



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 21, 2017

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball
Doug Thompson
Rick Pucci
Jim Ellis
Pat Gardner

Others present:

Brent Greene, Caltrans
Mark Heckman, Caltrans
Lori Espinoza, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Tim Noyes, California Highway Patrol
Joan Stathem
Denise Hayden, Secretary
Courtney Smith, Staff

ITEM NO. 2 Public Comment

None

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 3 Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission – Requests approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 17, 2017.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Rick Pucci and seconded by Commissioner Bob Kimball. Motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Jim Ellis abstaining.

ITEM NO. 4 Request Commission adopt and approve a.) Unmet Needs Findings as presented by staff and b.) Resolution No. 2017-8, a Resolution regarding unmet transit needs.

Courtney Smith explained that there were not many comments received this year at our Unmet Transit Needs hearings. Several scheduling issues were raised, but not any that technically meet the definition of an unmet transit need and reasonable to meet. Courtney also noted that there are no funds being allocated for local streets and roads from the TDA.

Rick Pucci asked questions about the potential for new transit services with TDA funds. Courtney explained that when ESTA provides a new service, they might need to cut another service to fund the new service. Jill Batchelder explained that because there were no unmet needs identified then the funds will remain the same and nothing will be cut. If the Commission would have directed ESTA to address a new need, the possibility of cutting an existing program to provide for the new requested need would exist. Further discussion was held regarding the good job that ESTA does providing for the needs of the community.

Motion to approve Unmet Needs Findings and Resolution 2017-8 was made by Commissioner Doug Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Rick Pucci. Motion passed 5-0

ITEM NO. 5 Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2017-9 apportioning and allocating Local Transportation Funds (LTC) for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Courtney Smith stated that the first thing that goes into this is the unmet transit needs. In February/March, LTC staff sent out a letter to the transit claimant agencies letting them know the amount of Transit Development Act (TDA) funds estimated to be available in FY 2017-2018. It looks at this point in 16/17 that we will receive about the amount that was allocated. There will be a total transit allocation of \$840,229. Eastern Sierra Transit (ESTA) and Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging based their transit claims on the estimate provided by the LTC and each agency submitted their required information. Each request meets State requirements. In the past we have had an apportionment resolution and an allocation resolution and this year we have combined it into one resolution. The administrative allocation to the LTC includes a base of \$28,212.00 plus the amount for a Triennial Performance audit of Eastern Sierra Transit for a total of \$41,245. The remaining 2%, \$15,979 is set aside for bicycle and pedestrian projects to be selected by the Commission. The remaining 5% or \$39,150 will go to the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging for

community transit services. Finally the remaining \$743,853 will be allocated to Eastern Sierra Transit.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-9 was made by Commissioner Bob Kimball and seconded by Commissioner Jim Ellis. Motion carried 5-0

ITEM NO. 6 Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2017-10 allocating an estimated amount of \$75,064 in FY2017-2018 STA funds to Eastern Sierra Transit (ESTA) for public transit operating and/or capital expenses.

Courtney Smith explained that with the State Transit Assistance funds, we receive an estimate from the State Controller's office of the amount of funds that are available. These funds are only for public transit. Eastern Sierra Transit's allocation request this year is for either operating expenditures or capital projects. To be used for operating expenditures, they need to meet the efficiency standards set forth in Section 99314.6 of the Transportation Development Act. Eastern Sierra Transit did meet these requirements. ESTA's total expenses from last year to the projected budget for this year are less than the change in the consumer price index for this period. ESTA is eligible to use the funds for either operating or capital expenditures. This resolution gives them the flexibility to use these funds either way. The interest earned on these funds is also allocated through this resolution. LTC does not want to have any remaining STA funds left in our accounts. LTC is just a pass through for this type of funding.

Pat Gardner asked how why there is a huge change in Mono County and yet Inyo County has nothing. Courtney agreed that this is an excellent question and he proceeded to explain how the funding works. The funds are allocated through two sections of the state code - Sections 99313 and 99314. 99313 funds are allocated based on population. The 99314 funds are allocated based the amount of total ridership. The State Controllers has indicated that since Eastern Sierra Transit is the only public transportation provider for both Inyo and Mono Counties that only one agency can receive these funds. Mono receives the funds for both Inyo and Mono. ESTA, and the Mono County LTC, split the funds based on the amount of transit provided in each area. ESTA then applies these funds to different projects in each County.

Jill Batchelder explained that a similar resolution went to Mono County LTC last week and a portion of the 99314 funds are shown going to Inyo County.

