



**INYO COUNTY  
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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



Doug Wilson, Executive Director

**MINUTES**

**INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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

**June 19, 2013**

**9:05 a.m.** Bob Kimball called the meeting to order.

**ITEM NO. 1** Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball  
Doug Thompson  
Laura Smith  
Matt Kingsley

Others Present:

David Bloom, Caltrans  
Jill Batchelder, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)  
Beth Himelhock, IMAH  
David Grah, City of Bishop Public Works  
Sonja Velarde, Bishop Paiute Tribe  
Selma Calnan, ESAAA  
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 May 15, 2013.

Motion: moved by Matt Kingsley, seconded by Laura Smith, carried 4-0

**ITEM NO. 4:** Request Commission adopt and approve a). Unmet Needs Findings as presented by staff and b). Resolution No. 2013-07, a Resolution regarding unmet transit needs.

The Social Services Transit Advisory Council met in February and the LTC held two unmet transit needs hearings and no new unmet transit needs were identified. There were some technical issues that were discussed with the drop off at Northern Inyo Hospital. This is a need that is being met. The hospital is working to make a few adjustments.

Resolution No. 2013-07 was approved.

Motion to close the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing was moved by Doug Thompson and seconded by Matt Kingsley, carried 4-0

**ITEM NO. 5:** Request Commission adopt Resolution No. 2013-08 and 2013-09 by separate action apportioning and allocating Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for fiscal year 2013-2014.

These funds are raised by a quarter percent of County sales tax revenue. The process starts back in the spring where the LTC provides an estimate to the transit operators and the community transit providers. Based on the last year there was an increase in the taxable earnings. Based on the estimate, funds were apportioned; the apportionment of funds is just a technicality where you have multiple jurisdictions and one public transit and one community transit agency for both the City and County. This is something that we need to go through based on the Transportation Development Act. With the priorities of the allocations, the first thing that happens is the administrative funds are taken off of the top for the administration of the Transportation Development Act which will include a Triennial Performance Audit towards the end of the year for the second three years that ESTA has been in business. Secondly, there is a bicycle and pedestrian 2% set aside in the amount of \$16,190. At the end of this year the pot will be \$62,492 which it is getting to the point where the City and County can begin to work on a bicycle or pedestrian project. The next 5% (\$39,660) goes for community transit serves provided by the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging which provides services for the elderly. The remainder, \$753,660, goes to Eastern Sierra Transit Service; they are using some of these funds as a match to their Section 5311f Interregional Transit grant. Both entities, ESAAA and ESTA qualify for these funds.

As part of the allocation of funds to ESTA we look at the potential productivity improvements that, at a minimum, were identified at the last Triennial Audit. ESTA includes in the Staff Report a response to that and they are working, making steps forward towards presenting more route specific levels of information as to the expenses

of those routes. Staff recommends approval of Resolutions 2013-08 and 2013-09 by separate actions.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-08: Moved by Laura Smith, seconded by Matt Kingsley, carried 4-0

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-09: Moved by Laura Smith, seconded by Doug Thompson, carried 4-0

Bob Kimball thinks that it is time that the City and County take a look at the bicycle needs. Courtney stated that it is still a small pot of funds available but the City and County do have some needs out there. These funds can go to curbs and there are a variety of pedestrian improvements that the funds can be used for. The Commission expanded the Organization and Procedures Manual by adding an application for the City and County. We could come out with a formal call at some point to initiate proposals or we could just do it at the discretion of the City and County to submit a request.

Current plans: There is an Inyo County collaborative bikeways plan that was approved by the City, County and the Bishop Paiute Tribe. The main purpose for that plan was to access the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funds. These funds are rather difficult to access because the scoring metrics are for the commute oriented. Additionally that program requires upfront environmental studies, that program has not been realized because of this. Matt Kingsley would be interested in exploring the possible usage of these funds in the Lone Pine area.

**ITEM NO. 6:** Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2013-10 allocating an estimated amount of \$96,025 in FY 2013-2014 STA funds to Eastern Sierra Transit (ESTA) for capital expenditures.

The Transportation Development Act has two sources of funding, you have the Local Transportation Funds that were just allocated and the State Transit Assistance Funds. For the State Transit Assistance Funds, the State Controller estimates the amount of funds that will be available in the coming year. This year it's \$96,025. In the past, ESTA has been able to use these funds for operating assistance. There are some efficiency requirements that are required to use these funds for operating assistance and they were not able to qualify for these funds based on the most recent audit information. ESTA has not identified their capital projects yet but they would like to have these funds set aside. The funds have been set aside for them and as soon as they identify their capital improvement projects the funds will be available. These funds can be carried

over for a year. The funds will come to the LTC and the LTC will then put them in an interest bearing account until they are ready to be used.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2013-10: Moved by Matt Kingsley and seconded by Doug Thompson, carried 4-0.

**ITEM NO. 7:** Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2013-11, a resolution to approve and adopt the Overall Work Program for the Inyo County LTC for FY 2013/2014 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign related documents and to make minor technical changes if required.

The Overall Work Program (OWP) serves as a contract especially for the regional planning funds. The LTC receives \$216,000 per year and the OWP serves as a scope of work for these funds. There was a work shop that was held with the LTC Commission to identify as methods or tasks. Staff then released a draft document that was sent out to the area tribal governments, the City, and to Caltrans. We received some comments from Caltrans and the comments were detailed oriented about how some of the tasks were written to make sure that they would qualify for these funds. In addition to the Regional Planning Assistance funds, the OWP also looks at the Planning, Program and Monitoring funds that are programmed in the STIP, also the administrative TDA funds that were allocated previously.

