



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 9514**

December 6, 2017

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Bob Kimball
Doug Thompson
Pat Gardner
Laura Smith
Rick Pucci

Others present:

Randi Chegwiddden, Caltrans
Brent Green, Caltrans
Bryan Winzenread, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
Joan Stathem, ESTA Rider
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 October 18, 2017.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Rick Pucci and seconded by Commissioner Doug Thompson. Motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Laura Smith abstaining.

ITEM NO. 4 Request Commission approve Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2017/2018 Overall Work Program via Resolution No. 2017-11 adding a task related to the creation of a Stormwater Master Plan in the City of Bishop.

The agenda mistakenly refers to a resolution. Staff requests that your Commission via a Minute Order approve Amendment No. 1 to the Overall Work Program (OWP) for the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year; and authorize the Executive director to complete paperwork necessary to conduct this amendment.

The City of Bishop is proposing to develop a Stormwater Master Plan that includes provisions for improved management and policy; guides the development of City projects related to stormwater and street improvements; and describes maintenance and operations; and provides the opportunity for education and outreach. The City will hire a consultant to complete the project and the cost will be \$92,000. The project was initiated in FY2015-2016. The task was carried over to the FY2016-2017 OWP in the amount of \$87,030 but inadvertently dropped from the FY2017-2018 OWP.

This amendment will bring back this project as Task #23 in Work Element 400.1 of the OWP. In addition to the new task, the PPM expenditure amounts will be changed to reflect likely expenditure amounts. The PPM expenditure amounts shown in Work Elements 200.1 and 500.1 are also being changed to reflect likely expenditure amounts. These changes are also being made to the OWP Funding Source and Expenditure Summary Table. This is considered an administrative amendment that can be completed unilaterally by the LTC and does not require concurrence from Caltrans.

Motion to approve Amendment #1 to the FY2017/2018 Overall Work Program was made by Commissioner Rick Pucci and seconded by Commissioner Laura Smith. Motion passed 5-0

ITEM NO. 5 Request Commission 1) Approve the submittal of the 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to the California Transportation Commission and 2) Authorize the Executive Director to sign documents related to the submittal of the RTIP and to make any technical changes to the RTIP in response to input from City, County, and/or State staff.

Your Commission is being asked to:

1. Approve the submittal of the 2018 RTIP to the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

2. Authorize the Executive Director to sign documents related to the submittal of the RTIP and to make any technical changes to the RTIP in response to input from City, County, and/or State staff.

In front of you is a new table summarizing the programming proposed to be included in the RTIP. Also, there is a page where items on page 11 of the RTIP have been changed based on feedback from Caltrans staff about the Olancha-Cartago project.

The LTC is required to submit the RTIP by December 15, 2017. This is also the date that Caltrans is required to submit the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program or ITIP. The CTC southern hearing is on January 25, 2018. The CTC will then publish the staff recommendations on February 28th with the adoption hearing on March 21-22, 2018

There is a target share available to the Inyo County LTC of \$12.321 million through FY 2022-2023. The LTC, representing a County with a population of under 100,000 people, is allowed to exceed this number as in this situation where Olancha-Cartago is such a large funding burden.

The following priorities were presented to the Commission in August and used in the development of the draft 2018 RTIP.

- 1) Program, or setting aside RIP funds, for MOU projects on the State Highway System (The program strategies will be dependent on the capacity of the Caltrans Programming Office and MOU partners to bring these projects forward); and
- 2) Program local projects that leverage Federal funding; and
- 3) Program the preliminary components for new local projects.

Courtney reviewed the spreadsheet he passed out summarizing the 2018 RTIP funding requests. For Planning, Programming, and Monitoring funds, the RTIP proposes to fund \$100,000 in fiscal years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 and then \$185,000 in fiscal years 2020-2021 through 2022-2023. This is the maximum amount that can be programmed in this STIP cycle.