Motion to approve Resolution 2017-10 was made by Commissioner Jim Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Rick Pucci. Motion carried 5-0

Commissioner Pat Gardner acknowledged Joan Stathem as she arrived at the meeting and missed the opening public comment portion of the meeting. Pat asked Joan if she would like to speak. Joan Statham stated that there are not enough buses available on Sunday mornings. They only have one driver on duty and they didn't bother to tell him that he was on duty so he was late starting. They also did not give him a list of the riders that he was to pick up. They were to be picked up at 8:45 and they didn't get picked up until 9:20 which

made the riders late to church. There was also a problem with being picked up on time at the Friendship Hall as well. Pat acknowledged Joan's comments as did Jill Batchelder of ESTA. Jill will look into this.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7 ESTA Report

Jill Batchelder recalled the last LTC meeting where the resolution for the 5311(f) funds were for the US 395 route. There is enough funding to expand service to 5 days a week. ESTA is planning to start five days a week service on July 17, 2017. This will be a year round service, going both north and south. As John Helm mentioned that the Bishop Creek shuttle service is up and running and ESTA is doing two rounds a day, it started last Saturday. There have been many questions about when the Reds Meadow service will start this year. Jill explained at this time they do not have a projected opening date.

Jim Ellis asked about the Bishop Creek run and how it was going. Jill said that they had one trip that was a bit of a "bust" but other than that they have had good ridership going up and down the hill.

ITEM NO. 8 Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 9 Caltrans Report

Brent Green greeted the Commissioners after having been gone for some meetings and noted that his staff did an excellent job in his absence. Brent took this opportunity to introduce Laura Espinoza. Laura is an interim Deputy District Director for Maintenance and Operations. She will be at District 9 for about three months. She was thrown into snow removal and opening passes as her first tasks.

Brent thanked Doug Thompson for speaking at the District 9 Annual Workers Memorial and it was very well received. In the past there have been about 25 in attendance and this year they had over 200. It was very successful. Brent also thanked Captain Noyes with the CHP for attending as well.

Pass openings, all passes are open. The last pass to open was Tioga. District 9 opened the road from the gate to the top and the National Park Service cleared to the gate from their side. They were delayed on the other side due to several avalanche paths in the Olmstead Point area. Storm damage, the two that they are looking at that are on the June Lake Loop at the SCE plant where the water is right at the edge of the road and the second is Walker

Canyon. It appears that the repairs that were done in the 90's are holding up really well and there are no problems. There is some flooding in the Coleville area but there should not have any impact to District 9 facilities.

Construction, there are a couple of chip-seal projects north of Bishop and south of Bishop that are getting ready to begin and if you are heading to Reno you will encounter some construction delays from the south end of Walker all the way up to the State line and this will last until October.

Mule Days went well. There was some controversy about the parade chairs being set out early and as it turns out there were only three chairs that were set out early that were picked up. It turned out to not be a big deal.

There was a question in the previous minutes about the Bishop ADA project. This is a large project and it is looking like it will go to construction in January or February. We have done a significant amount of outreach to the community about this project and Caltrans staff will be doing it again to refresh everyone's memory about the project. There are more details than they had before so Brent will ask to be added to the agenda in the next couple of months to discuss these new details. He assured the Commission that they will like the new features that will be presented.

There was a discussion last time on the CTC town hall meeting and Brent noted that a lot of topics were covered. Gerry with the Mono LTC is trying to pull together a working group to work through the agenda so that the items that people are talking about can be addressed.

STIP payback - There is a provision in SB1 that starts to restore the STIP in 2019. Caltrans District 9 staff intends to bring forward programming for the Olancha-Cartago project and the Freeman Gulch project in the upcoming STIP cycle. The Olancha environmental document has been approved. Caltrans will not design something that they know is not going to move forward. Caltrans is appreciative of Kern COG, the Mono County LTC, and the Inyo County LTC for their help and vision in moving MOU projects.

Reds Meadow road –Mammoth Mountain has stepped up and is helping the Caltrans crew to remove snow up to Minaret Vista. There is not an estimated time as to when this will open. There will be a press release sent out as soon as this is open.

Doug Thompson and Brent Green had a brief discussion on the documents for Olancha-Cartago environmental document as well as the alignment of the project.

ITEM NO. 10 City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah - Seibu to School projects is almost ready to go to CTC for construction funding.

Spruce Yaney Hanby Sidewalk project is ready to go to CTC for design funds. LADWP has brought up some right of way and park lease issues that could affect this project. City of Bishop staff are working on these issues.

ITEM NO. 11 Executive Director's Report

Courtney Smith noted that the Road Department and Clint Quilter are busy chasing water runoff issues. County staff will have an update next month.

ITEM NO. 12 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Jim Ellis asked Courtney about Jay Street by Jack-in-the-Box to see if they are going to be fixing that. Courtney was not sure and will ask and get back to Jim.

No other comments were made by the remaining Commissioners.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at: 9:40 a.m.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By: Denise Hayden, Secretary