


AGENDA ITEM 6 A
Information Item

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 27, 2009

TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority
Transit Advisory Committee

FROM: Matt Mauk, Transit Services Assistant 

SUBJECT: Disposition of Citizen Participation Process Comments

REQUESTED ACTION:
BY MOTION,

No action. Information only

BACKGROUND

As required by the Transportation Development Act (TDA) §99238.5, the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) conducted a Citizen Participation Process public hearing for public transportation on April 2, 2009. EDCTC staff received six (6) comments from the public via telephone, e-mail or US mail prior to the public hearing. No comments were received at the public hearing. EDCTC and El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) staff members have sent responses to each of the individuals who provided comments.

DISCUSSION

The comments, as summarized by EDCTC staff with El Dorado Transit responses are provided as follows:

Comment: David Godley suggested that the shuttle go all the way up to Schnell School Road to Woodman Circle on the last run of the day. He indicated he is disabled and that going up that street is a hardship for him and others. He also requested that El Dorado Transit consider expanding service beyond 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. since many people get off work later than 5:00p.m. He also indicated that he cancelled Dial-A-Ride twice recently and a ride showed up anyway.

Response: *Mr. Godley is eligible to request Complementary Paratransit (curb to curb) service within ¼ of a mile of the regular Placerville Shuttle service area during regular service hours. El Dorado Transit staff will contact Mr. Godley to arrange mobility training in the proper procedures for accessing these services. Due to fiscal year 2009/10 budget constraints, El Dorado Transit approved service cuts and fare increases to maintain as much of the core service as possible. No service expansions are planned*

at this time. A twenty-four (24) hour cancellation voicemail system is currently available to Dial-A-Ride passengers. El Dorado Transit staff will contact Mr. Godley to discuss details of the specific incidents in question and if necessary provide mobility training in the proper procedures for canceling a scheduled ride.

Comment: Joellene Vakulich commented that she rides El Dorado Transit often for school, work, training and community service. She explained that she often rides from Pollock Pines to Folsom Lake College. She needs to leave Pollock Pines on the first bus at 6:40 a.m. in order to catch a transfer bus to the Iron Point Connector which arrives at Folsom Lake College by 9:00 a.m. In the afternoons she takes the last Iron Point Connector of the day at 4:41 p.m. which is ideal for departing the college after a day of classes and practices after school. She hopes that the times she relies on will remain; otherwise she will be unable to get to school or work.

Response: A component of the service reductions approved by El Dorado Transit on April 2, 2009 includes adjustments to the Pollock Pines and Iron Point Connector services which will likely impact Ms. Vaculvich's commute pattern. El Dorado Transit staff will contact Ms. Vakulvich to inform her of the approved reductions and discuss possible alternatives. El Dorado Transit will examine the possibility of reinstating services when fiscally viable.

Comment: Carol Glatfelter requested that staff review the opportunity to install a bus shelter at the Rodeo bus stop in Cameron Park. She indicated that recent increases in ridership have increased the number of people waiting for the bus at that stop, even at 6:24 a.m. She indicated that in foul weather many people wait in their cars then run across the street to the bus which creates a safety hazard.

Response: The El Dorado County Park-and-Ride Master Plan, November 2007 Capital Improvement Program includes a proposal for construction of a Cameron Park Drive facility at priority nine (9) of twelve (12). The facility is to be developed in conjunction with future construction of the Cameron Park Drive interchange. Use of street parking at the Rodeo Road bus stop, to which Ms. Glatfelter is referring, was intended as a temporary solution for the lack of Park-and-Ride capacity in the Cameron Park area. El Dorado Transit staff will continue to work with the County of El Dorado and the EDCTC to identify and investigate alternative sites for safe parking and boarding of passengers.

Comment: Annie Walker commented that she is a senior citizen who lives in the Oak Hill area off Pleasant Valley Road. She said the only bus in her area passes by on Pleasant Valley Road once a week about a mile from her residence. She indicated there is no parking available at the stop and that walking about a mile to the stop is not an option for two (2) of her family members. She is against any service cuts and would prefer an expansion of services especially to the rural areas. She indicated that she only recently heard about the Iron Point Connector route and suggested that more publicity is necessary.

Response: Ms. Walker is correct in that the fixed route bus currently servicing her immediate area is the Grizzly Flat route which operates on Thursdays. If Ms. Walker, or any member of her family, plans to use this service and is unable to access the regular bus stop due to temporary or permanent mobility restrictions, she is eligible for off-route deviation services under the guidelines. El Dorado Transit staff will contact Ms. Walker to assist her in applying for these services. Due to fiscal year 2009/10 budget constraints, El Dorado Transit approved service cuts and fare increases to maintain as much of the core service as possible. No service expansions are planned at this time. El Dorado Transit maintains ongoing marketing programs for the Iron point Connector.

Two comments regarding service reductions were received via telephone at EDCTC. Hazel Houk called with a comment in support of continuation of Dial-A-Ride and Sac Med services. Brian Thompson indicated his support for continuation of Saturday transit services.

Response: Components of the service reductions approved by El Dorado Transit on April 2, 2009 include adjustments to the Dial-A-Ride and Saturday fixed route services but not elimination of these services.

Additional comments exclusively focused on proposed El Dorado Transit service reductions were received via e-mail or US mail from Sheryl Lum-Alarcon, Bertha O. Edwards (via Paul Pierce) and Phillip Carson. Each of those comments were forwarded to El Dorado Transit staff and were included in the Public Hearing Documentation provided to the El Dorado Transit Board of Directors at the meeting on April 2, 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT

None