



**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**

June 18, 2014

9:04 a.m. Doug Thompson called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball
Doug Thompson
Matt Kingsley
Laura Smith
Rick Pucci (arrived at the end of item #4)

Others Present:

David Bloom, Caltrans
John Helm, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
Jean Turner, HHS
Denelle Carrington, HHS
Dennee Alcala, Caltrans
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 May 21, 2014.

Motion to approve the minutes of May 21, 2014: moved by Bob Kimball, seconded by Laura Smith, carried 5-0-1.

ITEM NO. 4: Request Commission adopt and approve a.) Unmet Needs Findings as presented by staff and b.) Resolution No. 2014-12, a Resolution regarding unmet transit needs.

The process was started with a Social Service Transit Advisory meeting in February and the Commission held Unmet Transit hearings in April and May, 2014. Those were noticed and we did not get any new transit needs that met the criteria for being “reasonable to meet” and an “unmet transit need”. The LTC agrees not to allocate any funds for local roads and streets. All of the TDA funds will go to transit eligible activities.

Motion to adopt and approve Resolution No. 2014-12, moved by Matt Kingsley and seconded by Laura Smith, carried 5-0-1.

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2014-13 and 2014-14 apportioning and allocating Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for fiscal year 2014-2015.

This is the yearly allocation. In March the LTC staff sent an estimate to ESTA and Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging on the amount of TDA funds that will be available based on 7 of 12 TDA payments. These funds are apportioned to the City and County. This is merely a technicality as ESTA provides 100% of the transportation within the City and the County as does Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging. The apportionment is a procedural step that we have been asked to do in a prior performance audit. In terms of the TDA allocations, the LTC is allocating the standard base of \$28,212 which is less than 5% of the total funds received. That amount is subtracted from the total and then 2% of that amount will be set aside for bicycle and pedestrian facilities that can be claimed by the City and County. That account will reach about \$79,000 after this year’s allocation of \$16,543. The Community Transit Services allocation is considered next and will allocate the remaining 5% or \$40,531 to Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging who provides trips that cannot be provided by ESTA. The remaining funds are eligible for Eastern Sierra Transit. Eastern Sierra Transit uses these funds for several purposes including their 5311(f) grant match for the north – south U.S. 395 interregional route. ESTA will not have a significant change in their service.

Motion made to approve Resolution No's. 2014-13 and 2014-14, made by Bob Kimball and seconded by Matt Kingsley. Motion carried 5-0-1.

ITEM NO. 6: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2014-15 allocating an estimated amount of \$91,257 in FY 2014-2015 STA funds to Eastern Sierra Transit (ESTA) for operating expenditures.

These funds are typically allocated to ESTA. Last year they did not meet the efficiency standards based on their most recent financial audits so the funds for 13/14 were allocated for capital expenditures. This year because of the audit that just came out they were able to easily meet the efficiency standards and will claim the funds for operating expenses. Basically their operating expenses decreased by 8% since the prior audit.

The County, on behalf of the LTC, is currently holding the FY 2013-2014 funds and ESTA must come forward with a capital project(s) to claim the funds. ESTA has an additional year to do so. The amount for capital projects is around \$100,000. In FY 2014-2015, the State Controller's office indicates that there will be about \$96,000 available though the number will vary from that as these funds are based on a taxation formula on diesel fuel.

Motion to approve Resolution 2014-15 was made by Laura Smith and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried 5-0-1.

ITEM NO. 7: Request commission consider by Minute Order and amendment to the By Laws designating a Caltrans District 9 representative as an Ex-Officio member of the Local Transportation Commission.

District 9 sent a letter to LTC asking for a representative to be designated as an Ex-Officio member of the LTC. We looked up the applicable government code for the formation of the LTC. The code sets forth who the members of the commission are and also says that the LTC may employ staff, enter into contracts necessary to fulfill its responsibilities as a Regional Transportation Planning Agency. Caltrans is looking to participate in conversations before and after a public hearing and to provide advice for the commission. This is a non-voting position.

