



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**

June 15, 2016

9:01 a.m. Pat Gardner called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Pat Gardner, City of Bishop
Doug Thompson, County of Inyo (left the meeting at item #12)
Rick Pucci, County of Inyo
Bob Kimball, City of Bishop
Brent Green, (Caltrans District 9 non-voting Ex-Officio member)

Absent:

Dan Totheroh, County of Inyo
Jim Ellis, City of Bishop

Others Present:

John Fox, Caltrans
Dennee Alcalá, Caltrans
Mark Heckman, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Peter Bernasconi, Bishop Paiute Tribe
Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
Jennifer Esparza, Inyo County HHS
Chris Cash, Inyo County Road Department
Joan Stathem

Denise Hayden, Secretary
Clint Quilter, Executive Director
Courtney Smith, Staff

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 18, 2016.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Bob Kimball and seconded by Doug Thompson.
Motion carried: 3-0-1 with Rick Pucci abstaining.

ITEM NO. 4: Request Commission adopt and approve a.) Unmet Needs Findings as presented by staff and b.) Resolution No. 2016-10, a Resolution regarding unmet transit needs.

Courtney Smith explained that the unmet transit needs process started with the Social Services Transit Advisory Council meeting in February and then hearings were held in at the April and May LTC meetings. Valuable input was provided at these meetings and is summarized in the staff report. The only issues presented were scheduling issues that did not meet the definition of being an unmet transit needs and reasonable to meet. ESTA will review the scheduling requests to see if accommodations can be made. The recommended findings are required by State law and these findings will be sent to Sacramento.

Motion to approve Resolution 2016-10 was made by Rick Pucci and seconded by Doug Thompson. Motion carried 4-0.

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolutions No. 2016-11 and 2016-12 apportioning and allocating Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Courtney Smith explained that back in March 2016, LTC staff derived an estimate for Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds that would be available for FY 2016/17 based on revenues received in the last five years. These funds are derived from ¼% of the sales tax in the County. We have two resolutions, one to apportion these funds to the City of Bishop and the County based on population and the other to allocate the funds. The funds are allocated in accordance with the TDA. Funds are first set aside for the administration of the LTC including completion of required performance audits. Second, 2% of the remaining funds are set aside for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Third up to 5% of the remaining funds are proposed for allocation to Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA). Finally the remainder of funds are allocated to the public transit provider, the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority.

Bob Kimball asked why these were being passed by two separate resolutions instead of just one when they are identical. Courtney Smith agreed that this is awkward and noted that next year the apportionment and allocation will be combined as one resolution.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-11 made by Bob Kimball and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried: 4-0

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-12 made by Bob Kimball and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried 4-0

ITEM NO. 6: Request commission approve Resolution No. 2016-13 allocating an estimated amount of \$75,604 in FY 2016-2017 STA funds to Eastern Sierra Transit (ESTA) for a capital expenditure project to be named later.

Courtney Smith explained that the origin of the State Transit Assistance Funds. ESTA is an eligible claimant. In past years ESTA has received their funds for operating expenses. To do this requires that their operating costs can't increase quicker than the consumer price index during the last audited period. Last year their expenses increased faster than allowed. They are using these funds this year for capital expenditures and will name a project later to use the funds in the most effective manner.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-13 made by Doug Thompson and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried: 4-0

ITEM NO. 7: Request Commission approve, by Minute Order, an amendment to Appendix B of the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission Organization and Procedures Manual revising the scoring criteria for bicycle and pedestrian set aside allocation requests.

Since the LTC has started setting aside these funds there has not had an allocation request. The current scoring rubrics are based on a table that has been deleted from the current Regional Transportation Plan. Staff is requesting that the Commission amend Appendix B of the Organization and Procedures Manual to score potential projects in the same way as the Active Transportation Plan (ATP). Rick Pucci asked about setting the criteria and how it was done. Courtney looked for a comparable criteria and thought the ATP scoring criteria looked most appropriate. The Commission could have specific criteria unique to this area if desired.

Motion to approve the Amendment to Appedix B was made by Rick Pucci and seconded by Doug Thompson. Motion carried 4-0

ITEM NO. 8: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2016-14 allocating \$11,746 in Local Transportation Funds Bicycle & Pedestrian set aside to Inyo County for the Big Pine Town to Tract bicycle lanes project.

Courtney stated that these funds have been set aside since 2009/2010 and after this year account will be up to almost \$110,000. This is the first request for these funds. Courtney stated that he consulted with Dave Grah at the City of Bishop, Clint Quilter, County Public Works Director and Chris Cash, Interim Road Superintendent on bringing some projects forward. The County had applied for an ATP grant to fund the Town to Track Bicycle lane project but was unsuccessful. The proposed project will paint a fog line and puts up bicycle signage from the northern end of the Rolling Green/Knight Manor tract on Reynolds Road to County Road then north on School Street to Baker Creek Road and end at Main Street (US 395). All of these roads are wide enough to accommodate a bicycle lane with the exception of one bridge. The proposed project seems like a good alternative to deliver this project in a cost effective manner. It seems like Reynolds Road was meant to have a bicycle lane but was never painted or designated as such.

Doug stated that this is a very important project and adds an advantage to the bike riders.

Motion to approve Resolution 2016-14 was made by Doug Thompson and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried 4-0

ITEM NO. 9: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2016-15 allocating \$4,361 of Residual PTMISEA funds to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority for the Bishop Facilities Improvement Project and authorizing the Executive Director to sign related documents.

