



**INYO COUNTY
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

P.O. DRAWER Q
INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526
PHONE: (760) 878-0201
FAX: (760) 878-2001



Clint Quilter, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**The Building
325 S. Main Street, Lone Pine, CA 93545**

April 16, 2014

9:10 a.m. Doug Thompson called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball
Doug Thompson
Matt Kingsley
Laura Smith

Others Present:

David Bloom, Caltrans
Rick Franz, Caltrans
Cedrik Zemitis, Caltrans
John Helm, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)
Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
Troy and Susie Patton
Courtney Smith, Inyo County
Denise Hayden, Inyo County
Clint Quilter, Inyo County

ITEM NO. 2: Public Comment

None

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3: Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission – Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2014.

Motion: moved by Bob Kimball, to approve the minutes with the corrections as noted by John Helm from ESTA regarding his report, seconded by Laura Smith, carried 4-0.

ITEM NO. 4: Request Commission receive meeting notes from the annual Social Services Transit Advisory Council meeting and conduct a hearing to gather input on unmet transit needs.

Social Service Transit Advisory Council meeting was held at Caltrans Bishop Office on February 26th, 2014. This is a meeting attended by ESTA as well as many of the community transit service providers. There was a healthy discussion from all in attendance. Some of the possible unmet transit needs discussed were the evening bus service to Cero Coso College, non-emergency medical transportation out of the area, and bus access to the Rural Health Clinic in Bishop. The LTC Organization and Procedures Manual require the LTC to hold two Unmet Transit Needs Hearings each year. This meeting today is the first of the two and the second meeting will be at the May LTC meeting to be held on May 21st at the Bishop City Council Chambers. The Commission is not required to do anything at this meeting except to open the meeting to public comment. Beth Himelhock from IMAH mentioned that she had attended the April Mono County LTC meeting and that there is a need for bus service from Bishop to Mammoth on Saturday's. For some of IMAH's physically and mentally disabled clients, ESTA buses are their only transportation. Beth also went on to thank ESTA for all of the work they have done to answer unmet transit needs in the past. Beth said that ESTA has helped IMAH whenever she has asked. Beth expressed how nice it is to work with John Helm and Jill Batchelder at ESTA, stating that the area is very fortunate to have ESTA here. There were no other public comments so the Unmet Transit Needs public comment period was closed.

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2014-07 allocating \$367,879 in Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account funds to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority for improvements at their Bishop operating facility.

The Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) program was approved as part of Proposition 1B in 2006. It has a 10 year life. ESTA is proceeding with some improvements to their facilities at the airport with vehicle storage and training facilities. ESTA will take the lead in this project. John Helm explained ESTA's plans to the Commission. ESTA has held off on their plans because of the questions involved in the lease with DWP land and the airport. Now that the lease has been finalized ESTA is in a position to move forward. Phase I of the project includes paving a one acre area for vehicle maintenance and for a wash pad. They might

also be able to include IMAH vehicles in the usage of these new facilities. Beth Himelhoch added that IMAH would be interested in working out an MOU with ESTA for their vehicle maintenance and the maintenance of the handicap lifts on the vehicles. Currently IMAH has to send their vehicles to Reno for the necessary maintenance. Working with ESTA would save IMAH a great deal of funds to their program.

Motion made to approve Resolution No. 2014-07 was made by Laura Smith and seconded by Matt Kingsley. Motion carried 4-0.

ITEM NO. 6: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2014-08 adopting the Final Inyo-Mono Counties Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update.

The Inyo-Mono Counties Coordinated Plan is required to be updated every five years. The Inyo and Mono County LTC's shared the cost for the update. ESTA took the lead this year by hiring transportation consultants to update the plan.

John Helm added that this is all federal grant applications are required to be derived from a Coordinated Plan. The plan was derived from a number of outreach meetings including social services transit entities. IMAH staff worked very hard to consider any needs that may arise in the future to make sure that they were included in these plans when applying for funds.

Doug Thompson added that it would be nice to be able to one day coordinate all of the entities, Forest Service, BLM, Counties, etc. so that we all shared the monies and the same equipment. Matt Kingsley also agreed with this comment and added that it would be nice to not have expensive equipment sitting around at any facility not being used.