For Priority 1 MOU projects, cost increased will be programmed for US 395 Olancha-Cartago as well as the \$24.475 million Construction component. This is the big project and will create a significant negative fund share balance. There is a possibility that the Mono County LTC will program in excess of their MOU share of 10% and slightly reduce the negative share balance the LTC faces. The RTIP also programs the Design component of the SR 14 Freeman Gulch Segment 2 four lane project.

The only second tier project is the South Lake Road Federal Lands Access Program matching project that programs \$1.369 million and will leverage \$11 million in FHWA funds.

The third priority projects are the East Line Street Bridge project in the City of Bishop and the Lone Pine Town Rehabilitation project in the County. Only the environmental component of

both projects is being programmed at this time. The program year for both these projects is FY 2018-2019.

Doug mentioned that he was up at the CTC town hall meeting in Mammoth and he noted that Kern COG has some real issues with Highway 46 and Highway 58. As he was driving back he realized that we share the same dilemma with finishing off the Olancho-Cartago and Freeman Gulch projects. Doug said that it would make sense to put all of these projects together and present them as one large project. It would be an incredibly large amount of money but at one time it would approve all of these projects. But, if not, we are just going to struggle back and forth.

Brent Green said that Caltrans talked about combining Freeman Gulch segments 2 and 3. To add Olancho-Cartago project to that would delay Olancho-Cartago too much. He is willing to take a look at combining Freeman Gulch again and see what they can come up with. Each of the segments has the same environmental report.

Bryan Winzenread noted that these projects are competing State wide. In this STIP cycle, the recognition of the CTC is a nice complement to what we are doing in the Eastern Sierra. He was impressed with how much the CTC was involved and aware of the US 395 / SR 14 corridor. It was enlightening. These projects are on the priority list in the State of California.

Bryan said that in 1955 Caltrans started 4-laning the US 395/SR 14 corridor. Since then 250 miles of the 280 miles have been upgraded. There still remains the three projects, Olancho; Freeman Gulch Segment 2; and Freeman Gulch Segment 3 to complete the four laning of this corridor. We are right at the end of this project. As for Freeman Gulch 2 and 3, with the design moving forward for Segment 2 we may have an opportunity to get Segments 2 & 3 programmed together for construction in the next cycle. Combining the two projects could reduce the overall cost.

Laura Smith added that these projects are exciting - not to be faster but safer on the highways.

Doug noted that Olancho is still moving forward and Bryan added that they are kicking up the design portion and the RTIP is programmed construction for 2021/2022.

Courtney noted that the County should hear by the end of this month about the planning grant for Olancho, which will be nice for the planning of this project.

Bryan added that Caltrans is partnering with California Fish and Wildlife. There is a big pile of white mine tailings in Cartago on the west side of the highway. There are some wetlands near there that Caltrans will be working with Fish and Wildlife to clean this area up.

Motion to approve the submittal of the 2018 RTIP to the California Transportation Commission was made by Commissioner Doug Thompson and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion passed 5-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Attached is a letter that the LTC received from Caltrans stating that the Olancha-Cartago stretch of US395 will be added to the list of Critical Rural Freight Corridors. This will make the project eligible for new types of Federal funding. The letter your Commission approved at the last meeting was successful.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pat Gardner re-opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting to include Joan Stathem who arrived late because of the bus schedule. Joan indicated that one of the ESTA bus drivers asked her to mention that they need a dispatcher on the weekends so that they don't have to drive and dispatch at the same time. Jill Batchelder made note of this request.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6 Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Report Quarterly Operating Report

Jill Batchelder said that they have new funding coming in from SB 1. It is formula funding related to the State of good repair. She will bring this item back to the Commission next month. For Inyo County a little over \$34,000 will be available. It can be used for either capital or operating expenses, and is also eligible for vehicle maintenance. This flexibility is always a welcome item. Most routes are doing well. The Bishop Dial-A-Ride is getting busier and they are looking for ways to accommodate the riders.

Rick Pucci asked about John Helms impending retirement. Jill said that she wasn't going to bring up the topic because John isn't at the meeting. John has announced his retirement and he will be leaving in May 2018. There is an RFP out through a recruiter for John's replacement.

