



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Clint Quilter, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

February 15, 2017

9:02 a.m. Pat Gardner called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Pat Gardner, City of Bishop
Doug Thompson, County of Inyo
Bob Kimball, City of Bishop
Jim Ellis, City of Bishop
Dan Totheroh, County of Inyo
Rick Pucci, County of Inyo
Brent Green, (Caltrans District 9 non-voting Ex-Officio member)

Others Present:

Mark Heckman, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
Beth Himelhoch, IMACA
John Helm, ESTA
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Peter Bernasconi, Bishop Paiute Tribe
Carmen Matson, ESTA rider
Joan Stathem, ESTA rider
Tim Noyes, Captain of California Highway Patrol
Denise Hayden, Secretary
Clint Quilter, Executive Director

Courtney Smith, Staff

ITEM NO. 2: Public Comment

Joan Stathem: Stated that the ESTA bus drivers cannot get the mail for the riders any longer. The mailboxes in Joan's apartment complex have been relocated and Joan can no longer reach them. The drivers also cannot unlock her door and this is also difficult for her because she cannot get her wheelchair close enough to reach the door.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3: Election of Officers – The Commission is requested to nominate and then vote to elect commissioners to serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ICLTC for the 2017 calendar year.

Nomination of Chair of Patricia Gardner was made by Doug Thompson and seconded by Dan Totheroh.

Nomination of Vice Chair of Doug Thompson was made by Rick Pucci and seconded by Patricia Gardner.

Motion passed 6-0

ITEM NO. 4: Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission – Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2016.

Motion made by Jim Ellis and seconded by Dan Totheroh with Rick Pucci abstaining. Motion passed 5-0

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve, by Minute Order, the Coordinated Plan Certification for the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 application for a Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program and authorize the LTC Executive Director to sign.

Courtney Smith stated that all of the FTA Section 5310 grant applications need to be included in the Inyo-Mono Coordinated Transit Plan. ESTA is applying to expand their non-emergency medical transportation program that they started over a year ago. The staff report describes in detail the need for this program and how it was specifically referenced in the Coordinated Plan. The Commission is being asked to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Coordinated Plan Certification.

Motion to approve was made by Doug Thompson and seconded by Jim Ellis. Motion passed 6-0.

ITEM NO. 6: Request Commission approve, by Minute Order, the Coordinated Plan Certification for the Inyo-Mono Agency for the Handicapped (IMAH) Federal Transit Administration Section 510 application for a replacement bus and authorize the LTC Executive Director to sign.

IMAH is applying to replace one of their buses. They have been successful in the past in applying for the 5310 applications, staff is recommending that the Commission approve by Minute Order the Coordinated Plan Certification for IMAH and authorize the Executive Director to sign.

Beth Himelhoch was available to answer questions. Jim Ellis asked if they needed a new bus and Beth explained that the large bus that they currently have has broken down and will cost \$10,000 to repair. It will qualify to be replaced. Beth read in detail the repairs needed on the bus. Bob Kimball asked if there was a resale market for this type of used vehicle. The answer was yes, they are usually donated but the cost of disposing this vehicle would be cost prohibitive.

Motion to approve was made by Dan Totheroh and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion passed 6-0

ITEM NO. 7: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2017-01 adopting a new conflict of interest code.

Courtney Smith stated that the Commission has handled the Conflict of Interest Code in a variety of ways in the past. It seemed like there had not been any action on this for quite some time so staff consulted with County Counsel and they produced a new Conflict of Interest Code. The new Conflict of Interest Code will mean that the Secretary will act as the filing officer for the Commission will file the disclosure statements for the required employees and keep copies for the Commission records.

Motion to approve Resolution 2017-01 was made by Jim Ellis and seconded by Bob Kimball. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

None.

