



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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



Clint Quilter, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

August 19, 2015

9:00 a.m. Doug Thompson called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Rick Pucci
Bob Kimball
Doug Thompson
Mark Tillemans
Joe Peci
Pat Gardner

Others Present:

Joan Stathem
David Bloom, Caltrans
Cedrik Zemitis, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
John Helm, ESTA
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Denise Hayden, Inyo County
Courtney Smith, 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 June 17, 2015.

Joe Peci made mention that his name was typed incorrectly in the June 17, 2015 minutes and asked for a correction.

Motion to approve the June 17, 2015 minutes as amended was made by Pat Gardner and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried 6-0

ITEM NO. 4: Request Commission approve Resolutions No. 2015-12 and 2015-13 apportioning and allocating Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for fiscal year 2015-2016 and rescinding Resolutions No. 2015-07 and 2015-08.

Courtney Smith first noted that the wrong resolution numbers were shown on the agenda. He then stated that when the staff brought forward the TDA allocations for FY 2015-2016 at the June LTC meeting, it appeared the TDA funds received in FY 2014-2015 would be substantially less than allocated. The running TDA balance was at zero and it appeared that there would not be enough LTF or TDA funds to meet the LTC's allocation obligation. Typically the last payments of the year are relatively small compared to the summer months and the height of the holiday season. Surprisingly, the May TDA allocation to the LTC was \$135,087, compared to the April \$63,300 and the June \$52,400. It appears that the Board of Equalization had underestimated the previous couple allocations and then made up for it.

This spike in funds meant that the LTC was able to completely meet its FY 2014-2015 allocation obligations. This also means the TDA reserve balance is at \$27,143 only about eighty dollars less than it was at the start of FY 2014-2015. The total amount of TDA funds received in FY 2014-2015 was \$855,149. When the June TDA allocations were made, it was assumed that LTC would receive only \$780,000. The allocation to ESTA was thus sharply reduced from \$770,108 in FY 2014-2015 to \$671,986 for FY 2015-2016. ESTA plans to maintain their services in FY 2015-2016 at the same level as FY 2014-2015, though this required a negative balance on the Inyo County LTC side and additional funds coming to Inyo from Mono. The ESTA board has looked at the transportation system in the two counties as one system and this is a help to Inyo. Since the funding increased substantially, staff proposes to revise the TDA allocation to fit the revenues now anticipated in FY 2015-2016. The proposed revision to the allocation amount, \$821,241 is based on the average of TDA revenues received over the last five years.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-12 was made by Bob Kimball and seconded by Pat Gardner. Motion carried 6-0

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-13 was made by Pat Gardner and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried 6-0

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2015-14 allocating \$140,000 of TEA Exchange funds to Inyo County for the completion of the Ed Powers Bicycle Lanes Project.

In 2004, the Inyo County LTC received \$759,671 in TEA exchange funds. The LTC has used these funds for project or project components that cannot easily be funded through existing grant fund sources. As of August 11, 2015, there was \$161,701.27 available for new projects in this fund.

If the allocation is approved to the Count of Inyo, the TEA Exchange account will be reduced to \$21,701.27 that is still available to the City of Bishop and/or the County of Inyo.

The recommended action is to approve a resolution allocating \$140,000 of TEA Exchange fund to the County of Inyo for the construction component of the Ed Powers Bicycle lanes project. This project will construct bicycle lanes on Ed Powers Road from Red Hill Road to US 395. There is currently \$463,000 programmed for the construction component of this project as a part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-14 allocating TEA Exchange funds to the County made by Joe Pecsí and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried 6-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6: ESTA Report

Jill Batchelder noted that the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority provided 16,542 passenger trips in Inyo County from April 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015. The passenger trips per hour were 3.59, which is down slightly from 3.63 of the previous fiscal year.

The efficiency standard use by Eastern Sierra Transit is passenger per hour and varies by route. All Routes meet or exceeded the standards set by the Short Range Transit Plan, except for Lone Pine Dial-A-Ride, Tecopa and the US 395 Reno Route.

