



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



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Clint Quilter, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Inyo County Board of Supervisors Chambers
224 N. Edwards Street
Independence, CA 93526**

January 17, 2018

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Doug Thompson
Rick Pucci
Dan Totheroh
Bob Kimball

Others present:

Brent Green, Caltrans
Cort Hitchens, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
John Helm, ESTA
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Denise Hayden, Secretary
Clint Quilter, Executive Director
Courtney Smith, Staff

ITEM NO. 2 Public Comment

None

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3 Election of Officers – The LTC By Laws state the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be nominated and then elected at the first meeting of the calendar year. In 2017, the Chair has been

Patricia Gardner and the Vice-Chair Doug Thompson. Patricia Gardner indicated that she does not want to be the Chair in 2018 due to scheduling issues, but is willing to serve as the Vice-Chair.

Nomination of Chair of Doug Thompson was made by Rick Pucci and seconded by Dan Totheroh

Motion passed 4-0

Nomination of Vice Chair of Patricia Gardner was made by Dan Totheroh and seconded by Rick Pucci

Motion passed 4-0

ITEM NO. 4 Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission – Requests approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2017.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Bob Kimball and seconded by Commissioner Rick Pucci. Motion passed 3-0-1 with Commissioner Dan Totheroh abstaining.

ITEM NO. 5 Request Commission consider approval of Resolution No. 2018-01 that 1) authorizes the Executive Director to sign the Certifications and Assurances related to the State of Good Repair program for FY 2017-2018 and 2) approves the ESTA's project list.

Jill Batchelder noted that the SB1 State of Good Repair program funds are new to ESTA this year. There is approximately \$105 million dollars annually to transit operators throughout the State of California. The money is coming through new vehicle registration fees that began at the first of the year that are dedicated for transit. Projects can be transit capital projects, service to maintain transit fleet, design and acquisition of new vehicles and transit services repair and improve local transportation services.

ESTA is being forward a preventive maintenance program. Preventative maintenance is an eligible project for these funds. In the operating world, operating funds are often used to keep the fleet maintained.

Inyo County was allocated \$24,732.00 from the State Controller's office for FY 2017-2018. The timing of this is really good because ESTA will be losing the JARC funding that were being used to operate the Lone Pine Express and the Mammoth Express. That program has come to an end and this program (SB1) is coming in. It was approximately \$80,000 in JARC funding that ESTA was losing between Inyo County and Mono County and the 99314 money that comes through ESTA is about \$71,000.

The funds are being listed for maintenance. Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 2018-01 approving the list and authorizing the Executive Director to sign related documents including the Certifications and Assurances.

Motion made by Commissioner Dan Totheroh and seconded by Commissioner Rick Pucci.
Motion passed 4-0

ITEM NO. 6 Request Commission approve a letter of support for a San Bernardino County Transportation Authority US395 Widening Project grant proposal under the SB 1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program.

San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) is requesting a letter of support for their US 395 widening project grant application for Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) funds. This project is proposed jointly for funding by the SBCTA and Caltrans. The project will widen US 395 from SR 18 (Palmdale Road – MP 11.2) in Victorville to Chamberlaine Way (MP 16.6) in Adelanto. The project is Segment 2 of a three tiered project between I-15 and Desert Flower Road. The draft letter of support includes some background as to our partnerships with San Bernardino and emphasizes the importance of this corridor to our area.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rick Pucci and seconded by Commissioner Dan Totheroh. Motion passed 4-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7 Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Report
Quarterly Operating Report for October through December 2017

Operating statistics – Ridership is up over 11%, up 1,700 riders over last year. Fares are up by about 13%. There is an increase in service hours and service miles and this can be attributed to the expansion of the 395 route going to 5 days a week going to both Reno and Lancaster. The ridership numbers differ with large gains on the Reno/Lancaster route and a drop in the Mammoth Express and the Lone Pine Express. That is due to how the ridership and hours are calculated. With the expansion of the 395 route, that took away from the Lone Pine Express and the Mammoth Express so the calculations are different.

