



**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**

November 19, 2014

9:02 a.m. Doug Thompson called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball
Doug Thompson
Jim Ellis
Laura Smith
Mark Tillemans
Matt Kingsley

Others Present:

Ryan Dermody, Caltrans
Dennee Alcala, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
Beth Himelhoch, IMAH
Michael Beauchamp, Caltrans
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 August 20, 2014.

Motion: moved by Bob Kimball, to approve the minutes, seconded by Matt Kingsley, Commissioner Mark Tillemans abstaining. Motion carried 5-0-1.

ITEM NO. 4: Request Commission Approve Resolution No. 2014-17 allocating \$17,394.96 of TEA Exchange funds to the County of Inyo for work related to the environmental component of the See Vee Lane Extension STIP project.

This TEA exchange account came about at the end of the IS-TEA federal transportation reauthorization. The LTC received \$759,000.00 and can allocate those funds for transportation related projects. In March 2005 the LTC gave some general directions for the uses of the types of projects that these funds would be used for. At the time it was thought that the funds would be used for components of projects where funds could not be identified elsewhere, especially in initiating projects. In the past LTC has allocated TEA Exchange funds to a list of projects and some of these allocations never came forward because the grant wasn't realized. The City of Bishop and the County of Inyo have taken advantage of these funds with the Sabrina Bridge match, the Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education audio tour, the Home Street improvements, Lone Pine Heritage Trail feasibility study, Home Street Rehab, ESTA Bus floating loan, Pine to Park Path (twice), Ed Powers BTA match (never realized). The See Vee Lane project was a project that was originally programed in the 2006 STIP augmentation and the program didn't seem to be a high priority for the County. Finally the environmental got off of the ground and when it got off of the ground the CTC denied the time extension. The County had prepared for a public hearing on the project and was finally moving on the environmental component for the project and the CTC cut off the funding. The County continued to work on the project and as a result of the public meetings chose not to proceed with the project but the County did get some resolution with respect to what it was doing with the project. The County continued with the public meetings with the assistance of an environmental consultant and was not reimbursed by the State for this work. The requested funds would go to the consultant that held the public meeting, and also for County staff time. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Resolution.

Motion: moved by Matt Kingsley to approve the Resolution 2014-17 allocating \$17,394.96 of TEA exchange funds to the County of Inyo; seconded by Laura Smith. Carried 6-0

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2014-18 amending the Overall Work Program to reflect the carryover of \$1,309.87 from FY 2013-2014 to FY 2014-2015.

A couple of years ago, the guidelines that were published by Caltrans and the Regional Planning handbook were amended where up to 25% of Rural Planning Assistance funds could be carried over for one fiscal year. Of the \$216,000.00 that was allocated in FY 2013-2014, there was only about \$1,300 that was unexpended. There was also an additional \$53,000 that was carried over from the previous year. The LTC expended these funds very closely to what was available. This is a procedural process to make sure that the LTC can use all of the funds available.

Motion: moved by Laura Smith to approve Resolution No. 2014-18 amending the Overall Work Program to reflect the carryover of funds, seconded by Mark Tillemans.
Carried 6-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6: Request Commission receive and discuss the fourth quarter invoice of Rural Planning Assistance funds in Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

We provide the Rural Planning Assistance fund quarterly invoices for your Commissions information. From FY 2012-2013, the LTC carried over \$53,000.00 into FY 2013-2014. In 2012-2013 the LTC was under expending some of its funds. In 2013-2014 the LTC came in just about right and all but \$1,309 was unexpended. The quarterly report also provides information on the other two major funding types; the Transportation Development Act; 1) Local Transportation funds (LTF), which the LTC uses to administer the TDA. The rest of the TDA funds are allocated to eligible transit claimants an in particular ESTA, and 2).the Planning Programming and Monitoring funds that are programmed as a part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and used to develop and evaluate projects for inclusion in the Inyo LTC Regional Transportation Improvement Program. This report is purely an information item that shows the expenditure of the LTC over the course of the year.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7: ESTA Report – Quarterly Operating Report from July through September 2014.

Jill Batchelder reported during the July through September period that ESTA provided 17,000 passenger trips just within Inyo County. The passenger trips were up slightly from this same period last year. When you look at the per route passenger figures ESTA is meeting all of the requirements set forth in the Short Range Transit Plan with the exception of the Lone Pine Dial-A-Ride and the Tecopa to Pahrump ride. Tecopa is one of those areas that is difficult to meet those goals, though it provides a lifeline service. For Lone Pine Dial-A-Ride, ESTA ise hoping to see the trend move upward. The senior

program ran out of senior passes. They are in the process of getting additional passes for the seniors in that area, so ESTA is hoping to see the trends moving back upwards.

Ridership comparison, all of the routes with the exception of the Lone Pine to Bishop, Tecopa, and Night Rider were actually trending up compared to the previous quarter.

Revenues, there was over \$106,000 received in passenger fares over the quarter and the overall farebox ratio was up close to 24.5%.

ITEM NO. 8: Tribal Report - None

ITEM NO. 9: Caltrans Report – Caltrans Quarter Project Status Report

Ryan Dermoday, reported that a previous Caltrans employee, Don Walton passed away this past Sunday. Don was a longtime Caltrans employee and was married to Katy Walton who was instrumental in starting some of the MOUs on the State Highway. Ryan offered to provide the Walton's address to anyone wishing to send a card.

Ryan introduced the new interim District Director, Mike Beauchamp. Mike is a graduate of Michigan State University.

