



**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

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

May 21, 2014

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball
Doug Thompson
Jim Ellis
Mark Tillemans
Rick Pucci (arrived at the end of item #8)

Others Present:

David Bloom, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)
Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
Rick Franz, Caltrans
Tom Hallenbeck, Caltrans
Linda Akyuz, Bishop Paiute Tribe
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 April 16, 2014.

Motion: moved by Bob Kimball, to approve the minutes, seconded by Jim Ellis, carried 4-0-2.

ITEM NO. 4: Request Commission conduct a hearing to gather input on unmet transit needs.

The commission is required to open a hearing on the Unmet Transit Needs. Staff will report the results of the Social Services Transit Advisory Council, the April unmet transit needs hearing and this hearing at the June, 18' 2014 LTC meeting.

There were no public comments, the hearing was closed.

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2014-09 allocating \$50,000 of TEA Exchange funds to the County of Inyo for the completion of the design component of the Ed Powers bicycle lane project.

The County is asking for \$50,000 in TEA exchange funds to fund the design component of this project. The TEA exchange program was a carryover from the TEA Federal Transportation Reauthorization and they exchange the unused funds from 2004 which have been used on various projects. There is currently \$160,000 available in the TEA fund balance, this would reduce the amount available to the City and the County to \$110,000. The environmental component of the project cost more than anticipated. Because this is a Federal project the County was able to use the design funds to complete the environmental component. There is \$463,000 programmed for the construction component of this project as a part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Motion to adopt Resolution 2014-09 made by Jim Ellis and seconded by Bob Kimball. Motion carried 4-0-2.

ITEM NO. 6: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2014-10, a resolution approving 1) the FY 2013-2014 Federal Exchange Program and State Match Program Agreement, Agreement No. X14-6134(017) with the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$212,138, 2) apportioning and allocating Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to the City of Bishop and County of Inyo based on population, and 3) authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Agreement.

The LTC received a significantly larger Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange amount than in previous years. It is a carryover from the Federal Aid Secondary funding stream for federally designated or "on system" roads. This is carried forward from the IS-TEA transportation reauthorization. Every year the County has received a fixed amount of funds. This amount has not changed. In the last year the MPO's agreed to let some of the smaller counties get a modest increase in the way that the distribution was handled. Last year there was \$9,000 to allocate and this year the LTC has received \$212,000 so this is significantly more. Staff looked at potential ways to allocate the funds. One way is to allocate the funds is based on the relative population of the City versus the County. Another way is to allocate it on the distance of federal aid routes. The other way is to do it half way in between. Both of these techniques don't give much to the City of Bishop. If the LTC allocated the funds based on population then it would work out to be approximately \$43,000 for the City of Bishop. LTC looked to other counties to see how their funds were allocated and El Dorado County had a County seat offset for Placerville since it has the highest traffic volumes in the County. That would be similar to our County. Given the respective fund amounts, staff recommends to allocate these funds based on population. The exchange will allow the County and City to do their road projects meeting State requirements and not making the projects subject to Federal requirements which are more onerous.

Bob Kimball asked how much latitude do we have to spend this money, is it restricted funding? The funding is for road related projects. Staff will research if these funds can only be used on federal aid routes or if local routes are eligible. Some other agencies will allocate these funds on a project-specific basis. Some agencies will use it for system-wide maintenance projects for those roads. It is assumed the County and City are using the funds in the latter technique.

Motion to approve Resolution 2014-10 made by Mark Tillemans and seconded by Jim Ellis. Carried 4-0-2.

ITEM NO. 7: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2014-11, a resolution to approve and adopt the Overall Work Program for the Inyo County LTC for FY 2014/2015 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign related documents and to make minor technical changes if required.

The Overall Work Program serves as a scope of work between LTC and Caltrans for the expenditure of Regional Planning Assistance funds. It details tasks and divides them by work element. Comments were received on the draft from Caltrans District 9, the City of Bishop and the County. The comments are summarized in the staff report and minor changes are proposed to the OWP in response to the comments. The County requested the addition of one particular work task. The County is entering into negotiations with the Forest Service and potentially the BLM to obtain perpetual easements and to perfect right-of-way on roads, County maintained mileage system. This project will better make the roads able to be part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program or to qualify for different types of grant funding.

Doug Thompson commented that this is overwhelming to look at all that needs to be done with the small staff we have to do it. Jim Ellis agreed with Doug that there is a lot being done and it has been managed quite well.

Motion to approve Resolution 2014-11 by Bob Kimball and seconded by Jim Ellis. Carried 4-0-2.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 8: Receive correspondence from Caltrans District 9. Discuss the Designation of the District 9 Director or a designee of the director to serve as a non-voting Ex-Officio member of the Commission. Provide direction to Staff whether to agendaize this at a future LTC meeting.

Since this would be a significant change to the By Laws it is important to start with a discussion. This would allow Caltrans to sit at the table and to speak before and after the public testimony to give their insight on Caltrans-related agenda items. A great deal of LTC action items are related to Caltrans in some way. The non-voting Ex-Officio status would let Caltrans participate a little more in depth. Staff did a survey in other similar jurisdictions and found that 6 out of 20 jurisdictions have Caltrans staff in a non-voting Ex-Officio status. The State law sets out the minimum requirements for membership of the LTC. It allows the LTC to conduct activities necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

Tom Hallenback, Caltrans District 9 Director stated this is not an unusual setup as seen throughout the state. Caltrans works so well with LTC and the County that they see this as a great partnership and great collaboration so it would be a great opportunity to participate beyond the public comment period.

