



Clint Quilter, Executive Director

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

May 18, 2016

9:00 a.m. Pat Gardner called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Pat Gardner
Dan Totheroh
Bob Kimball
Jim Ellis

Absent:

Rick Pucci, Commissioner
Doug Thompson, Commissioner
Courtney Smith, Staff

Others Present:

Rick Franz, Caltrans
Jad Andari, Caltrans
Dennee Alcalá, Caltrans
Brent Green, Caltrans
John Helm, ESTA
Deston Dishion, City of Bishop
Peter Bernasconi, Paiute Tribe
Joan Stathem
Denise Hayden, Secretary
Clint Quilter, Executive Director

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 20, 2016.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Bob Kimball Dan Totheroh . Motion carried: 4-0

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

Clint opened the meeting by describing what an unmet transit need is about. He also noted that ESTA is doing an outstanding job in meeting these needs in our communities. The findings from the hearings will be presented to the Commission at the June 15th LTC meeting in Bishop.

The public hearing was opened with no members of the public in attendance wishing to speak. Secretary Denise Hayden asked that the hearing remain open during the meeting so that one of the disabled ESTA riders could attend the meeting and make her comments to the Commissioners. The ESTA bus was late in picking her up this morning so was going to be late getting to the hearing.

Joan Stathem did arrive and thanked President Gardner for keeping the hearings open so that she could speak. Joan stated that she just found out this morning that there is only one morning bus running in the Bishop area during the week days. She pointed out how difficult it was for her to arrive on time because of the bus delay and asked if another bus could be added to the morning routes. She went on to express the need to have additional hours in the evenings. She said that those that depend on the buses are not able to attend evening meetings and functions because they would not have a ride home. She said that the last call for a bus during the week is 5:30 and the bus shuts off at 6:00 PM. If they could run until 9:00 PM then the riders could attend a late meeting. Sunday's are also difficult and she asked if the buses could at least run until 3:00 PM. She said that would allow the riders to attend church services and lunch or shopping afterwards.

John Helm thanked Joan for her comments and said that he will check into why the bus was so late in picking her up and why there was only one bus running this morning.

The Commission also thanked Joan for her input and appreciated her attending the meeting.

Clint Quilter stated that the Commission was not required to take any action at this time.

With no others wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed at 9:28 AM.

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2016-08, a resolution to 1) approve the Overall Work Program for the Inyo County LTC for FY 2016/2017, 2) to authorize the Executive Director to sign related documents and 3) to make minor technical changes if required.

Clint reported that a draft of the Overall Works Program (OWP) was presented at the March LTC meeting as well as to Caltrans, City of Bishop, Eastern Sierra Transit, and five of the Tribal Governments within Inyo County. Caltrans has been very involved in assisting us in putting this program together. Clint added that Courtney Smith does an excellent job in putting this together and Pat Gardner added that he is very informative with his reports.

There were a few changes made to the draft copy that was sent and in today's packet are the revisions to the OWP.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-08 made by Bob Kimball and seconded by Jim Ellis. Motion carried: 4-0

ITEM NO. 6: Request commission approve Resolution No. 2016-09 a resolution approving 1) the FY 2015-2016 Federal Exchange Program and State Match Program Agreement, Agreement No. X16-6134(021) with the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$173,895, 2) apportioning and allocating Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to the County of Inyo and City of Bishop based on population, and 3) authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement.

Clint explained how the Federal Exchange Program has worked in the past. The Commission has allocated the funds to the County and City of Bishop based on population. There being no questions, Pat asked for a motion.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-09 made by Dan Tothoroh and seconded by Bob Kimball. Motion carried: 4-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7: Receive the third quarter invoice of Rural Planning Assistance funds in Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Clint stated that this is an information item to let you know about the billing invoice to the State for reimbursement of the RPA funds in the amount of \$54,799.68. As explained in the information presented, the LTC is on pace to expend all of the funds

allocated to the LTC in FY 2015-2016. The floor was then opened up to questions. There were no questions from the Commission.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 8: ESTA Report

John Helm brought up that Mule Days was approaching. This year ESTA will be operating an open air trolley for the Mule Shuttle that is being borrowed from the Town of Mammoth Lakes. This will take visitors from downtown to the Fairgrounds. In addition ESTA has added stops at Brown's Town and Highlands RV Park. ESTA has also extended their hours Thursday – Sunday. They have added limited service through the fairgrounds campgrounds back to the downtown area as requested by the fairgrounds. ESTA will see how this works and report back.

On another note, John stated that the south route to Lancaster has been picking up as well as inquiries into service for the hikers during the summer months. It is shaping up to be a very busy summer.

The Red's Meadows shuttle service will begin on June 18th which is later than normal due to the heavy snow pack.

ESTA has been working with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Forest Service to rehabilitate the Red's Meadows road. All parties realize that the road is deteriorating and that it is a problem, especially for full sized transit vehicles.