(At this time, Patricia Gardner, Chair, went back to the Public comment portion of the meeting because there were two members of the public that arrived after the original Public Comment period was introduced. Public comment was received from Joan Stathem. See Item No. 2 above.)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

ITEM NO. 8: ESTA Report

Quarterly Operating Report – October through December 2016

John Helm: said the overall comparison of ridership is pretty much flat compared to 2015. Overall ridership was down 1.7%. The one thing that stood out was fares went down disproportionality on the US 395 north and south route to Reno and Lancaster. The Reno ridership in particular was up but the fare was down.

The table in the report has not been updated to show passenger miles per service hour. This is a new performance metric that was recommended in their last performance audit and provides a way to measure performance on long distance routes.

Ridership on the Mammoth Express, Bishop Dial-a-Ride and Nite Rider services continue to exceed the SRTP standards. The Mammoth Express is up 15% likely due to a fare promotion. It cut the cost of a 10 punch pass in half. Tecopa percentage wise is down considerably. They have transitioned this route to the Pahrump Senior Center. We don't have all of the reports on this new change yet. It will be in the next quarterly report.

New program: Summer season service. ESTA will provide service to the Bishop Creek recreation area. A meeting was held last month with business and interested citizens. This route will meet both the needs of the locals and hikers from out of the area. ESTA will have regular stops at key locations and allow flag stops if it is a safe place to do so.

Doug asked if there was a possibility if this type of service could be offered to Whitney Portal. John explained that yes, they do have plans in the future to bring this type of service there. Doug explained the difficulties involved with the hikers in that area with parking and the shuttle service.

Jim Ellis thanked John Helm on a great meeting and for adding this service to the area.

ITEM NO. 9: Tribal Report

Peter Bernasconi – Seibu to school path; the Bishop tribe is still planning on moving forward with construction of their part of this project in the spring. The water table on the reservation is very high so they will wait until things have dried out a bit.

The Bishop Tribe also working on a grant for a new bus for the Head Start program.

ITEM NO. 10: Caltrans Report

Mark Heckman –The Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian plan dated February 2017 is out for public review. The plan includes a goal to double walking trips and triple bike trips by 2020. This Plan is available online. It is a statewide plan and you can add your comments directly via the website. Caltrans District 9 staff applied for grant funds to piggyback on this plan to create a specific bicycle and pedestrian plan for Inyo, Mono and Eastern Kern Counties. It won't be until this fall before we find out if the Grant funds are available for this project.

Brent Green –re-introduce himself to the Commissioners, it has been such a long time since the last meeting. He encourages the commission to go online and read the statewide plan that Mark Heckman talked about. This is not exclusively a Caltrans plan; it is a statewide plan for local governments.

The big thing on the Caltrans schedule has been the weather. The Eastern Sierra snowpack is at 253% of normal. This is the highest amount recorded to date. Caltrans sets aside \$150 million each year for emergency repairs. This year they are at \$400 million to date in emergency work. Public phone calls have been very positive so far. There are some that don't understand their plowing policy but there are limited resources available to the entire State. If there are any issues that the commission is aware to, let Brent know. Brent also shared that Caltrans received more phone calls on a misspelled word on their road report webpage than the weather problems.

Nothing has changed on the funding. State government offices are working together to solve the problems. We are all hopeful that something will happen.

The allocation request for the Freeman Gulch Segment 1 construction component was approved by the California Transportation Commission and this project should move forward in the near future.

Caltrans has worked with the City of Bishop on their ADA project to put in ADA-compliant curb, gutter and sidewalks so that all of the concrete will match.

Dan Totheroh thanked Caltrans for helping with the Mt. Whitney rock slide project. Brent explained that the Caltrans staff welcomed the challenge of this project (they like to blow rocks up). He added that the pictures of the rocks being blown up that were posted on the internet have received more hits than anything else District 9 has posted.