The ridership this spring has been strong when compared to the previous quarter with substantial ridership gains on the Mammoth Express, Lone Pine Express and US 395 Routes. When comparing year over year, overall ridership is down with the exception of the Bishop Dial-A-Ride service.

Eastern Sierra Transit received \$89,606.60 in passenger Fares during the fourth quarter of FY 2014-2015. The average passenger fare was \$5.42. The overall farebox ratio was 21.46%.

ITEM NO. 7: Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 8: Caltrans Report; Quarterly Progress Report

The draft Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Olancha-Cartago project has been released for public review and comment. There will be a public meeting on September 23rd from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Olancha Fire Station. At the recommendation of the local tribal governments, the document will be released for a 60-day comment period instead of the usual 45 days. The project is proposed to go to construction in FY 2018-2019.

Mark Tillemans asked if there were plans for increased costs. Cedrik replied that at this point the programmed funds appear to be adequate. The costs between different project components may be juggled a bit to balance funding.

Doug Thompson noted that his preliminary review of the DEIR has found additional information not included in the prior document.

Cedrik mentioned that an analysis of the preferred alternative is included.

Cedrik gave a quick update on the three-phased Freeman Gulch project on SR 14 in Kern County.

Mark Tillemans asked about the construction work on US 395 north of Big Pine. Cedrik replied that he believed that it is culvert work.

The bids for the West Line Street sidewalk project came in low. The contractor will likely start construction in a few months.

Bob Kimball asked if the Mono Lake Rockfall project is complete. Cedric replied that Phase I is completed and Phase II will be completed next year.

Joe Pecs asked if the roadway damage caused by boulders falling would be included as a part of the project and Cedric replied that it was.

ITEM NO. 9: City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah did not have a report at this time and asked if there were any questions from anyone. No questions asked.

ITEM NO. 10: Executive Director's Report

Courtney Smith presented the California Transportation Commission Draft STIP Guidelines for August 27, 2015 and discussed the changes that had been made to the policies and procedures. At this point there does not appear to be any additional funding available. The STIP Guidelines indicate that any new projects being programmed would require the de-programming of at least an equal amount from another currently programmed project. This is not recommended for local agencies since the LTC currently has a negative share balance. However the California Legislature is in special session and multiple transportation funding bills are being brought forward. If additional funding is forthcoming the California Transportation Commission may extend the due date for the submittal of Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIPs).

The Transportation and Infrastructure Special Session Update was presented by Courtney as well as a transportation legislative summary that was provided by CSAC.

Courtney announced that the South Lake Road project has been selected to receive Federal Lands Access Program funds to reconstruct the entire length of South Lake Road and to construct bicycle lanes from SR 168 to South Fork. The Forest Service also has been awarded funds to reconstruct parking spots it maintains that are adjacent to South Lake Road. The tentative construction date for this project is 2019. The Forest Service is reconstructing the Bishop Pass trailhead parking lot at South Lake in the summer of 2016.

Attached with the agenda packet are maps to the three combined-use or "Adventure Trails" routes that have been opened countywide. These three routes are now signed and officially open for use by qualifying ATVs and Side by Sides. The public can comment on the combined-use routes by visiting the LTC website and clicking the link to view the AB 628 Monitoring and Reporting webpage. Comments will be included in the County's January 1, 2016 report to the California Legislature. Four of the seven routes approved by the Board of Supervisors require additional approval by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). At this point, LADWP has presented unreasonable demands to the County for the opening of these routes and it is unclear if these routes will be opened.

ITEM NO. 11: Reports from members of the Inyo County LTC

Rick Pucci noted that the Mono Lake rockfall project is a tourist attraction because people want to watch the progress of work on such a steep slope. Cedrik Zemitis explained how the equipment works and what type of work is being done there with the "spider" equipment.

Doug Thompson and Mark Tillemans noted that the concerns over the Adventure Trails combined-use routes were overblown.

CORRESPONDENCE

Courtney Smith noted that correspondence from the Executive Director was included that was in support of a Caltrans project to fund the Meadow Farms Sidewalk project.

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on September 16, 2015 in Bishop at the Bishop City Council Chambers

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By Denise Hayden, Secretary