



**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**

March 18, 2015

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Rick Pucci
Bob Kimball
Joe Peci
Doug Thompson
Mark Tillemans
Laura Smith

Others Present:

Ryan Dermody, Caltrans
Brent Green, Caltrans
David Chursenoff, Caltrans
Brian McElwain, Caltrans
Krista Cooper, Inyo County
John Helm, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)
Jill Batchelder, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Joan Stathem, Member of the public – ESTA rider
Courtney Smith, Inyo County
Denise Hayden, Inyo County
Clint Quilter, Inyo County

ITEM NO. 2: Public Comment

Ryan Dermody, Caltrans District 9 Deputy Director, took this opportunity to introduce Brent Green, Caltrans District 9 Director. Brent gave a brief speech about himself and his new position. He also acknowledged the LTC for its role in programming the current MOU projects. He looks forward to working with everyone.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3: Election of Officers

Courtney explained that the LTC By Laws state that the Chair and Vice Chair positions are voted on at the beginning of each calendar year. He requested the nominations from current Commissioners.

Chairman seat; Doug Thompson was nominated by Bob Kimball. Seconded by Rick Pucci, motion carried 6-0

Vice Chair seat; Mark Tillemans nominated Bob Kimball. Seconded by Laura Smith, motion carried 6-0

ADD ITEM: Caltrans District 9 staff is requesting that the LTC agendaize a letter to the California Transportation Commission requesting a cost increase for State Route 168 (West Line Street) sidewalk project. In order for this to be added to the agenda, the Commission must find that 1) the information was made available after the notice for this meeting was posed, 2) that action is required before the next regularly scheduled LTC meeting and then the added agenda item must be approved by a 4/5 vote.

Caltrans District 9 staff contacted Courtney Smith on Friday, March 13, 2015 after the agenda was posted requesting a cost increase for State Route 168 sidewalk project. California Transportation Commission staff said a cost increase for the West Line Street sidewalks project could be programmed using Inyo LTC RIP fund shares. Caltrans staff indicated that in order to get this to the CTC vote at the May meeting that the proposed letter needs to be submitted by April 6th. This will get the project ready for construction this year and not delayed until next year. Staff asks the Commission to add it at the end of the Action items as Item No. 6A to the agenda.

Motion to add item 6A to the agenda was made by Rick Pucci and seconded by Mark Tillemans. Motion carried 6-0

ITEM NO. 4: Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission – Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2014.

Motion to approve the December 17, 2014 minutes was made by Bob Kimball and seconded by Laura Smith. Motion carried 4-0-2 with Joe Peci and Rick Pucci abstaining.

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2015-01 authorizing the submittal of an FTA Section 5311 apportionment grant with Eastern Sierra Transit Authority as the sub-recipient of \$104,380 and authorizing the Executive Director to sign the required Certifications and Assurances.

Jill Batchelder; the FTA Section 5311 funds are annually apportioned to non-rural areas. This funding can be used for capital, operating or administrative assistance. Historically these funds have been allocated to ESTA for the operation of transit services in Inyo County and going along with the historical use, ESTA would like to continue to use these funds to operate the services in the County. ESTA requests approval so that their application for the funds may be submitted.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-01 made by Mark Tillemans and seconded by Bob Kimball. Motion carried 6-0

ITEM NO. 6: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2015-02 allocating \$6,057 of FY 2014-2015 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds for the expansion of the Mammoth 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 explained that this is a new source of transit funding. The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program is a part of the Transit Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities Program that was established last year. What it is created to do is to provide operating and capital assistance to transit agencies for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to improve mobility with the priority of serving disadvantaged communities. This is formula funding that comes down to Regional Transportation Planning Agency and transit agencies. It is administered by Caltrans and overseen by Air Resources Board. ESTA expects this funding to continue for several years and it does not appear to be a one year funding. ESTA is proposing to expand the Mammoth Express Commuter Route to have an additional bus leave the Bishop area at 6:50 a.m. so Inyo County residents that work in Mammoth area can make an 8:00 a.m. work start. ESTA will continue to have the normal Mammoth Express routes with the addition of a return run at 7:00 p.m. so that those that are working can have an opportunity to work late or to enjoy some of the Mammoth events in the evening and return to Bishop.