Dan Totheroh asked if these were calculated the old way would we see a zero change. Jill noted that she would have to go back and recalculate these numbers to determine that. Reno had a gain of 450 passengers and Lancaster had a gain of 183 passengers. There was a loss of 250 on the other routes so it is close to a wash with the other calculations.

They are getting new Dial-A-Ride passengers in the Lone Pine area. Total fares collected \$85,000 which is up 17%. All of the routes are exceeding the fare box ratios.

Doug Thompson asked if they will be running the Bishop Creek route again. Jill said that she has not heard from the Board on that but she is anticipating that they will.

John Helm noted that they are going to be conducting an organizational assessment of ESTA on how they are organized and how they provide the services that they deliver. They are in the midst of that study and the results will be delivered in February. The consulting group, The Matrix, has been out for two work visits and have met with all of the staff and they are in the process of implementing an employee wide survey that should be completed next week. They are excited to see the results of this study to make sure that they are organized and delivering the service in the most efficient way possible.

In last month's meeting it was mentioned that John Helm will be retiring in the spring. John said that the timing is good for his retirement with the new organizational assessment. In relation to his departure the Board has requested that they retain the services of a firm to find a replacement to fill the Executive Director's position. That process is also underway. The firm CPS HR Consulting will be meeting with the ESTA Board to finalize the strategy and plans for the marketing of the position which should go out next week. They are looking at roughly a month for the responses. The company will vet the responses and present the results to the Board. The position is to be filled in March or April.

Rick Pucci commented that he was around when John first started and that the job was not easy. He is equally impressed by John and ESTA staff in general. Rick congratulated him and wished him well on his retirement. John said that Rick was correct in acknowledging the staff contribution at ESTA and that it was also their hard work that made ESTA work.

Dan Tothoroh asked if John was going to monetize his organizational system when he retires to sell to others. John said that he has not look into that just yet.

Doug Thompson joined in and said that then it started with Inyo-Mono Transit. When John arrived things started moving forward. It went from one level of service to an entirely different level. Adding service to Red's Meadow and Mammoth Mountain have helped the system overall. What impressed Doug the most was how John went out to all of the different funding sources. The process might have been there before but John brought it up to a new level.

Bob Kimball also added that before John arrived there was a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand was doing with Inyo and Mono operating independently. With John he brought things together to work as one. Well done!

ITEM NO. 8 Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 9 Caltrans Report

Brent Green greeted the Commission and also congratulated John Helm on his retirement and noted that he has only known John for three years but knows that he will be a hard act to follow. Brent said that John is equally respected in Mono County as he is in Inyo County.

Brent said the public will start to see some activity on North See Vee Lane. They are doing some preliminary drainage work with DWP. They will also be doing some work in the South See Vee Lane project. These two projects were originally set to be a few years apart but as things worked out they will be going together this summer.

Next will be the Bishop ADA project. The contractor has been selected and the initial outreach will be with the contractor meeting with the City without Caltrans so that the City has the opportunity to talk to the contractor independently. Caltrans will then come back to the LTC to give an overview of the project. You will want to know what to expect as it moves forward through construction until November. First on the agenda will be for the contractor to meet with all of the business owners on the corridor.

Caltrans gets phone calls all of the time on the four lane projects on the US 395 / SR 14 corridor. The deprogramming of the construction component of Olancho-Cartago was frustrating to District 9 staff. With the SB1 returning money to the STIP – construction will be funded. Also, the ground breaking for the SR 58 four-lane project at Kramer Junction will be this Friday. Brent will be going down for this ceremony.

Dan Tothoroh asked what the Kramer Junction project was all about. Brent said that is it going to be four lane SR 58 all the way from Hinckley. There will also be a significant realignment of the US 395 intersection at Kramer Junction.

Brent introduced Cort Hitchens, transportation planner who works for Mark Heckman who works for Ryan Dermody. Cort will be working on some of the grants the County has received.

