustments to the budget as necessary throughout the year.

Ayes: Deutsch, Kobseff, Ogren, Tavalero, Valenzuela

Noes: None

Absent: Criss, Mason, McCoy

Abstain: None

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7) Discussion/Action – Discussion regarding an application for Senate Bill 125 funding for proposed Saturday service to the Mt Shasta Ski Park.

At the August LTC meeting the Commission discussed a potential trial service to the Mt Shasta Ski Park for the winter of 2024-2025. Since that meeting Ms. Cummins and Ms. Stumbaugh met with a representative from the California State



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Transportation Agency to discuss the use of Senate Bill 125 (SB 125) funds to pay for service. An overview of the proposed project was provided to the CalSTA representative, and they confirmed the project is eligible for funding through SB 125.

Ms. Cummins also contacted County Personnel because the drivers are covered by a union we must meet and confer with their union when proposing to contract out work they would normally perform. She was notified late last week that County Personnel would not be moving forward with the request to submit this to their union because it directly conflicts with the bus driver's job duties. The Executive Director was told that we could not contract out for services.

Ms. Cummins provided County Personnel with the unmet needs presentation from the Commission meeting earlier this year. She explained the challenges STAGE has experienced with hiring new drivers. She proposed the Commission authorize her to submit the application for SB 125 funding. The review is expected to take three to four weeks. During this time, she will continue to work with County Personnel on the contracting issue and start drafting an RFP for a contractor to provide the services.

Additional discussion between the Commission and staff continued regarding requiring existing drivers to work overtime, school bus drivers being utilized to cover the service, and seasonal help as another option.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobseff and seconded by Commissioner Valenzuela to authorize the Executive Director to submit a funding package to the California State Transportation Agency under Senate Bill 125 for Saturday service to Mt Shasta Ski Park.

Ayes: Deutsch, Kobseff, Ogren, Tavalero, Valenzuela

Noes: None

Absent: Criss, Mason, McCoy

Abstain: None

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8) Discussion/Action – Discussion regarding draft policy on local agency requests for changes to allocations from the Regional Surface Transportation Program Block Grant.

Ms. Cummins presented a draft process and policy regarding the re-assignment of allocations under the Regional Surface Transportation Program.



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Commissioner Kobseff suggests using twenty-five percent threshold and removing the dollar amount.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobseff and seconded by Commissioner Ogren to adopt policy # 23-002, with the modification recommended by Commissioner Kobseff, regarding the Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant Program.

Ayes: Deutsch, Kobseff, Ogren, Tavalero, Valenzuela
Noes: None
Absent: Criss, Mason, McCoy
Abstain: None

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9) Discussion/Direction – Presentation and analysis of grant funding sources as requested.

Ms. Cummins provided an overview of the transportation funding programs chart that was included in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Valenzuela stresses that we need to be cognizant that obtaining grants is great, but we have to be able to find drivers.

Commissioner Kobseff would like us to figure out how to get more riders on the buses. He would like us to figure out how to redirect resources to increase riders.

Commissioner Deutsch asks staff if we have any statistics on how many times we have a full bus. Andy Gilman, Transportation Services Coordinator, states the evening bus back to Dunsmuir has been full numerous times. The bus was one of their 16 passenger buses.

This item was a presentation and discussion item only.

- 10) Other Business

A. Executive Director – Other Updates

The Executive Director added the following items to the staff report:



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Ms. Cummins highlighted a few items that were included in the Transportation Staff Report.

Ms. Cummins gave a brief summary of a two-day event she attended in Happy Camp and Orleans (September 24th and September 25th) with other stakeholders including USFS Klamath National Forest, USFS Six Rivers National Forest, Caltrans District 1 and Caltrans District 2, Humboldt County, Karuk Tribe, and Federal Highways.

Commissioner Deutsch asked about the status of the adoption of Siskiyou Transportation Agency JPA. Ms. Cummins provided an update on approvals by the local agencies.

B. Other Business

A few Commissioners like the 9 a.m. start time. There was discussion about moving the LaFCO meetings to after the LTC meetings.

C. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. PST

11)Adjourn – Chair Deutsch adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.