ESTA is pooling a little over \$17,000 from Inyo and Mono to provide this service. The way that is coming in is that Mono County was apportioned \$4,608; ESTA was \$6,932, and Inyo County was allotted \$6,057. ESTA was estimating that it would could \$26,000 to provide the additional service for the year and they have estimated \$8,500.00 coming in with passenger fares with 3.5 passengers an hour. The Mono County LTC and ESTA Board have already approved their portion to go towards this project. Now ESTA is asking for Inyo County's approval of their portion to be used for the same.

Motion made to approve Resolution No. 2015-02, made by Commissioner Laura Smith and seconded by Commissioner Rick Pucci. Motion carried 6-0

ITEM 6A: The LTC commission is requesting that the California Transportation Commission provide supplemental funding in the amount of \$585,000 to cover an increase in costs for the West Line Street Sidewalk Project.

There is a draft letter that LTC has been working with Caltrans staff on. Ryan Dermody, introduced Brian McElwain, Project Manager for the West Line Street sidewalk project and Craig Holste, Deputy District Director for Project Management.

Brian McElwain stated that since this project was programmed into the STIP by the LTC there have been some cost increases. The total project cost has increased to \$2,200,000. The changes are an overrun in the plans of the project approval of the environmental document, that amount was about \$129,000 and there were also changes in the labor rates at Caltrans. This cost has gone up for the price of construction support has increased by \$204,000. Caltrans did have some savings in Right-Of-Way capital. They were able to save about \$85,000. Construction has gone up quite a bit, it has increased \$378,000.

The cost increases are due to the increased costs of concrete in the Bishop area and a small increase in the scope of the area, amount of concrete. There has also been an increase in the cost of mobilization costs. If a project is over 65 days in construction Caltrans is required to add in mobilization costs. Caltrans also needed to add in the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance. So, those are some of the reasons for the increase in costs on this project. There wasn't much that could be done to minimize the changes due to the nature of the project. If they had to only construct what was originally programmed into the STIP then they would only be able to run sidewalk from Barlow Lane to Tu Su Lane which would leave a pretty good gap in the sidewalk. Caltrans contacted Caltrans Headquarters and they support the request to ask the LTC to allocate these funds. These funds will be taken from future Inyo County LTC STIP shares.

Commissioners Laura Smith, Bob Kimball, Mark Tillemans and Joe Pecsí asked various questions about the construction of the project. Questions were posed to Courtney regarding the STIP funding as well. Courtney explained the LTC's current STIP funding picture and recommended that the Commission approve this request since this is an important project for the community.

Motion: Motion to approve the STIP funding for this project made by Laura Smith and seconded by Joe Pecsí, motion carried 6-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7: Receive the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Draft Overall Work Program and provide direction to staff.

The Overall Work Program serves as a one year scope of work and budget for transportation planning activities carried out by LTC staff. The year goes between July 1st through June 30th and the OWP is specifically concerned with the expenditure of Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds. We also include a forecast of project-related expenditures for Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds and for Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds. These are the main three types of funding that the LTC receives. With the RPA, the LTC receives \$230,000.00 per year and the LTC can carry over 25% of the funds from one year to the next. Last year we carried over about \$2,000. The OWP describes general work elements and sets forth specific planning-related tasks. Projects to be initiated or completed in the new year include the development of the 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program and presentation of that to your commission. That will then be forwarded to the California Transportation Commission and when they approve the RTIP, it becomes part of the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). This will be coming up later this year. Other tasks include applying for a variety of different grant funds such as Federal Lands Access Program. LTC staff is currently working with a consultant to develop an Active Transportation Program plan. Also, the Inyo County Road Department hopes to complete the update to its Standard Specifications. The County will be entering into negotiations with the Forest Service trying to obtain perpetual easements on some of the roads that are a part of the County Maintained Mileage Systems. The County and City of Bishop are looking to do a pedestrian facilities inventory. The LTC is currently updating the Regional Transportation Plan and this may carry over into the new year.

