



**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**

May 20, 2015

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Rick Pucci
Bob Kimball
Doug Thompson
Mark Tillemans (arrived at item #4)
Laura Smith
Pat Gardner

Others Present:

Ryan Dermody, Caltrans
Rick Franz, Caltrans
Brent Green, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
John Helm, ESTA
Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Joe Pesci, Bishop City Council
Denise Hayden, Inyo County
Courtney Smith, 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 15, 2015.

Motion to approve the April 15, 2015 minutes was made by Laura Smith and seconded by Bob Kimball. Motion carried 5-0-1

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

Courtney Smith stated that this is part of the annual unmet transit needs hearing process. This process began with the Social Service Transit Advisory Council meeting in February and in April the LTC had an unmet transit needs hearing in Independence. The LTC has not allocated any Transportation Development Act fund for streets and roads in twelve to fourteen years. This is a technical exercise and it does provide ESTA with some good feedback to refine their services.

With that the unmet transit hearing was opened and there were no member of the audience wishing to speak so Doug Thompson then closed the hearing.

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2015-04 making certain findings and authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Certificate and Assurances for an FTA Section 5311(f) grant for continued operation of interregional rural transit service.

This grant is what funds the interregional routes going from Reno to Bishop and Bishop to Lancaster. The Section 5311(f) program is for rural inter-city bus routes. It connects rural with urban environments and connects to larger transportation modes such as Greyhound bus lines, airports, and Amtrak. Eastern Sierra Transit has been very successful with this program and being able to maintain the US 395 north and south routes. In the Certification, the LTC is asked to certify that there is funding available for ESTA to meet local match requirements as well as served as a Consolidated Transit Service Agency (CTSA) and has done outreach throughout the region to see if there is anyone else wanting to provide the service or if they could coordinate the service. As far as funding, the Inyo LTC and the Mono LTC have historically equally provided matching funds. As far as the CTSA outreach, ESTA coordinates with the Veteran's Administration and the human service agencies. ESTA is present today to ask the Commission to authorize the Executive Director to sign related documents part of the grant approval process.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-04 made by Mark Tillemans and seconded by Pat Gardner. Motion carried 6-0

ITEM NO. 6: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2015-05, a resolution to 1) approve the Overall Work Program for the Inyo County LTC for FY 2015/2016, 2) to authorize the Executive Director to sign related documents and 3) to make minor technical changes if required.

Courtney Smith explained that the Overall Work Program serves as a scope of work for the activities that are completed with the RPA funds. The OWP was drafted and was sent out to interested parties and partnering agencies, we received comments from Caltrans so the OWP sets forth the tasks that the LTC will be pursuing over the next year. Caltrans comments had a mixture of technical points where a little refinement was needed as well as things regarding eligibility and wording of some of the tasks. Courtney thanks Caltrans; they were very nice to work with on this project. County staff added a task that previously in the year that LTC had committed to providing a hard match for a North Sierra Highway sustainable corridor plan grant that the County and City applied for so that task has been added. Changes are shown are underlined and deletions have been deleted. They are small technical changes; OWP went out for a 30 day public comment period and closed on April 24, 2015. This is for your consideration and will guide the LTC over the coming fiscal year.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-05 made by Laura Smith and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried 6-0

ITEM NO. 7: Request Commission approve an Amendment to the 2009 Inyo County Regional Transportation Plan to include 1) the Spruce Yaney Handy Sidewalk project and 2) the Town to Tract Bicycle Lanes project in Appendix 4I of the Action Element.

Courtney Smith explained that the City and the County are moving forward with applications for Active Transportation Program grant funds. The County, on behalf of the LTC, has hired a consultant, LSC Transportation Consultants who is doing the RTP update to complete these applications. To make it as clear as possible that these applications are eligible for these funds, staff is requesting approval of a minor amendment to the action element. These applications are clearly labeled in the appendix to make sure the application will be eligible for these funds. The last call for projects the County didn't have much luck. Hopefully this time the County and City will submit successful applications.

Motion to approve the Amendment to the RTP made by Rick Pucci and seconded by Pat Gardner. Motion carried 6-0

ITEM NO. 8: Request Commission approve an Amendment to Appendix 5A of the 2009 Inyo County Collaborative Bikeways Plan to include the Spruce, Yaney, Hanby Sidewalk project as a High Priority project.

