



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



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Executive Director

TO: Inyo County Local Transportation Commission

FROM: John Pinckney, Transportation Planner

DATE: June 16, 2021

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. 2021-06 regarding unmet transit needs.

2021/2022 Unmet Transit Needs Hearing The Inyo County Local Transportation Commission should not allocate TDA funds to local streets and roads in the 2021/2022 year. All TDA funds should be allocated to public transit and TDA eligible set-asides (for TDA administration, 2% to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and 5% for community transit services).

The Unmet Transit Needs process is a valuable exercise in that it lets the Commission, Eastern Sierra Transit, and the public explore the strengths and weaknesses of the transit system. The dialogue at the SSTAC meeting and unmet transit needs hearing provides valuable information to transit entities of changing needs in the area. Eastern Sierra Transit has been effective at modifying their services to meet area transit needs and identifying new sources of funding to provide other services.

Unmet Transit Needs Findings Staff and ESTA has reviewed the information and discussion from the April 2021 Social Services Transit Advisory Council meeting . There were no public comments at either Unmet Transit Needs Hearing (April 21st & May 19th). Staff has compiled a list of the suggestions and requests. They are qualified as to whether they are an unmet need and whether they are possible to accommodate, i.e., “Reasonable to Meet”.

First, the following are the definitions of “Unmet Transit Need” and “Reasonable to Meet.” The definitions were adopted by the ICLTC in 1995 and amended in 2007 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.

Inyo County LTC Unmet Needs SSTAC Committee and Hearings				
Spring 2021				
Item	TRANSIT REQUEST	Unmet Need	Reasonable to Meet	Comments
1	Increase Frequency of Lone Pine / Bishop Connection	no	no	service currently exists
2	Extend Bishop Dial-A-Ride Hours	yes	no	currently working on grant to fund the expansion. However, the TDA allocated to ESTA may fund a modest expansion.
3	Weekend US395 Service	no	no	Expansion is planned, but service already exists on weekdays.
4	Trailhead Service to Whitney Portal	yes	no	not operationally feasible at this time
5	Trailhead Service to Horseshoe Meadows	yes	no	not operationally feasible at this time
6	Trailhead Service to Onion Valley	yes	no	not operationally feasible at this time
7	Trailhead Service to Glacier Lodge	yes	no	not operationally feasible at this time
8	Fixed Route Service in Bishop	no	no	Dial-a-ride currently serves the city.
9	Better Technology / Phone System for Dial-A-Ride	no	no	while system is antiquated, it does exist.
10	White Mountain Research Station Dial-A-Ride Service	yes	yes	service is initiated.
11	Owens River / Poleta Rd. Service	yes	no	not operationally feasible at this time

The SSTAC meeting and Unmet Transit Needs hearings were held in accordance with the Transportation Development Act and the Inyo County LTC Organization and Procedures Manual.

Findings:

The following findings are made in the attached resolution based on the analysis above:

1. A meeting of the SSTAC was held on April 7th 2021.
2. Duly noticed Unmet Transit Needs Hearings were held on April 21, 2021 at the on-line LTC Meeting and on May 19, 2021 on-line.
3. There is one new transit need identified that satisfies the definition of an *unmet transit need* and *reasonable to meet*.

Attachments:

- Proposed ICLTC Resolution No. 2021-06
- SSTAC April 7, 2021 meeting notes