Mike introduced himself and said that he will be in this position until it is permanently filled. He was originally from small town in Michigan and was in Southern California for over 31 years. Getting up to Bishop has brought him back to his childhood years, beautiful country and great quality of life. He has been with Caltrans for 31 years working mostly in construction and design. He is looking forward to working with the Commission.

Ryan introduced Dennee Alcalá to deliver the remainder of the Caltrans Report. In the packets are the updates on the current projects. Dennee opened up the discussion and asked the Commission if there were any questions. She will provide Denise, LTC secretary the project manager's contact information for the projects described in the quarterly status report. If there are any questions please contact either Cedrick Zemitis at (760) 872-5250 and Brian McElwain at (760) 872-4361.

Dennee continued with the current road closures which are State Routes 120 and 108. Those are currently closed due to the weather conditions and will reopen when the weather clears. These are not winter closures at this time.

Dennee offered her congratulations to Inyo County as well as the City of Bishop for submitting their applications on time for the Sustainable Communities grant and that is for the North Sierra Highway Sustainable Highway plan. Caltrans submitted letters of support for both. The Headquarter Grant Committee will review the applications and announce their recommendations for grant funding in February. In March 2015 Caltrans will send out preliminary notification letters to all applicants that applied.

District 9 staff has been paying close attention to the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan and concerned that US 395 and SR 14 are still listed as high importance routes. The focus route designation gives these highways in advantage in competing for inter-regional funds. District 9 staff had heard that this classification might be in jeopardy because the statewide emphasis is shifting toward rail in the InterCity. District 9 put together and submitted a detailed explanation of why the US 395/SR 14 corridor should still be on the list. The last update is that the US 395/SR 14 corridor is still in the Plan, though the document is still in a draft stage. If staff hears that things are changing then they may solicit the Commission, the County, and the City of Bishop for letters of support.

In January there will be the first view of the draft of the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITSP). The public comment period will last from January to April 2015. Project updates and general information can be viewed at: www.caltrans-itsp2015.org. To join the ITSP email list, please send an email to HQ.System.Planning@dot.ca.gov.

Ryan Dermody mentioned that Caltrans has a large map showing the plans for the US 395 corridor and that they will bring it next month to share.

ITEM NO. 10: City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah welcomed Mike Beauchamp, District 9 Director to the Bishop area. He formerly held Mike's same position and has a great appreciation for the job that he will be doing.

Pine to Path project was completed with TEA Exchange funds. The City has benefited from LTC administered TEA Exchange funds. The City will be sending out an invoice to the LTC in the next couple of weeks in the amount of around \$16,000. The City appreciates the financial help from LTC for this project.

The Warren Street Improvement project is next on the list for the City. This is a huge project for the City of Bishop and the City Council just awarded the contract last week. Construction is to begin in the middle of January and will last until May. They will be repaving the street and pouring new sidewalks with colors. There will also be attractive street lights and pocket parks as well along the street. This should be a real asset to the community.

Sebu to School Path project is moving slowly. They continue to work with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the right-of-way acquisition.

The City has approximately \$40,000,000 worth of projects for the future that the City is anxious to fund. These projects are for 2016, 2018, and 2020 STIP funds. The City is anxious to work with the LTC, the County of Inyo and Caltrans on these future projects.

ITEM 11: Executive Director's Report

Included in your packet is a flyer for the first public meeting for the creation of an Active Transportation Plan and an update of the Regional Transportation Plan. The meetings will be held on Thursday, December 4th at 6:00 PM in the City of Bishop Council Chambers and Friday, December 5th at 9:00 AM at the Boulder Creek RV Park in Lone Pine.

The Active Transportation Plan will include some new planning components that we haven't had before. This will update the collaborative bikeways plan to continue to make the County, City, and Tribes eligible to receive bikeway funds. Also there will be a Safe Route to School component of the plan. The City currently has Safe Route to School maps and the Plan will look into making any necessary revisions to these maps. The Plan will make a Safe Route to School map for every school in the County. There will also be a recreational trail component. This Commission and audience are invited to attend these meetings.

Caltrans just released a call for projects for the Federal Lands Access Program. The County received some funds for the Whitney Portal Road reconstruction in the last cycle. Mono County received funds for the Rock Creek road project in the prior cycle that includes a mile in Inyo County going up to the Rock Creek Lakes Resort. The County will be looking to submit an application in this cycle and will bring this matter to the Board of Supervisors for further direction.

In the packet there is a public hearing notice on the Adventure Trails Combined Use Route System that will be December 2nd at 1:30 PM at the Board of Supervisors Chambers in Independence. These routes that are in both the City and the County will require approval by both entities.

Clint Quilter submitted a letter of support for the North Sierra Highway community planning grant on behalf of the Commission. If the project is funded, staff will bring forward a request to the Commission for matching funds for the project. This project is supported by both the County and the City.

ITEM 12: Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Bob Kimball: Welcome Mike Beauchamp to the Eastern Sierra.

Doug Thompson: Doug chimed in with the others and thanking Jim Ellis for his service and stated that it was a pleasure to work with him and to have him on the Commission.

Jim Ellis: Jim expressed his thanks to the Commission stating that it has been a pleasure working with everyone and that it is his favorite committee to serve on. He went on to express how professional the members of the Commission are and that it's great to see projects move forward. His term has expired with the City of Bishop therefore he must step down.

Matt Kingsley told Jim Ellis that he will be missed on the Commission. He agreed that this Commission does get a lot accomplished.

Laura Smith: Reminds everyone to hope and pray for rain.

Mark Tillemans: None

ITEM 13`:

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:45 AM

The next LTC meeting is scheduled to be held on December 17, 2014 in Bishop at the Bishop City Council Chambers.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By Denise Hayden, Secretary