

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: February 24-25, 2010

Reference No.: 2.8c.(1)
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Denix D. Anbiah
Division Chief
Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT COMPLETION FOR LOCALLY-ADMINISTERED STIP PROJECTS, PER STIP GUIDELINES WAIVER-10-08**

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve an extension to the period of project completion for the Lake Mary Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Transportation Enhancement (TE) project (PPNO 09-2502) for 17 months, to December 31, 2011.

ISSUE:

On February 1, 2007, the Commission allocated \$9,195,000 to the Town of Mammoth Lakes (Town) to construct the Lake Mary Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements TE project. On July 18, 2007, the Town awarded a contract. On September 10, 2009, the Commission allocated an additional \$2,579,000 for construction of the same project. Of the total \$11,774,000 allocated, \$8,290,823 has been expended. The Town will not be able to complete the project prior to the project completion deadline of July 31, 2010, and requests a 17-month time extension to December 31, 2011.

BACKGROUND:

Due to severe winter weather, the construction season is mid-June through the end of December each calendar year. At the average project altitude of 8,500 feet, heavy snow prevents progress for approximately five and a half months each winter. Additional time is required to mobilize equipment at the start of each construction season and demobilize at the end of each construction season. As a result, the Town has only been able to work on the construction of this project 17 of the last 30 months.

Approximately 75 percent of the work has been completed to date. Several miles of Lake Mary Road have been realigned to make room for the bike path. Approximately two and a half miles, or 50 percent, of the bike path at lower elevations have been paved. The contractor has started clearing trees and installing stream crossings on the most environmentally sensitive sections of the bike path in the upper lakes basin, at an altitude of 9,000 feet. The project is currently suspended for the winter season.

Heavy snow levels make a resumption of construction activities in these heavily forested areas unlikely before the end of June 2010. The Town anticipates that their contractor will be able to complete the path's rough grade prior to the original deadline of July 31, 2010. Installation of the base rock and paving should be completed by Labor Day, leaving time in the fall to complete the rest areas, view points, and signage. The Town anticipates one more suspension period over the winter of 2010-11 (January 2011 – June 2011). The Town anticipates that they will complete the final items of construction July 2011 through December 2011. The Town requests a 17-month extension to December 31, 2011.

Current State Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines stipulate that a local agency has up to 36 months from the time of contract award to complete (accept) the contract. The local agency has 180 days after the contract acceptance to prepare and submit the final invoices and reports to the Department. The Guidelines further stipulate that the Commission may approve a waiver to the project completion deadline one time only for up to 20 months in accordance with Section 14529.8 of the Government Code.