Courtney explained that the Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) was approved as part of Proposition 1B and set aside 10 years of funding for transit facilities. The State put together funds from the first two cycles that were not used and ESTA staff noticed that these funds could be reallocated to eligible claimants. These funds will be used for an existing project, the ESTA headquarters improvements at the Bishop Airport.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-15 made by Doug Thompson and seconded by Bob Kimball. Motion carried 4.0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 10: ESTA Report

Jill Batchelder stated that ESTA brought down the open air trolley from Mammoth for Mule Days. They received positive feedback from those enjoying the Mule Days

festivities. They added a new route design to include the RV parking area. Jill will be meeting with the staff from Mule Days to get their feedback and to make additional improvements to the next year shuttle service.

Reds Meadow will be opening on June 18th.

Jill also stated that there has been no news on the expanded 5311(f) grant application. Jill noted that they were hoping to have heard from Caltrans at the end of May but have not heard anything yet. Brent Green has offered to help with the follow-up on this.

Pat Gardner said that she thought that the trolley was great for Mule Days. She added that it was neat to see it going around town.

ITEM NO. 11: Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 12: Caltrans Report

Brent Green introduced project managers: Mark Heckman and Dennee Alcalá. Brent stated that the sidewalk project on West Line Street has been completed. The Bishop Tribe and Caltrans are not ready to landscape the open areas on the sidewalks just yet. They will keep the weeds out in the meantime.

John Fox gave a PowerPoint presentation on what type of pavement maintenance strategies uses in different areas of District 9. He noted that all of the pavement in Inyo County is asphalt with the exception of the intersection of Main and Line Streets in Bishop which is concrete. He continued to explain the route classifications of each highway and how the funding works for each.

California Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Survey - Dennee Alcalá started the report with a review of the questions that were asked at the last LTC meeting. The State held forums held at the District office that were well attended and a lot of great feedback and ideas were received. There is a survey on line, encourage everyone to go on line to take the survey. Statewide all of the forums have been completed except for Eureka. State will put a report together (summary) and we will see a copy of this.

California Sustainable Freight Action Plan: Comments on this plan are due on July 6, 2016. You have the opportunity to share your comments on that plan. Questions about infrastructure funding are addressed in the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan. There is nothing specific but a broad spectrum of the funding and how it works.

The California Road Charge Pilot Program – a question was asked about how freight will be included in this survey. The survey does not indicate how the freight will be charged different from passenger vehicles. It does talk about other alternative funding such as

increasing vehicle licensing fees, gas tax, sales tax, and toll fees on more highways. The California Trucking Association has agreed to include at least 50 trucks representing 10 different industrial segments of freight to participate in this pilot.

Doug Thompson asked if California is negotiating with Nevada. We will see an increase in truck traffic because of the Tesla factory, etc. Brent received a request out of headquarters to address this exact thing and to encourage participation from the State of Nevada. Nevada is aware of this. If there is an increase in truck traffic, we could get additional funding for to study. Studies have been done on US 395 and US 6 . We also know that Nevada is building an additional route to handle the increase on their side. This has not really developed enough to demonstrate how many additional freight trucks there will be.

Doug Thompson said that there is 130 thousand acre truck terminal project. We should be able to determine how many trucks will be coming in and out of these warehouses and we need to look down the road 20-30 years to see what the effect will be.

Dennee stated that this is difficult to project on a project that is not completed yet. Future projects are based on current traffic. We just don't know what the ramifications of this increased traffic will bring to our area. We have not had to come up against this in our area before. There is another large complex going in in Moreno Valley and this may have an effect on the Reno/Tahoe area as well so Bishop could be hit on both ends. US 395 and US 6 have not been mentioned yet with any increases. District 9 has applied for a grant to do a freight study in our area but have not heard back just yet.

Brent Green said that the Caltrans office in Sacramento has been working with Tesla with the autonomous vehicle studies.

Rick Pucci asked if the State of Nevada has been working with California. Dennee said that the State of Nevada has been very receptive to Caltrans ideas.

Pat Gardner said that the City of Reno contacted Sierra Business Council and stated that they are expecting the Reno area population to double in the next twenty-thirty years

ITEM NO. 13: City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah said that he has had the opportunity to work with John Fox at Caltrans for many years and that he is a tremendous source of information and knowledge.

The City of Bishop does not have an opportunity to do asphalt preservation except that they will be working with the County applying a fiber seal on Sneden Street and on Short Street in August.

A new project that is being called Academy, Fowler and Pine Sidewalk project was just submitted for Active Transportation Funding and we are hopeful that this will be funded.

The City worked with a consultant, LSC, on their application for this project. LSC did a great job. The City would like to thank the LTC for funding the consultant.

Dave mentioned that the Toiyabe Indian Health Department has been pursuing funding to create a bike borrow program. They are studying the possibility of bringing that program to Bishop.

ITEM NO. 14: Executive Director's Report

West Bishop Resurfacing project has a \$2.8 million construction component. We assumed that due to the State's financial woes that the County would not get funded. Surprisingly it did get funded so this work will begin in the Fall of this year.

Whitney Portal Reconstruction project is just getting going. South Lake Road Improvement project, is in the design phase and our Road Department is meeting with the design team.

Courtney went to Stockton to speak at the STIP adoption hearing and the State was having nothing to do with giving out additional funding. Staff is hopeful this project can get additional funding in the next STIP cycle.

Dehy Park Phase 2; the construction contract was awarded and the contractor has agreed not to begin construction on this project until September or October.

Ed Powers Bicycle Lane project should begin shortly. The bridge projects are moving forward. We are working on submitting requests to begin the South County stripping and rumble strip project.

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

Bob Kimball – Commented that the contractor on Line Street did a great job.

Rick Pucci – Had a question about the sidewalk project on Line Street. Rick wanted to know if this is a new project or the completion of the original project. Brent Green confirmed that this was part of the original project.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Gardner adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

The next LTC meeting is scheduled to be held on July 20, 2016 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers in Independence.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By: Denise Hayden, Secretary