ESTA is getting ready to go live with a new real time transit system. They will begin testing in Mammoth and the other routes will follow. They are hoping to have this up and running by Memorial Day Weekend. This promises to be a better system than the current system in place.

ITEM NO. 9: Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 10: Caltrans Report

- Draft US 6 Transportation Concept Report

Jed Andari opened the comments by explaining about the Transportation Concept Report (TCR) and what its purpose is. He asked the Commission to review the documents that were presented in their packets and asked for their feedback. He left his contact information so that the Commissioners could contact him after the meeting if they had any further questions.

Jim Ellis noted that it's good to see Highway 6 mentioned as it is sometimes a forgotten highway. There is a lot of commerce that travels on that highway and it is a very important part of our area. He appreciates Caltrans focus on this road.

- Draft California Sustainable Freight Action Plan

Denee Alcala opened by explaining what this plan is. This was developed in response to Gov. Brown's Executive Order B-32-15. This order directs state agencies to pursue a shared vision to "improve freight efficiency of California's freight system" while reducing its pollution, all the while bolstering the competitiveness of California's goods movement system nationally and internationally.

Some of the items being studied in our area are the electric charging stations, freight infrastructure, bridges, pavement, truck parking and cross jurisdictional sharing of information especially with the Tahoe/Reno Industrial Complex.

Comments are requested by July 6, 2016. Caltrans invites all comments to the plan.

- California State Bike & Ped Plan Regional Forum in Bishop Thursday, June 2nd

This is the first of its type in the State. This is a new policy plan that will promote a multi-modal transportation system that supports active modes of transportation to increase safe biking and walking.

There will be an Agency Forum and Stakeholder Forum throughout the State and in Bishop it will be on Thursday, June 2nd. The Agency Forum will be from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm; the Stakeholder Forum will be from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

All are encouraged to attend and add their thoughts.

- Bike Month

Everyone has been biking everywhere. Interagency challenge, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District is organizing the challenge. This Friday is Bike to work day nationally. Also this Friday at Mountain Rambler Brewery from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, the prizes and awards will be given out to the person that logged in the most miles and to the agency that had the most participants. If you show up on your bike to Mountain Rambler Brewery you will get 20% off your bill.

Denee has bicycling pamphlets to pass out. She will give them to Denise for LTC to pass out. Good information for visitors. They will be distributed throughout town as well.

- Road Charge Pilot Program

This program is the reason that Senate Bill 1077 was created. It is designed to study the effect of the road Charge program and to explore an alternative to the present gas tax system. Today's vehicles go farther with less fuel so the current gas tax can't keep up. The California transportation system is now experiencing a funding shortfall of \$5.7 billion a year. They are looking for volunteers for the program. The rural communities have not been represented so they really need volunteers to participate. This program will go live in July and will last for nine months.

Pat Gardner asked about signing up. She commented on freight and pointed out the damage those vehicles do to the roads. She asked if that is part of the program. Are the trucks paying for part of the fees for the Road Charge program? District 9 staff was not sure how the funding works. Caltrans will look into this and report back.

Brent Green indicated that a lot of the funding, etc. is going to freight. Dan Totheroh commented about participating from the County stand point, should the County be taking part? This is more citizen participating and not necessarily agency participation.

Jim Ellis indicated that people don't trust the government anymore. He said that people are not going for this idea. Brent indicated that the gas tax has not been increased in 20 years. Jim asked how the pilot program is being monitored. Brent indicated that that there are five options, you can just take a picture of your odometer. People who don't like to be tracked can do the reporting themselves.

Clint indicated that with the fuel efficiency of vehicles we have lost 25% of the funding. If you drive an electric vehicle you don't pay a thing for the roads. Gas tax does not work anymore. Mileage driven is a valid source for road funds to come from. This is being done in Oregon according to Clint.

ITEM NO. 11: City of Bishop Report

Deston Dishion mentioned that last Friday the City completed the process to select a consultant for the Spruce Yaney Hanby sidewalk project. He thanks

Peter Bernasconi for his help on the panel. The City will try to get some environmental work done for Pine and Fowler, just scoping out a plan for improvement in this area.

ITEM NO. 12: Executive Director's Report

The Federal Lands Access Program project on Whitney Portal Road is moving along, they are on schedule. Traffic control has gotten better. Ed Powers bike lane should be starting soon. Courtney is at the CTC meeting attempting to get the funding match for the South Lake project. He did put together a sheet with photos of the lake and the road as well as information about what benefits the project will have as a type of sales brochure.

ITEM NO. 13: Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Bob Kimball – Nothing

Jim Ellis – Thanked Caltrans for the newly painted red curbs stating that they look nice. Brent Green explained that they only have one machine that can paint the curbs and it has been broken so it's nice to have it operating again.

Pat Gardner – Apologized for missing the April LTC meeting.

Dan Tothoroh – Nothing

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Gardner adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on June 15, 2016 in the City of Bishop Council Chambers.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By: Denise Hayden, Secretary