ITEM NO. 11: City of Bishop Report

David Grah gave an update on Seibu to school. It has been around since 2008 and been on a holding pattern getting a right of way with City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP). The multi-agency meeting scheduled to discuss this has been canceled since the City of Bishop has reached a tentative agreement with LADWP. The City of Bishop will probably not going to need the LTC-administered TEA Exchange funds that were approved for this project. It was with the letters of the LTC and the other agencies that convinced LADWP to move forward on the project. LADWP did have a few conditions for the project which are very reasonable.

Spruce/Yaney/Hanby sidewalk project; the Draft environmental document should be out in a month or so.

The City of Bishop stormwater drainage plan funded by the LTC is well underway and should be completed in a couple of months or so.

City of Bishop has \$86 million in transportation projects identified. It's good to hear that funding possibilities are around the corner.

ITEM NO. 12: Executive Director's Report

STIP, HSIP, 7 HBP Project Update

Courtney Smith gave a brief overview of County transportation projects. For West Bishop resurfacing; the CTC allocation request for construction should be allocated in March with construction scheduled to begin later in the spring.

South Lake Federal access program the NEPA and CEQA documents have been released for public review. The FHWA is in the design phase. The County is still looking to for matching funds for the construction component. The County will be requesting those funds in the 2018 STIP.

Dehy Park project, the construction has started but is on hold due to weather. Project should be finished in early spring.

South County Highway Safety Improvement project is in the design phase. The construction component - painting of fog lines and installation of the rumble strips - should be completed in 2018.

LTC staff has been responding to some requests for information on area funding needs and providing that to Caltrans and CSAC. State legislative hearings on the State transportation funding bills should begin soon.

Clint Quilter gave an update on Whitney Portal Rock Slide project. Yesterday the Board approved emergency contracts for heavy equipment and geotechnical services. Additionally we the rock scalers should get started this week. This morning there is going to be a safety meeting with the equipment operators the scalers, and all involved parties. There are still rocks hanging so this is a pretty extensive safety meeting on where we are going to work and how we are going to work, where we can stage equipment, who can work up there and how we can keep it safe. The Caltrans drilling crew will be there to discuss the drilling process and how this is going to be done. Caltrans staff has been great to work with and we appreciate their help. We have permits from Army Corps of Engineers, Lahoton Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, US Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Forest Service. We are working with FHWA on the required paperwork as well as through the Office of Emergency Services.

The rocks are going to have to broken into smaller pieces and then spread out from where the rock slide is down to the curve and pushed over the side of the road. The one thing that we cannot do is to push all of the rock over at one spot due to the potential problems that this could cause down below.

We have budgeted somewhere around \$450,000 to just get the rocks off of the road to get one lane open. And then it looks like another \$850,000 to repair and stabilize the road. We won't know what that entails until we get the rocks off of the road and can see the damage.

You can tell that the road is a couple of feet lower than it should be. We are working as fast as we can and taking advantage of the good weather to get as much done as possible. We don't want to wait to spring.

Capt. Noyes: CHP has been working very diligently with Caltrans to keep the highways open. Their biggest problem so far has been the wind. There has been a lot of vehicle damage caused from the wind. That is usually the only time that the highways are closed down.

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

Rick Pucci – Thanked the people working the ground, you're doing an excellent job. It will be an interesting spring with the melting of the record snowpack.

Dan Totheroh: We have had over two years of precipitation in a month; it's remarkable how much has been accomplished. Great job!

Jim Ellis: In Olancho, how is the flooding going to be addressed. Brent Green said that yes there have been two field inspections by their engineering staff. CHP has been working with Caltrans. He applauds all involved with having done a great job.

Doug Thompson: The problem is going to be when all of the snow starts to melt. Our economy is based on the tourists and the transportation corridor. We need to keep the roads open to keep the towns in business. The new shuttle will help the businesses in the Bishop Creek area. He thanked all involved.

Pat Gardner: She thanked everyone for their hard work in keeping the roads open.

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Gardner adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m. The next LTC meeting is scheduled to be held on March 15, 2017 in the City of Bishop Council Chambers.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By: Denise Hayden, Secretary