Rick Pucci is concerned about the Brown Act because Caltrans will often call around and speak to the different agencies prior to attending a meeting. Clint Quilter explained that because they are a non-voting member the Caltrans representative could be considered staff and therefore would not be in violation of the Brown Act. Courtney Smith mentioned that Inyo County Counsel's office also reviewed the staff report and resolution for this agenda item.

Motion to approve the Minute Order made by Matt Kingsley and seconded by Rick Pucci. Carried 5-0-1.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 8: ESTA Report

John Helm addressed the commission with a previous question as to why ESTA did not meet the State Transit Assistance fund efficiency standards for 2012-2013. It was explained that the federal buses they purchased through a grant for the operation of the Reds Meadow shuttle did not arrive in time for that summer season so they had to rent buses from Mammoth Mount. This created a one-time increase in their overall expenditures.

Summer is definitely here and they are transporting quite a few backpackers on the Lone Pine express and the Lancaster/Reno routes. They are here in abundance. They are definitely here and using ESTA's services.

ESTA is off to a great start for the summer season starting with the special Mule Days services. The expanded services for Mule Days were up 25% this year compared to last.

Reds Meadow shuttle opened this year on Memorial weekend and also showed an increase of 35%. The Night Rider services is also picking up.

The Night Rider service will be in operation on Friday, July 4th for those enjoying the 4th of July. Normally the service is also closed on the holiday but because the holiday falls on a Friday this year it is anticipated that more people will be using the bus service.

The engineering work to improve the parking lot at the airport is underway. The contract is with R.O. Anderson. ESTA is hoping to have the construction begin later this year on that project.

ITEM NO. 9: Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 10: Caltrans Report

Dennee Alcalá, the new Office Chief of the Transportation Planning unit introduced herself. The US 395 Transportation Concept Report (TCR) is in the packet and the SR 136 TCR was handed out at this meeting. These are a look at our State highways as they currently stand to see what the needs are. The TCR's are in draft forms and District 9 staff welcome all ideas and information from anyone. Please submit any comments within two weeks.

Matt Kingsley asked Dennee about US 395 being called the Three Flags Highway. Dennee has heard that but did not any additional information on that subject. Discussion continued with the other Commissioners offering information on this subject.

ITEM NO. 11: City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah added to the previous conversation about the Three Flags Highway and he added that it was at one time called El Camino Sierra.

The Wye Road Intersection improvement project is now complete. The Pine to Park path project started construction last week and it is going very well. This week they started stamping concrete with mule hoof prints. It adds some interest to the project. They only had two bidders on this project because it is federally funded which requires so much information from the contractors. If the City can pursue State funding it would be easier for the contractors to bid the project. LTC allocated \$80,000 before bids were received and it looks like the City will use very little of this funding to complete this project since the bid came in reasonably.

The Warren Street project in downtown Bishop, because of its size, will be phased. Next week the California Transportation Commission will be considering allocation of funds for the construction of the first phase of this project which is scheduled to begin February 2015. The City looks forward to working with the LTC for the funding of the remaining phases of this project.

The last active project that the City is working on is the Sebu to School Path project. The construction of this project is on City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) property and they are not receptive to the project. The City will continue to work with DWP to see if they can come together with that project.

Matt Kingsley asked if there were different concrete stamps for the park. Dave Grah explained that they also have a duck print stamp and some deer hoof stamps. The City is planning on using all three stamps on the new Pine to Park Path.

ITEM NO. 12: Executive Director's Report

The County is in the final stages in coming out with the environmental report for the proposed Adventure Trails combined-use project. That should be hitting the street in early July. The County released a Request for Proposal for an update to the Regional Transportation Plan and the creation of an Active Transportation Program plan. Proposals are due by July 18th.

There will be a meeting on the See Vee Lane Extension project to get feedback from the community on Wednesday, July 9th at 6:30 Pm at the Fairgrounds Home Economics building. Anyone interested in this project is encouraged to attend.

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

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on July 16, 2014 in Independence at the County Board of Supervisors chambers, 224 N. Edwards, Independence.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By Denise Hayden, Secretary