

AGENDA ITEM 2 A
Action Item

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 2017
TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority
FROM: Scott A. Ousley, Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Grizzly Flat Flex Route

REQUESTED ACTION:
BY MOTION,

Approve the Discontinuance of the Grizzly Flat Flex Route

BACKGROUND

The Grizzly Flat Route began service in 1998 providing fixed route service twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Due to low demand, the service was reduced to a once a week on Thursdays.

Based on low ridership and increasing costs to operate the service, in February 2010, the El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) recommended the elimination of the Grizzly Flat fixed route however; the Board directed staff to re-evaluate the service and provide alternative options. On June 3, 2010 staff presented the following options for this service:

- Option 1 - Status quo
- Option 2 - Discontinue the service
- Option 3 - Increase the one-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

The board directed staff to continue the Grizzly Flat service once a week and set the fare at \$10.00 for general passengers and \$5.00 for senior and disabled passengers per one-way trip.

Effective July 1, 2010, the Grizzly Flat flex route began service. The route operates once a week (Thursday) in an area of the community 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.

Since the changes requiring a minimum of five (5) reservations a trend of cancellations and/or no shows have been occurring frequently with little advanced notice. For example, the route will be scheduled but on the day the route is to run, a same day cancellation will be made or, when the bus arrives at the Grizzly Flat community there will be one or more no shows. Here is a table showing the total number of cancellations and no shows per fiscal year (FY):

	Number of Runs	Cancellations	No Shows
FY 2013/14	14	8	9
FY 2014/15	10	5	15
FY 2015/16	6	0	8

DISCUSSION

The following is a statistical data comparison of fiscal years (FY) 2013/14 through 2015/16:

	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
Trips	120	83	48
Farebox Recovery (FBR)	13.12%	10.30%	8.65%
Operating Cost Per/PSGR	\$45.78	\$55.57	\$57.83
Operating Cost Per/HR	\$133.67	\$139.88	\$131.37
Operating Cost Per/Mile	\$ 4.68	\$4.92	\$5.42
Passenger Trip Per/Revenue Hour	2.9	2.5	2.3
Average Fare Per/Mile	\$6.01	\$5.72	\$5.00

In FY 2015/16, forty-eight (48) total one-way trips were provided on the Grizzly Flat flex route. To date, no trips have been provided in FY 2016/17 due to the lack of demand.

Decreases in the FBR, passenger trips per revenue hour and average fare collected per mile were realized over the three (3) year period however, increases were also realized in the operating cost per passenger and operating cost per mile. The total expenditures were \$2,775.95 for FY 2015/16.

Due to decreasing demand for the service and the challenges of developing driver schedules two (2) weeks in advance staff recommends discontinuing the Grizzly Flat flex route effective July 1, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT

A reduction in operating costs.