



# INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Doug Wilson, Executive Director

## MINUTES

### INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

**May 15, 2013**

**9:00 a.m.** Bob Kimball called the meeting to order.

**ITEM NO. 1** Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball  
Rick Pucci  
Jim Ellis  
Doug Thompson  
Laura Smith  
Matt Kingsley (arrived after Item 5)

Others Present:

David Bloom, Caltrans  
John Helm, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)  
Beth Himelhock, IMAH  
Rick Franz, Caltrans  
Gayle Rosander, Caltrans  
Courtney Smith, Inyo County  
Denise Hayden, 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 April 17, 2013.

Motion: moved by Laura Smith, seconded by Jim Ellis, carried 5-0

**ITEM NO. 4:** Conduct a Public Hearing to gather information on Unmet Transit Needs.

Courtney Smith: The Inyo County LTC Organization and Procedures Manual sets forth that there are two Unmet Transit Needs meetings held per year in addition to the Social Services Transit Advisory Council (SSTAC) meeting. One of the unmet transit needs hearings is held in the south end of the County and the other is held in the north end of the County. He further explained what constitutes an Unmet Transit Need. The SSTAC meeting was held in February, the south end hearing was held in April. The LTC will consider formal approval of the LTC findings in June. There have been no unmet transit needs raised this year that meet both the definition of an “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet.”

Bob Kimball asked if there were any members of the public that wished to address the Unmet Transit Needs hearings, no public comment was heard.

Motion to close the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing was moved by: Jim Ellis and seconded by Doug Thompson, carried 5-0

**ITEM NO. 5:** Request Commission adopt Resolution No. 2013-05 making certain findings and authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Certificate and Assurances for an FTA Section 5311(f) grant for interregional rural transit service.

John Helm – ESTA needs to submit the Certificate and assurances with the grant application which certifies that the matching funds, which are 44% of the total project cost for the rural interregional FTA Section 5311(f) routes to Reno in the north and Lancaster in the south, are available to fund this transit service. The LTF funds anticipated for next year are somewhere close to \$750,000.00. The matching funds required under this grant are approximately \$90,000. This is a continuation of the service that ESTA has operated for at least the last 10 years following the departure of Greyhound from the area. It is a vital service to the residents and visitors to the Eastern Sierra. The southbound service from Mammoth Lakes to Lancaster is provided on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The northbound service from Lone Pine to Reno is provided on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 50% of the matching funds total comes from Mono County LTC Funds and 50% will come from Inyo County LTC.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-05: Moved by Doug Thompson, seconded by Laura Smith, carried 5-0

**ITEM NO. 6:** Request Commission adopt Resolution No. 2013-06 approving Amendment No. 3 to the 2012-2013 Overall Work Program.

Courtney: The Overall Work Program serves as a scope of work for those rural planning assistance tasks that the LTC completes over the year. The funding for the tasks needs to correspond with the amount expended so far. This year the expenses have come in high on coordination and regional planning (Work Element 500.1) so we propose to bring that amount up to \$70,000. which will bring us up to about 75% after three quarters. The goal is to line up the funding with LTC expected expenditures. In the last couple of years, rural planning agencies are now allowed to carry over 25% of your rural planning assistance funds. This year we anticipate carrying over some of these funds. This is a minor amendment that does not require approval by Caltrans and is really just a housekeeping matter.

Motion to approve Resolution 2013-06: Moved by Laura Smith and seconded by Doug Thompson, carried 6-0.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

##### **ITEM NO. 7** ESTA Report, Third Quarter Inyo Operating Report

John Helm: Third quarter ridership was flat compared to the prior year, not sure might be due to economics. The Nite Rider route is down a bit. This could be due to the night bus that Rusty's operates. They are starting to see a slight increase, hoping that it continues.

Tecopa route has also increased. This route only runs two Thursday's a month. This is coordinated with the residents of the area.

ESTA is going to do a rider survey soon. This will allow for more information to make sure that the transit needs are being met.

Mule Days will have bus service on Thursday through Sunday on a fixed route. This will be advertised through the Chamber of Commerce, all campgrounds and the Mule Days office.

##### **ITEM NO. 8** Tribal Report

None

##### **ITEM NO. 9** Caltrans Report

Dave Bloom – SR 120 Tioga Pass has opened. Brad Mettam has moved to Eureka, CA, still working with Caltrans. Gayle Rosander will be the interim Deputy Director of Planning until a permanent replacement has been found.

**ITEM NO. 10** City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah – City of Bishop finally has the right-of-way agreement in place at Wye road so they are able to start moving forward with that project. They will begin the 6 month utility relocation process and they hope to begin construction mid-November. Warren Street project, nothing new to report. They are waiting for final design allocations. They are anticipating construction to begin in fall of 2014 and hoping to identify additional funding for this project as a part of the 2014 STIP.

**ITEM NO. 11** Executive Director's Report

Courtney: County submitted a grant to the state parks to fund the completion of a CEQA document for the adventure trails combined use system. They also included a phase two to that grant to include equipment to be used to maintain the roads. We will find out about that in the next month or so.

The County also submitted a Federal Land Access Program grant to reconstruct Whitney Portal Road. We should hear about that mid summer. This program is similar to the former Forest Highways program that Mono County has been able to take advantage of several times. Mono County currently has a Forest Highways project going on Upper Rock Creek Road. A portion of that project is in Inyo County.

This summer we should receive the fund estimate for the 2014 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Caltrans staff has indicated that in this STIP cycle that they are proposing to program the Olancho/Cartago construction component. This is a big event for the LTC. This is going to require the LTC to use all of its STIP funding for up to four cycles of funding. Caltrans has also been working with CTC staff to see if one or two local projects that can be programmed into each STIP cycle to help the LTC to fund this. Caltrans staff is coordinating with the Inyo County LTC and its Eastern California Transportation Planning Partnership (ECTPP) partners. The share for the project cost for Inyo County is around \$48 million; for Mono and Kern Counties it is \$12 million. Kern has competing transportation needs, it will be a significant portion of their apportionment and it will be all of Mono County's apportionment. It will be a big commitment that will test the MOU partnership. It should be an interesting STIP cycle.

The ECTPP partners are considering a few adjustments to the Freeman Gulch MOU to update the dates for the completion of this project and to reflect that this four lane project has been split into three phases for funding purposes. The project is located on SR 14 in Kern County.

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

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on June 19, 2013 in Bishop City Counsel Chambers at 9:00 AM.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 9:33 AM

Attest:

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Doug Wilson  
Executive Director

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By Denise Hayden, Secretary