Motion to approve Resolution 2014-07 was made by Bob Kimball and seconded by Matt Kingsley. Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7: ESTA Report

John Helm stated that the quarterly operating report statistics show their services are down overall. The fare box recovery rate was basically flat from last year. There was a 10% decline overall on all routes compared to the previous year. The majority of the routes are meeting their target goals. Tecopa is a lifeline type service that is difficult to gauge. The Reno route saw a decline when the air service began in Mammoth. They are starting to see gradual increases in these services. The US 395 north and south routes see a large increase in the summer months.

ITEM NO. 8: Tribal Report

None

ITEM 9: Caltrans Report

Cedrik Zemitis stated that State Route 120 (Tioga Pass) opened yesterday. The Haiwee Clear Recovery Zone project will widen the outside shoulder and flatten side slopes, install rumble strip and remove boulders from the clear recovery zone. Environmental will be complete May 2013, construction in 2015.

North bound US 395 at Bartlett, the project will perform a cold in-place capital preventative maintenance recycling of the existing pavement from 0.7 miles South of Cottonwood Road to 0.4 miles South of Lubkin Canyon Road.

Shoshone, this is a pavement rehabilitation project. Design will start summer of 2014, construction 2015.

SR 127, this is a pavement rehabilitation project, design complete in spring 2014, construction 2015.

Inyo/Mono Bridge Transition rail, this will upgrade the barrier approach rail at 25 locations, the environmental phase was complete November 2013, construction 2016.

Olancha/Cartago Four-Lane, this is the last of the 4-lane projects in Inyo County. Final environmental studies continue and are expected to be complete summer 2014. Design and Right-of-Way expected to be complete in 2016, construction 2018. Construction funding programmed in the 2014 STIP. Tom Hallenbeck has committed to holding a meeting in Lone Pine to discuss the plans with the public as soon as the final environmental document is complete. The final environmental document should be complete in June or July 2014.

Bishop ADA Compliance, this project would make numerous ADA upgrades along US 395 and SR 168 in Bishop. Feasibility study is complete but project not programmed to begin yet.

Towne Pass Curve Corrections, this project will straighten curves to the east of Towne Pass summit. Environmental Studies will start summer 2014 with construction scheduled in 2019. This will be a multi-year project.

SR 168 Sidewalks, this project proposes to construct sidewalks from Barlow Lane to 0.2 miles west of Pioneer Lane on the North side of West Line Street. Construction is programmed in 2018.

See Vee Lane Signals, this project proposes signaling US 395 and SR168 at the north and south intersection with See Vee Lane.

Amargosa Culverts, this project would replace/upgrade culverts to allow for all of the flood waters to go through. Environmental Studies will start summer 2014, construction 2017.

Caltrans has updated their website with all of these projects and frequently asked questions.

Troy Patton expressed his concern about the preferred alternative for the four laning of US 395 at Cartago. Troy's concern is that the LTC approved funds for a project that no one knows where it is going. There are seven pieces of property that are involved and the property owners want to know what is going on. Susie Patton said that this project appears to be growing from the original plans. Troy Patton said that Tom Hallenbeck said there was going to be a 100 foot median, seventy five feet is the law. Cedrick Zemitis reported that Caltrans wants to make sure that property owners have access to northbound and southbound Hwy 395. These are all part of the plans. The design engineers will be at the public hearing to hear the public concerns. Caltrans is very aware of all of the property owners' concerns and they will address these at the public meeting.

ITEM 10: City of Bishop Report

None

ITEM 11: Executive Director's Report

Courtney Smith: Active Transportation Program, the California Transportation Commission approved the Active Transportation Program guidelines on March 21, 2014. Caltrans released a call for projects. Projects are due to be submitted by May 21st. District 9 is holding a workshop and training this Friday, April 18th which both City and County staff will be attending. Caltrans is technically not eligible to be an applicant by themselves so County staff is working with Caltrans to see if they can work with Caltrans to submit the application(s) for sidewalks on the State highway with the County partnering with Caltrans in some way. The County is hoping to bring this project to the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 6th.

ITEM 12: Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Bob Kimball– None

Laura Smith – Getting ready for the fishing opener. Be patient with all of the traffic. We need to have cake at the May meeting because it will be Matt's birthday.

Matt Kingsley – Appreciates having the meeting in Lone Pine (even though he was late) and thanked Susie Patton for hosting the meeting at The Building.

Doug Thompson – The new Caltrans package presented this month was good and down to earth with a lot of information.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on May 21, 2014 in Bishop at the Bishop City Council Chambers.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By Denise Hayden, Secretary