Staff encourages public comments on draft OWP and the tasks included in it. Public comments should be submitted by April 24, 2015 and your Commission will likely be asked for approval of the FY 2015-2016 OWP at the May meeting.

ITEM NO. 8: Receive the second quarter invoice of Rural Planning Assistance funds in Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

This highlights the invoices that were submitted for the second and the first quarter. So far staff has submitted two invoices of \$37,000 and \$46,000. At this point, the RPA funds have been under expended. Projects tend to bunch up at the end of the fiscal year and staff believe that at the end of the fiscal year we will fully expended allotted RPA funds. Especially with the Regional Transportation Plan update going strong; the Active Transportation Plan being developed and the Pavement Management Program where a consultant will update a third of the system examining the road condition and come up with pavement condition index numbers to use as a quantitative number to identify roadway needs. Also, some funds have been use for planning, programming and monitoring where we have completely invoiced for the fiscal year 2012-2013 PPM funds. Those funds are paid up front and can be used for three years. The TDA funds are derived from a quarter percent of Countywide sales tax receipts and a fixed amount of those are allocated for the administration of the LTC. At this point it does not look like any amendments of the OWP are required at this time. Staff will keep the commission aware as we complete the third quarter invoicing.

ITEM NO. 9: Presentation by Caltrans District 9 staff on the California Transportation Plan 2040

Ryan Dermody explained that just like Inyo County and the City of Bishop, the State is also required to have a transportation plan to keep the State funds and Federal funds flowing. Ryan introduced David Chursenoff to present the California Transportation Plan 2040.

David presented slides detailing the draft plan and including information sheets on the process used to update this plan. This is a long range policy plan that identifies the transportation system that is required to meet statewide transportation needs while meeting the greenhouse gas reduction targets set forth under AB32 and Executive Order S305. This is a high level document so any so any future transportation investments should be compliant with the CTP. The CTP is required by Federal and State law and is updated every five years and it maintains a twenty five year outlook for transportation needs. The CTP 2040 differs from previous plans to include today's technology and demographics and also by looking at vehicle miles traveled as a measure of reducing emissions.

This plan is important to better understand interregional travel patterns and promotes system cohesiveness. It also is a summary of trends, challenges and themes from around the State; it's a forum to elevate issues to policy and decision makers and better coordination in general. It is important for data consistency and transparency on interregional and freight movement.

The timeline for this projects is Public Review Draft Release, March 2, 2015; Workshops throughout March 2015; Comments are due by April 17, 2015; All final Modeling done by July 2015; Final Draft is due August 2015 and the final CTP 2040 goes to the Governor & CalSTA by December 31, 2015.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 10: ESTA Report

John Helm presented a cost by route analysis. It was a recommendation from the last tri-annual performance audit that the cost should be broken down by route. There is a great variation on the cost per route on a general operating basis. This program began in 2013 and it gets updated annually when we get the figures from the previous year analyzed. The cost by route analysis breaks down the cost of the route into different categories such as vehicle maintenance, payroll, operating salaries, benefits, administrative compensation and all other operating costs. The report details how these costs are broken down.

The report shows a breakdown of these costs per route for the routes that are funded from TDA revenues. In general, the operating cost range from \$61 per hour to \$117 per hour. There are a number of reasons for this variation such as the type of vehicle being

used, and the nature of the route. An example would be the US 395 routes to Reno and Lancaster. These routes use a fairly large bus that is not particularly fuel efficient and it operates at 60 mph going down the highway. Per hour, this burns a lot of fuel. Both of the Dial-A-Ride vans and the new Sprinter get almost 20 mpg operating at approximately 14 mph on average. It's an apple to oranges comparison. Another factor is the administrative fees which can vary from year to year as identified in the report. ESTA is compliant with State requirements for farebox on a system-wide basis. ESTA will continue to share this cost by route report annually to provide an additional tool to monitor the services provided by ESTA.