Cort said that Caltrans headquarters recently released the FY 2018/2019 sustainable communities planning grant application guides. There are three programs totally just under \$41 million dollars that are open to apply to. The application deadline for these grants to apply is February 23rd. He does have more information if anyone is interested and he also has some grant guides that they can share as well. There are currently 8 grants that are being worked on in District 9 and possibly another one that is coming from Inyo County and City of Bishop coming.

Rick Pucci complimented District 9 and said that they are aggressive and get things done. Normally with the Caltrans schedules you can't understand them. The crew at District 9 has pushed the projects and it's amazing what they have done in our area.

ITEM NO. 10 City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah said that he had the opportunity to drive down and back through Adelanto and he certainly wishes that the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority is successful in four laning US 395. This stretch of road is a real bottleneck.

Dave also joined in to wish John Helm well in his retirement.

The Sebu to School project is on hold and continues to be stuck with DWP. City staff thought that they had made a pretty good breakthrough last year but it continues to get bogged down.

The City is working on a Project Study Report for an East Line Street project. This project will include sidewalks, curbs and gutters and maybe more. He is hoping to get started on this project in the next couple programming cycles.

Work is also progressing on the Spruce, Hanby, Yaney sidewalk project and also the drainage planning project that's funded by the LTC.

Doug Thompson commented that the ADA project in downtown Bishop is going to be a challenge. After the last LTC meeting he took a ride around and was thinking that a block at a time or 1,000 feet at a time of construction is going to impact the City critically. It will probably bring traffic down to one lane in either direction. Doug was thinking about parking on the side streets, pumping the concrete in, etc. He said that there are going to have to be a lot of logistics considered. Brent Green said that having the contractor attend some of the meetings will be key and that they are going to be doing a lot of night work so that they can keep all four traffic lanes open during the day. They are considering traffic, parking, and access to business.

Rick Pucci stated he was pleased to see the North Sierra Highway corridor plan. The only way to get projects moving is to plan for them.

Rick Pucci pointed out how long it has taken to get the Sebu to School project through and we are still fighting with DWP on that. Everyone thinks that it takes a long time, two years, but it has been far longer than that. This should be easy to push DWP because it is a public safety issue for children, but it's still hard to move. This isn't a water issue it's more of a land issue. We need to keep pushing on this as hard as it takes. The Reservation is continuing to push forward with their paths and it will connect with the Sebu to School path.

Dave was asked what the hold-up was with DWP and it appears it is now an appraisal of the land. The City of Bishop had a tentative agreement with DWP to purchase the right of way. The City of Bishop had it appraised and then made an offer based on the appraisal. DWP wants to have it re-appraised and wanted the City of Bishop to agree to pay whatever their appraisal might be. The City of Bishop didn't feel that it was prudent to sign something like that. The City of Bishop has been waiting for DWP to sign the appraisal. First it was August and then it was December. Dave is not sure why the process is slowing down so much. Until the appraisal is completed, the project can't continue. It should not have been this hard of a project.

ITEM NO. 11 Executive Director's Report

FY 2017-2018 First Quarter RPA Invoice

Courtney Smith reported that expenses for the First Quarter RPA invoice were on schedule.

The California Transportation Commission is holding their South State STIP Hearing on the 25th in Irvine and staff is planning on attending. Courtney has mixed feelings on whether the trip is worth it. The LTC may have gotten some political capital from the Mammoth Lakes Town Hall CTC meeting, so Courtney is planning to drive down there and present give a quick overview about the LTC's 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

Clint joined in with the rest of the Commission stating that he has been around a number of transit agencies and he has never been around one that is thought of more highly than ESTA. That is something because they are not always thought of so highly by the communities so that is a true testament to John and his staff and the hard work that they do in the community and how they run a good operation.

ITEM NO. 12 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Bob Kimball: Nothing

Doug Thompson: Doug mentioned the fatal accident that occurred in Olancho, a stark reminder of the need for the 4 lane project. There was an accident in Lone Pine on one of the sidewalks as well. Tourists are driving way too fast through our towns. The signs are helping but this is still a problem.

Dan Tothoroh: Nothing

Rick Pucci: Nothing

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at: 9:35 a.m.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By: Denise Hayden, Secretary