Bob Kimball asked if Caltrans felt that the LTC commission has “short-changed” them at the meeting. Tom Hallenbeck said no and that this was discussed with his colleague’s and felt that this would give Caltrans more opportunity to speak during certain parts of the meeting where they would otherwise be confined to the public hearing.

Jim Ellis asked about the flexibility of the RSTP funds. Tom Hallenbeck said that he wasn’t prepared to answer and did not have the specifics on those funds. Jim felt that it would have been nice to have Tom on the Commission to be able to discuss this item when it was presented so that he could have answered some of their questions in a timely manner.

Doug Thompson went on to say he feels that Caltrans would like to give us more information but with their restrictions they can’t. Doug thinks this would be a great opportunity for the LTC to have Caltrans join in.

Jim Ellis thinks that it would be beneficial to all parties to have Caltrans be a part of the Commission.

Given the general consensus of the Commission, staff indicated that this would be agendaized the LTC's consideration at a future meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 9: ESTA Report

Jill Batchelder stated that the Mule shuttle will start tomorrow. They are running a fixed route again and will be adding one hour extra on Friday and Saturday nights to accommodate the Mule Days events. It is at a discounted fare.

ESTA has just signed a new contract for engineering with RO Anderson for the Bishop headquarters facility. They anticipate having a kickoff meeting this week or next week to discuss the parking area structures.

One of the biggest problems in our area is transporting people to non-emergency medical appointments such as at Loma Linda, Ridgecrest, UCLA or wherever there are specialty services. ESTA received grant funds to start a new program that funds mileage reimbursement for a volunteer driver. If someone, because of their medical condition is not able to drive themselves or does not have the financial ability to get themselves to a medical appointment and there is not public transportation to get them there, this program will provide them with a reimbursement. It is a very simple process, they just have to come to ESTA and apply and certify that they are going to be going to a medical appointment and that they cannot drive themselves or they have a financial need. They will have to provide their own driver and ESTA will reimburse them after they have submitted the proper paperwork.

Bob Kimball asked about the insurance for the driver. Jill stated that the driver is required to carry the California minimum insurance; they have to certify that they have a driver's license and vehicle registration. This has been approved by ESTA's legal counsel to make sure that everything is in order.

Jill also noted that these funds only go through the end of September. ESTA is waiting for another announcement to be able to apply for these funds again. They currently have a little under \$20,000 to work with. This is somewhat of a pilot program because they don't know if they will receive any additional funding.

Jim Ellis said that part of living in this beautiful area can be difficult and he applauds ESTA for creating this program and for thinking outside of the box to help our residents.

ITEM NO. 10: Tribal Report

Linda Akyuz, Grant Writer for Paiute Tribe started working with the Tribe in April. She had the opportunity to take a ride on ESTA to Lancaster and enjoyed the ride. The Tribe is still doing the FTA grant for reimbursement with ESTA and is also receiving passes for

the Headstart kids. Also, work is continuing on a grant to replace the Headstart diesel bus to be able to meet the EPA regulations. New roads F, G, & H and the Winuba Lane extension should be finished in July. They are also working on the safe roads to school and working with Caltrans on this project. They are working on the east side of the reservation and are going to see if they can join in with the County and Caltrans with the project on Line Street.

LTC staff added that they will soon be initiating work on an update to the Regional Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan and that they will coordinate with the tribe on these projects.

ITEM 11: Caltrans Report

Tom Hallenbeck – Welcomed LindaAkyuz, Bishop Paiute Tribe, back to Bishop and invited her to contact his office to work with Caltrans on future projects and grants.

All passes are closed because of recent storms and Caltrans is hoping to get them open again as soon as possible.

Caltrans had a memorial remembrance day in May to honor the 183 employees that have been killed in the line of duty. This was a state wide ceremony that was very impressive and emotional.

Be aware of the cone zone, the Caltrans crews will be out working.

ITEM 10: City of Bishop Report

None

ITEM 11: Executive Director's Report

County is working with some consultants on the administrative draft of the environmental impact report for the CEQA document for the Adventure Trails program. The Draft EIR should be hitting the streets in July. The County partnered with Caltrans to submit three Active Transportation grant applications. The County thanks Caltrans for their assistance.

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

Bob Kimball: Looking forward to Mule Days.

Doug Thompson: The road work in Panamint Valley looks really good, they did a nice job.

Jim Ellis: Also looking forward to Mule Days. Thanked Caltrans for painting all of the streets and curbs. He thanked ESTA for all their service.

Rick Pucci: Apologized for being late, he was helping out at Mule Days. They have over 100 more RV's this year. Not everyone is into the mules but rather they camp out at Mule Days in their groups to enjoy a nice weekend in Bishop.

He is pleased that Caltrans and the County partnered together on the Active Transportation Program grants. He said Caltrans people could not be better to partner with. Their hearts are into this area and Rick is very proud to see Caltrans and the County working together to secure grant funding.

Mark Tillemans: He stated that he is pleased to sit on the LTC and mentioned how professional everyone is.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:40 AM

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on June 18, 2014 in Bishop at the Bishop City Council Chambers.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By Denise Hayden, Secretary