Based on the Caltrans comments, sections were added describing in more detail the highways and road system in the County as well as a section on freight. For a planning project to be undertaken, it needs to be identified as a task in the OWP. LTC staff will now work with the County budgeting process to make sure that funding for projects identified in the OWP are available for use.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-11 moved by Doug Thompson and seconded by Laura Smith, carried 4-0

**ITEM NO. 8:** Request Commission approve 1) an Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding between Inyo County Local Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments, Kern Council of Governments, and Mono County Local Transportation Commission for improvements in the US 395 corridor 2) authorize the execution of the MOU by the Chair and the Executive Director, and 3) authorize the Executive Director to approve minor technical amendments to the MOU.

This four County MOU an agreement was reached as part of the 2002 STIP cycle. As part of that, Inyo County LTC, Kern COG, Mono County LTC, and SANBAG signed the MOU to program funds in order to leverage state funds for the environmental component of a project to four-lane the south end of US 395 between the I-15 and State Route 58. This project struggled for a while. With the High Desert corridor coming in and the LA Metro taking the lead on that project, there is now a plan to move forward that is agreed upon by all the local jurisdictions. The MOU is now out of date. Kern COG is

looking for some kind of general support for the four lane project on SR 58 between I-40 (I-15) and I-5. They want to continue Hwy 58 past its current endpoint on SR 99 and extend it to I-5. This restatement of the MOU in support of Kern COGs projects on SR 58 has no financial impact, just a show of support. The LTC as part of the 2002 STIP cycle allocated \$2 million dollars to the US 395 project. This action refreshes the MOU and adds language in support of Kern COGs efforts on SR 58.

After some discussion, there was a motion to approve the amended and restated MOU moved by: Doug Thompson and seconded by Matt Kingsley. Carried 4-0

**ITEM NO. 9:** Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2013-12, a resolution approving 1) the FY 2013-2013 Federal Exchange Program and State Match Program Agreement, Agreement No. X13-6134(015) with the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$9,299, 2) apportioning and allocating Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to the City of Bishop and County of Inyo, and 3) authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Agreement.

The County receives and exchanges Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds where the funds become State funds and are no longer Federal. This makes it much easier for the County to use these funds. This year with the transition between the SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21 federal transportation reauthorization, there was an additional \$29.5 million dollars statewide of Highway Safety Improvement Program Funds that were available and distributed via the RSTP formula. Instead of being distributed just to the County, these funds are being distributed to the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (the LTC) to allocate by population to each governmental agency in its jurisdiction. The Inyo County LTC is receiving \$9,299 that are being apportioned and allocated by the proposed resolution to the City in the amount of \$1,929 and to the in the amount of \$7,370. These funds are eligible for any type or roadway/road improvement project.

The Exchange agreement needs to be submitted to Caltrans by June 28<sup>th</sup> to avoid a delay. The funds are usually received in 4-6 months. The exchange agreement occurs at the end of the fiscal year so the City and County need to budget for these funds in the 2013/2014 year.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2013-12 moved by: Matt Kingsley and seconded by Laura Smith. Carried 4-0

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**ITEM NO. 10:** ESTA Report

Jill Batchelder – The Red Meadow’s shuttle will be starting on June 27<sup>th</sup> and ESTA is looking forward for another great season up there. The campgrounds are open.

Bob Kimball asked how the wood clearing is going. Jill reported that the wood clearing for the wind storm in late 2011 mainly took place last year with the clearing of trees in public areas, the commercial harvest, and private wood collection.

Laura Smith asked how the new larger vehicles are doing on the narrow winding road. Jill replied that the vehicles were purchased with traveling on this road in mind with a tight turning radius and low gearing.

Lone Pine Express and Mammoth Express are going very well. They are running full buses at both locations. They think the increase is caused by an increase in medical trips and also with all of the hikers on the south end of the County traveling up to Bishop.

ESTA participated in the mobility and accessibility for the elderly workshop in Lone Pine. All parties received a lot of shared information and were able to walk through the town to see where they can make improvements with their service.

No update on the leased office space at the airport.

**ITEM NO. 11: Tribal Report**

Sonja Velarde – Work on the new roads is starting this Friday, June 21, 2013. The Bishop Tribe is working to keep the jobs in house where feasible.

They are also going to talk to Bob Brown of the County Road Department about getting the rest of the County roads resurfaced with Indian Reservation Road funds. They are working with Caltrans to install a sidewalk on Line Street but are waiting for an irrigation line to be moved before work begins.

The Bishop Tribe is going to actively pursue funds for bike paths and safe routes for the kids to get to schools. They are working with the City of Bishop on the project linking the Reservation with the City schools.

**ITEM NO. 12: Caltrans Report**

No Report

**ITEM NO. 13 City of Bishop Report**

Very busy, no report. The Wye Road and Highway 6 intersection project is making great progress. The City just sent a check to Edison for utility relocation. Once that is done the City will begin construction which should start in September.

**ITEM NO. 14 Executive Director's Report**

No report

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

Doug Thompson reported on the increase of hikers on all of the trail heads in his area. Over 1,000 hiking permits were issued this year for hikers who are walking the entire length of the Pacific Crest Trail, which is a record. Last year, there were a record number of hikers on the John Muir Trail. This is great for the economy for all areas in the valley.

Laura Smith reported that she gave some PCT hikers a ride. Their only way to travel to pick up supplies is to take the bus or, on weekends, to hitchhike. They were very nice to give a ride to.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on July 17, 2013 in the southern part of the County.

Bob Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM

Attest:

---

Doug Wilson  
Executive Director

---

By Denise Hayden, Secretary