



Clint Quilter, Executive Director

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Bishop City Council Chambers
377 W. Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514**

January 20, 2016

9:00 a.m. Doug Thompson called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Rick Pucci
Doug Thompson
Pat Gardner
Jim Ellis
Dan Totheroh
Bob Kimball

Others Present:

Ryan Dermody, Caltrans
Brent Green, Caltrans
Dennee Alcalá, Caltrans
Peter Bernasconi, Bishop Tribe
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
John Helm, ESTA
David Grah, City of Bishop
Ryan Standridge, Secretary
Courtney Smith, staff
Clint Quilter, Executive Director

ITEM NO. 2: Public Comment

None

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3: Election of Officers:

Per the Inyo County Local Transportation By-laws the officers shall be elected at the first meeting of the new year. This consists of the Chair and the Vice Chair. The floor was opened for nominations and Rick Pucci nominated Pat Gardner for the position of Chair and seconded by Bob Kimball. Motion passed 5-0

Nomination for the Vice Chair of Doug Thompson was made by Rick Pucci and seconded by Dan Totheroh. Motion passed 5-0

ITEM NO. 4: Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission – Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2015.

Doug Thompson requested that the last paragraph, last page of the minutes reflect that the bike path goes from Bridgeport to Lone Pine and not Bridgeport to Bishop.

Motion to approve the November 18, 2015 minutes as amended was made by Rick Pucci and seconded by Doug Thompson. Motion carried 3-3 with Bob Kimball, Jim Ellis and Dan Totheroh abstaining.

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 216-01 allocating FY 2015-2016 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds for expansion of the Lone Pine Express fixed route service to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA); authorize the ICLTC Executive Director to sign the Certifications and Assurances; and authorizing ESTA's Executive Director to execute all documents required for the LCTOP submittal, allocation requests, and required reporting.

Jill Batchelder noted that this is the second year of these funding and it is expected to be funded over 10 years. It was approved by the California Legislature in 2014. The objective of these funds is to reduce emissions or help disadvantage communities with transportation. It can be used for the expansion of transit either operations or through capital improvements. They are given out by formula by area and they also take into account your fares and ridership. This is administered by Caltrans and by the Air Resources Board (ARB). The project that ESTA has come up with is the expansion of the Lone Pine route. The project is for a day route that will provide for a mid-day run to Bishop. When you combine this with the other routes, a person can take the noon bus and return home on the 6:30 p.m. bus. It can also connect with the mid-day Mammoth Express for those that are going to Mammoth for medical reasons. ESTA is getting more requests for this type of service, also for the summertime hiking community. The community will now have the morning half day option or the afternoon option or the full day option. The goal of this project is emissions reduction.

Inyo County was allocated just shy of \$18,000. The other funds that are allocated based on ridership. ESTA splits the funds based on the amount of service ESTA performs in Inyo and Mono. A portion of these funds are being applied to this project.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-01 was made by Dan Totheroh and seconded by Jim Ellis. Motion carried 5-1 with Doug Thompson abstaining.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6: Request Commission receive a copy of the Draft Active Transportation Plan 2015.

Courtney Smith gave a brief introduction to the Draft Active Transportation Plan. The Commission and public are invited to comment on the Draft Plan. An environmental document will be released in a month or so. At that time the end of the comment period will be set.

The Active Transportation guidelines provide direction for the creation of an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and further specifies components which should be included in the plan. In an effort to be more competitive for ATP grant funding, the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission (ICLTC) has hired LSC Transportation Consultants Inc. to prepare an ATP for Inyo County. Under the last federal transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, several grant programs were consolidated so as to streamline federal transportation funding. Discretionary federal grant programs such as Transportation Enhancements (TE), Recreational Trails, and Safe Routes to Schools no longer exist but projects eligible activities under these programs are now covered under the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The City of Bishop was successful in obtaining funds for a sidewalk project in the last round. The Commission is not required to act on this matter.

Doug Thompson talked of a volunteer collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management to build a trail connecting the town of Lone Pine with Lone Pine Campground. With this trail hopefully being completed this spring, you will be able to hike from Lone Pine to the top of Mount Whitney. He would like to see a regional project to connect area communities.

Jim Ellis stated he hoped the plan will help the area have more success in obtaining these grant funds.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7: ESTA Report – Quarterly Operating Report – October through December 2015

Jill Batchelder presented the ESTA quarterly operating report. The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority provided 15,910 passenger trips in Inyo County from October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. The passenger trips per hour were 3.22, which is down slightly from 3.29 in the previous fiscal year.

The efficiency standard use by Eastern Sierra Transit is passenger per hour. All Routes meet or exceeded the standards set by the Short Range Transit Plan, except for Lone Pine Dial-A-Ride, Tecopa and 395 route to Reno.

The Mammoth Express ridership shows a drop though that is related to the implementation of the new LCTOP mid-day route. Overall ridership on this route is up. Ridership gains are continuing Bishop Dial-A-Ride and the 395 Route to Reno. Ridership has declined on the US 395 south route to Lancaster. Lone Pine dial-a-ride and the Lone Pine Express has experience ridership declines. This can happen periodically with one family getting a car.

ITEM NO. 8: Tribal Report –

Peter Bernasconi, the new Public Works Director for the Bishop Paiute Tribe introduced himself to the Commission.

ITEM NO. 9: Caltrans Report –

Brent Green provided an update on the Bishop ADA project. Ryan Dermody gave an update on plans for projects on West Line Street and answered questions from the Commission. Ryan state that there have been some issues with turn movements off of W. Line Street and indicated that one option will be to remove the No. 2 lane. Jim Ellis state that he believed that the elimination of the No. 2 lane will be good for public safety. Bob Kimball asked about possible changes at the US 395 and SR 168 (Line Street) intersection. Brent Green replied that Caltrans is looking at all alternatives.

ITEM NO. 10: City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah said that he had met with Caltrans to discuss what the issues are at the US 395 and SR 168 intersection and that Caltrans provided some helpful information. The City is looking forward to move forward on a roadway drainage study. Proposals are due to the City by February 1st. He thanked the LTC for agreeing to fund this project through the Overall Work Program. City staff is working on an RFP to start the Spruce/Yaney/Hanby Sidewalk project.

ITEM NO. 11: Executive Director's Report – 2016 STIP Update

Courtney Smith reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) is going to consider a delay in the adoption of the 2016 STIP at their January 20-21 meeting. The CTC will likely adopt a revised fund estimate that will require $\frac{3}{4}$ of a billion dollars to be deprogrammed from the STIP. CTC staff has indicated that projects that do not leverage funds from outside of the STIP will likely be cut first. Courtney said there is a risk that the construction component of the Olancha-Cartago four lane project will be deprogrammed.

Brent Green stated that the revised fund estimate is based on low gas tax revenues brought about by a reduction in the gas tax and people driving less. District 9 is hopeful Olancha-Cartago will stay in the STIP though it will likely be pushed out a year or two

ITEM NO. 13: Reports from members of the Inyo County LTC

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Gardner adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on February 17, 2016 in the City of Bishop Council Chambers.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By: Ryan Standridge, Inyo County