Courtney Smith explained that the proposed City of Bishop Spruce, Yaney, Hanby Sidewalk project Active Transportation Program grant application is in excess of one

million dollars. The application receives additional points if it is over a million dollars and ranked as a High Priority project in an approved Bikeways Plan. This amendment will add this project to Appendix 5A of the Bikeways Plan.

Motion to approve the Amendment to Appendix 5A made by Pat Gardner and seconded by Laura Smith. Motion carried 6-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 9: Receive the third quarter invoice of Rural Planning Assistance funds in Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Courtney Smith explained this is just a copy of the invoice that LTC submitted to Caltrans for tasks completed as part of the Overall Work Program (OWP) in the current year. This invoice reflects a little bit of a trend where the beginning of the year was under expended and as consultants are brought on board to complete project expenses sort of ramp up over the course of the year. Judging on this invoice, the LTC is on pace to fully expend the Rural Planning Assistance funds in FY 2014-2015. Additionally LTC staff is expending the Planning Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds on a pace where we should completely use the FY 2012-2013 PPM funds in the allotted time. The Local Transportation tax allocation administrative set aside is just provided for information.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 10: ESTA Report

John Helm reported that Mule Days is upon us and ESTA is providing additional transportation services to the Bishop area. ESTA refers to this as the Mule Shuttle, it operates and provides a convenient way for people visiting or participating with Mule Days to get out and about town conveniently. This will run from Thursday through Sunday. It goes throughout town and will be on call for Brown's Town campground, Highlands RV Park, and the Casino.

ESTA closed bids last Friday on the Bishop Yard project. This is the area that has been fenced with safety and security monies that they had but they did not have the funding for the paving of this area. They now have the monies and they are awarding the contract for the project to take place later this summer. This will be a much better area for the buses to be domiciled on than what they currently use. It is about a one acre area that will be paved. They will have a light maintenance pad and a washing pad for the buses. They will install a stormwater clarifier to be treat runoff on the project site.

Next Monday ESTA will start the process to update its Short Range Transit Plan. The contract to complete this update went to LSC Transportation Consultants out of Lake Tahoe. The Short Range Transit Plan is a five year planning document for ESTA to help guide the services that are provided and to measure the effectiveness of their services. This will be a planning process that will take the next six months to complete.

Also this week, Reds Meadow shuttle and Lakes Basin trolley will also kick off their summer service.

ITEM NO. 11: Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 12: Caltrans Report

Brent Green noted that since he has been here it has been a goal to keep the passes open as much as possible. Caltrans usually marks how early and late the passes are open and closed each year. With the inclement spring weather this year, it is more like the passes were opened and then closed, then opened and closed again, before being open for the summer.

State Route 168 Sidewalk project status and update; if you may recall in March, Caltrans District 9 staff asked the LTC to fund through additional RIP shares a cost increase of \$585,000. Your Commission deservedly asked some tough questions. Staff went back to the drawing board. Through a brainstorming exercise, it was decided to seek a second funding source. We decided to use Caltrans "SHOPP" dollars from the ADA program. There are a lot of ADA elements in this program. So, working with Sacramento we were able to gain approval to use SHOPP funds for construction capital and construction support. The RIP funds that are programmed in the STIP for construction capital and support will basically expire at the end of June. The California Transportation Commission will adjust your County's shares during the next County share program. This is good news and is a win-win for everyone. When this job goes out to bid, the funds will be combined and those bidding on the job will not know where the funding comes from.

The second item is called the Caltrans Interregional Strategic Plan (ITSP). Ryan Dermody gave an overview of the ITSP and the process for its consideration. This is a critical plan for this LTC. This has been around for many years and US 395 is designated as a high emphasis focus route in the plan. This is key because there have only been 11 focus routes in the State. Caltrans uses this list to determine where Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funds are going to be spent. That is how Inyo has been able to obtain 40% of the funds for major projects on the US 395 and SR 14 corridor. The MOU partnerships that your Commission has entered into with Mono, Kern and San Bernardino Counties are models for an interregional approach and have made these projects compete well for a limited pool of ITIP funds. Had US 395 not been designated as a focus route the State would be saying, sorry we don't have 40% to bring to the table for you. This year the plan went through a major overhaul and is just in the planning stages. District 9 staff has been concerned that the US 395 and SR 14 corridor were going to be dropped from this plan because the new focus is on a multi modal transportation corridor instead of a highway network. The corridor that the State is looking at is for bicycles, rail, transit and many other items that aren't found in this corridor because cars and vehicles are really the life blood of the Eastern Sierra highway

system. As of today in the draft, US 395/SR 14 are included in the plan. They have re-designated the Eastern Sierra Corridor from being a focus route to a high priority route. It is a draft plan right now. The headquarters that is putting this together is accepting input until June 8th.

