

AGENDA ITEM 3 C
Information Item

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2010
TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority
FROM: Scott A. Ousley, Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Grizzly Flat Flex Route

REQUESTED ACTION:
BY MOTION, Informational Item Requesting Direction from Board

BACKGROUND

At the El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) board meeting on May 6, 2010, staff was directed to further analyze and provide alternatives to discontinuing or modifying the Grizzly Flat route.

Currently the Grizzly Flat flex route operates once a week (Thursday) in an area where demand has been traditionally low. Passengers can call up to fourteen (14) days in advance and request the bus at set locations along the former fixed route. If a minimum of five (5) requests are not received by the proceeding Tuesday, the route is cancelled and the requesting parties are notified.

The one-way fare for the Grizzly Flat route is \$2.75 for general passengers and \$1.35 for seniors and disabled passengers.

One (1) written correspondence and one (1) phone call were received regarding the Grizzly Flat route and are included as an attachment for review.

The following is a statistical data comparison from the first six months of fiscal years (FY) 2008/09 and 2009/10:

	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10	Difference
Farebox Recovery (FBR)	4.55%	5.39%	0.84%
Operating Cost Per/PSGR	\$43.33	\$40.85	(\$2.38)
Operating Cost Per/HR	\$114.38	\$119.14	\$4.76

Operating Cost Per/Mile		\$4.17	\$4.39	\$0.22
Passenger Trip Per/Revenue Hour		2.6	2.9	0.3
Average Fare Per/Mile		\$1.63	\$2.08	\$0.45

DISCUSSION

Increases in the FBR, passenger trips per revenue hour and average fare collected per mile were realized however: increases were also realized in the operating cost per passenger, operating cost per hour and operating cost per mile.

The total expenditures were \$9,922.04 for FY 2008/09 and \$8,048.16 for FY 2009/10. The decrease in expenditures can largely be attributed to the reservation requirements established in FY 2009/10.

Because the FBR does not meet the adopted blended FBR requirement as per the Transit Development Act requirement of 11.5% staff is recommending the following options for consideration:

- Option 1 - Status quo
- Option 2 - Discontinue the service
- Option 3 - Increase the on-way fare to \$5.00 for general passengers and \$2.50 for senior and disabled passengers
- Option 4 - Reduce the service to twice a month and increase the fare to \$5.00 and \$2.50

Staff is requesting Board direction regarding the Grizzly Flat route.

FISCAL IMPACT

To be determined

May 22, 2010

RECEIVED
MAY 24 2010

Mindy Jackson; Executive Director
El Dorado Transit
6565 Commerce Way
Diamond Springs, CA 95619

BY:.....

Re: Grizzly Flat Route

Dear Ms. Jackson:

I am writing to you because of my concerns regarding possible termination of the Grizzly Flat bus route. As a disabled person, living in our mostly rural county, it grows increasingly difficult to obtain reliable transportation to assists me and other riders to maintain independence.

Understandably, these hard economic times affect everyone, including transit. Recently, one of the regular riders on the Grizzly Flat route suggested converting the usual Thursday route into a Dial-a-Ride service. After speaking with my fellow Grizzly Flat passengers, it becomes apparent that we are all willing to pay extra fare in compliance with your Dial-a-Ride policies. I strongly support that idea and hope you will consider that proposal.

Also, we agree that a flat round-trip fare would apply to each of us, whether we use the return service or not. Another possible alternative might include running the bus twice a month instead of weekly.

I greatly value the services transit offers to me as a disabled person. Without them, other disabled persons and seniors would be unable to flex their independent spirits.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Butler
4200 Timber Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

**EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
CONVERSATION RECORD**

El Dorado Transit Employee: Mindy Jackson

Date: May 26, 2010

Contact Name: __Randall Johnson_____ Phone #: ___On File_____

Agency/Company: ___Grizzly Flat Passengers_____

Subject discussed: ___Grizzly Flat Route_____

Notes

Mr. Johnson dated that he is a bus rider, disabled and senior citizen. His transportation is the bus. He suggested that instead of stopping the service to Grizzly Flat that the fare be increased to maybe \$5.00 or operate only twice month with a \$10.00 roundtrip fare.

He stated that the majority of the people that use the Grizzly Flat bus are disabled and live alone, not all are seniors but they live alone. Without the bus it would be a very real hardship.

Mr. Johnson stated that he would be sending a letter to the board next week (week of May 31, 2010).