Laura Smith commented on the nice format of the ESTA report and Pat concurred.

ITEM NO. 7 Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 8 Caltrans Report

Bryan Winzenread presented the quarterly report and was there to answer any questions. He did want to highlight a few projects. Olancha-Cartago is going forward and that is very exciting. The Bishop ADA project will be starting in late winter/early spring. This project is to bring all of the sidewalks up to the current ADA standards throughout the community. This goes from the hospital on SR 168 to the US 395 intersection and then from the Fairgrounds to Jay Street on US 395. They do not have a contractor on board yet but there will be meetings once they get one so that the public and business owners can attend. As they

make their way through town they will work with the business owners to make sure that they have full access to their business and that they can remain open during construction.

Pat asked why the project got moved into the spring from winter. Brent joined in the conversation and noted that they were scheduled to begin in November and because of the items that have to be ordered and the time it takes to get them the project will be pushed back to the end of Winter/beginning of spring. Bryan Winzenread stated that this is going to be a long project and they are aware of the impact that this is going to have on Mule Days and there are provisions stated in the contract to accommodate these events in town. There will be no work done during this time.

There is a project that is going to start this summer to look at SR168 to reconsider the lane alignment from US 395 to Manor Market. There are many accidents on West Line St. (SR 168) because there is not a center turn lane.

Laura Smith commented on the Bishop ADA project and said that it will be really nice. Many people don't understand why the sidewalks are being re-done. It's understood that Caltrans is mandated to do this project and it was not just a project to tear up the sidewalks. There are a few constrictions on Main Street that force you to walk in the street to get around the telephone poles in the sidewalk. These are the kinds of improvements that are being made. Bryan stated that they are doing these projects throughout all of District 9 as funds become available. They will be working in Lee Vining as well as many other communities.

Brent Green added that some of the new features are that they are going to be removing some of the old sidewalks that do not meet the ADA requirements and replacing them with new so that it will create all of the same type of concrete and not appear patched. They will be adding a new median in front of Joseph's Market that will be helpful for the pedestrians. They were also able to add curb and gutter improvements as well as the sidewalks. There will also be improvements made at Main and Line. Caltrans feels that it is important to talk to the community and to keep the people informed as the project moves forward. There will be night work in this project to lessen the impact on the community. They will only be working in 1,000 foot increments at a time so that they don't impact the entire downtown area at one time. This is all spelled out in the contract. Brent added that the contractors will also be at the meetings with the public and business and they will have the opportunity to speak. Pat Gardner noted that there are some businesses that want to upgrade their store fronts and it might work well to do that at the same time that the sidewalk projects is being done.

ITEM NO. 9 City of Bishop Report

None

ITEM NO. 10 Executive Director's Report

Courtney presented the County project update. For the West Bishop project construction started in September. The following streets have been pulverized & paved: Sunset Dr.,

Sunset Ln., Sundown Circle, Leisure Circle, Summer Haze Circle, Autumn Leaves Circle, and Snow Circle. Due to cooler temperatures, Pa Me Lane, Irene Street, Irene Way, Sierra Vista & Glenbrook will be pulverized and paved next spring (assuming the water table is low enough).

For the South Lake Road Federal Lands Access Program project, construction is anticipated in Federal Fiscal Year 2020.

For the South County striping Highway Safety Improvement Program project, PS & E is underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2018. There are a couple of small changes to the project scope. That is, a) rumble strips are being removed on Stateline as they have been removed on the Nevada side, b) the pass portion of Old Spanish Trail Highway will not receive edge lines due to narrow road width.

On the N. Round Valley Road bridge emergency repair project, staff is moving as quickly as possible to resolve funding issues. The road is not Federal aid eligible and it's unclear if the County can use Cal OES funds. The County has contracted with MGE to determine if the existing bridge is salvageable. A report is expected to be completed in early January.

Pat Gardner mentioned that the contractor did a wonder job on Sunset and that they were accommodating to the people. The road is very nice now.

ITEM NO. 11 Reports from members of the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at: 9:48 a.m.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By: Denise Hayden, Secretary