Doug Thompson brought up the fact that we see a lot of bicycle traffic in our area. Ryan stated that if you look at the traffic count for our area, it is around 4,000 to 5,000 cars a day where in Orange County there are 400,000 to 500,000 per day on some corridors.

Rick Pucci said that he would like to see the LTC write a letter of support. He thanked Caltrans for all that they have done in our area.

Rick then asked about the issue of painted lines on Main Street. Brent Green answered his comment by saying that the striping truck started at 4:00 a.m. on Monday and at 3:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning. It was unfortunate that there were trailers and trash trucks that drove over the fresh paint. Caltrans did their best to make everyone aware that it was fresh paint but people still drove over it. Brent said that he didn't know what else can be done to keep the traffic off of the fresh paint. Rick Pucci suggested that the pick a different week to paint other than the week of Mule Days. Caltrans was actually waiting for the Warren Street paving project to be completed so that vehicles coming off of the fresh payment would be finished and not do it a second time. Next time earlier would be better.

Clint Quilter stated that though it's not on agenda, unless there is an objection that LTC staff will prepare a comment letter addressing the ITSP.

ITEM NO. 13: City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah

For the Warren Street improvement project; Dave's happy to say that the last sidewalk was poured yesterday. Patching the pavement on South Warren will be done today and that will be it until after Mule Days weekend. Next week we will be putting in concrete crosswalks at Church and Academy. Essential the project will be done. It's time to come down and look at the improvements and visit the businesses once again.

The City of Bishop is working to submit a grant application for the Active Transportation Program. The City appreciates the opportunity to work with the County once again and their consultant, LSC. In conjunction the City has held some public meetings to get some input on active transportation plan projects. There were two meetings last week and two today. Most input confirmed that most of the projects that we have on our project list are good ones. The City was able to add some good projects for future consideration. The City also got a number of comments for projects on Caltrans roadways and County roadways and will pass those on. The City has seen a lot more interest in bicycle facilities.

Laura Smith complemented Dave Grah on the nice design flowers on Main Street. It's a great visual.

ITEM NO. 14: Executive Director's Report

Courtney Smith gave a quick update on Federal Lands Access Program, Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and Highway Bridge Program projects that the County is currently working on. The County is hoping to go to construction on the South Bishop Improvement Project in the coming summer. The Sunland Bicycle Lane project has been incorporated as part of that project. The West Bishop Resurfacing project is moving into the Design phase and Construction is anticipated in spring of 2016. There are several active projects funded by the Federal Lands Access Program. The Upper Rock Creek Road project is mainly in Mono County though the upper most mile is in Inyo County. This project is going into the second year of construction. There have been no mandatory closures on this project though users are subject to a delay of up to 30 minutes. The engineering component of the Whitney Portal Road project is about 70% complete and construction is planned to be next year. The County has been coordinating with the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce, the business at the end of the road, and the Forest Service to get the word out that there will be daily closures between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the morning and between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. The daily closures will only occur when work is being done on the narrow upper parts of the road. This schedule means that construction can be completed in one year. On South Lake Road, the County was short listed for a project that will reconstruct the entire road length and add 3-foot wide bicycle lanes on the lower part from the SR 168 junction to South Fork or Habeggars. Yesterday the County entered into a scoping agreement with FHWA to confirm that the scope and scale of the project is deliverable and the cost is commensurate with the estimate that was submitted. County staff is hopeful that the project will be funded. If it is, the project could go to construction as early as 2017. It is likely that it will be a one season project with no closures but there might be some delays similar to Rock Creek. Since the County applied for a TIGER grant on South Lake Road a few years ago the pavement condition index has dropped by 7 or 8 points which is really getting to the physical point where reconstruction is required. Bridge projects are also in various states.

The Regional Transportation Plan is in Administration draft form and we hope to release that in a couple of weeks for public review and comment. The Active Transportation Program plan should be coming out and release for public review in a couple of months.

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

Bob Kimball: Enjoy Mule Days!

Laura Smith: Very appreciative of the Mule Days parade being held on Main Street (US 395) in collaboration with Caltrans, Highway Patrol, Public Works, City of Bishop, and Police Department. Thanks to all for their assistance.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on June 17, 2015 in Bishop at the Bishop City Council Chambers.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By Denise Hayden, Secretary