ITEM NO. 11: Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 12: Caltrans Report

Ryan Dermody, Information was passed out showing the projects being done throughout District 9. Ryan will get additional copies to everyone.

David Chursenoff presented updated daily traffic count. David presented traffic count information and how it has changed going back to 1992 for US 6, US 395 and SR 14. The traffic data count presented was for both directions on each highway. Traffic counters for US 395 in Mono County at SR 203, one at SR 108, at Lee Vining, and on US 395 at the Nevada State line. The counter at the SR 203 junction registers about four times the daily traffic as the three counters north of it. In 2013 this was about 8,000 vehicles per day. In US 395 in Inyo County, there are six counters. The highest traffic counter is counted at the SR 168 junction (West Line Street) and in 2013 this was counted at 15,000 per day. The other counters vary between 6,000 and 8,000 per day. There are also three traffic counters on US 395 going through Kern County. The highest of these counters is at SR 14 and in 2013 this was registered at 5,500 vehicles per day. On US 6 there are three counters, the highest at the US 395 junction, in 2013 there were 3,500 vehicles per day. On SR 14, there are three counters with the highest counter at the Mojave junction.

This document is located on the Caltrans website if anyone is interested in more information.

ITEM NO. 13: City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah; Warren Street project. Any questions? The emphasis on Warren Street is more for pedestrians than for vehicle traffic. The schedule is going well and they are anticipating being done by the beginning of May before Mule Days weekend (Memorial Day).

ITEM NO. 14: Executive Director's Report

Clint Quilter; wanted to comment on Doug Thompson's earlier comment about the poor conditions of some of the dirt roads throughout the County. Clint indicated that this is a statewide problem and it does not look like it is going to get any better. CSAC and Rural County Task Force have put together a lot of information that highlights the deteriorating state of roads and bridges and infrastructure. It is not getting any better and the funding is not getting any better. We will be getting a million dollars less from gas taxes this year than we did last year. There are a couple of things that are going on; people are buying less gas because there are higher efficiency automobiles. We have a funding program based on the amount of fuel that is purchased; if people are not purchasing the fuel the funding won't be available. There is a pilot program that is being worked on by the state and they are addressing this situation. In addition to that, there is a portion of our gas tax that is based on the cost of fuel. What happens is that the fuel cost is forecasted a year in advance so if that doesn't occur then there is a true up the following year. What we are running into is last year they assumed that gas was going to cost \$4.50 per gallon so funding was based on that rate but come to find out gas was \$3.00 so for next year they will true that up so it will be another big hit. There is a piece of legislation in the works right now that will smooth out this system. In addition CSAC is approaching the legislation for alternate source of funding and they are not too far along that. This is a huge problem and there are some things in the works to try to smooth out the problem. None of them are solutions to the problem but they recognize that the problem exists, this will take some time.

ITEM NO. 15: Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Bob Kimball: None

Joe Pecs, acknowledges that this is his first meeting. He commented on the alternate truck route and he can see the increase in the traffic in the future. He is hoping that there will be an entrepreneur that will come in to build a nice truck stop.

Laura Smith: We are enjoying working with Caltrans on improving the planters on US 395. Jim Tatum, City of Bishop Administrator, has been talking with Caltrans and sharing some of his horticulture background regarding some of the plants to be planted. They are also looking at the possibility of putting in some shepherd hook planters as well. This in conjunction with the work on Warren Street will help to make Main Street prettier and hopefully this will happen by Mule Days too.

Rick Pucci: None

Mark Tillemans: None

Doug Thompson: Inquired as to when SR 120 will open. This route is very important to both Inyo and Mono counties. It can bring in almost one million dollars a day. So as soon as we can get that opened we can begin to see the benefits. Doug also welcomed Joe Pecs to the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Thompson adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on April 16, 2015 in Independence at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 224 N. Edwards Street Independence.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By Denise Hayden, Secretary