



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**

November 18, 2015

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Rick Pucci
Doug Thompson
Mark Tillemans
Pat Gardner
Laura Smith
Bob Kimball, absent

Others Present:

Joan Stathem
Ryan Dermody, Caltrans
Brent Green, Caltrans
Truman Denio, Caltrans
Rick Kuykendall, Caltrans
Cedrik Zemitis, Caltrans
Jill Batchelder, ESTA
Deston Dishion, 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 September 16, 2015.

Ryan Dermody requested a correction. It was reported that the North Sierra Highway project that includes the signal at See Vee Lane, bike lanes, as well as a pedestrian facility would be constructed in 2017/2018 and the correct construction dates are 2020/2022.

Motion to approve the September 16, 2015 minutes as amended was made by Mark Tillemans and seconded by Laura Smith. Motion carried 5-0

ITEM NO. 4: Request Commission approve Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2015-2016 Overall Work Program.

Courtney stated that this is a relatively simple request. There are two requests to this amendment; the first is that the amount of the TDA administrative set aside on the funding expenditure table was shown as \$39,212 when the commission approved a revised TDA allocation that amount was revised to \$47,212. Also there was a task added to approve the purchase of traffic counters. This amendment adds task number eight to the PMS/GIS work element.

Motion to approve Amendment No. 1 was made by Laura Smith and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried 5-0

ITEM NO. 5: Request Commission approve the 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

Your Commission is tasked with approving the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and submitting this to the California Transportation Commission (CTC). Courtney presented a brief overview of the RTIP. When the CTC approves it, it becomes the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The RTIP is the LTC's submittal for the STIP. STIP is updated every two years and covers a five year funding period. Generally new funding is only available in the last two years. This cycle however there is a funding shortfall. So much so that unlike prior years where the CTC provided a programming target, no target is provided. If the LTC adds any projects it would need to deprogram another project of the same amount. The only real option that is encouraged in the STIP Guidelines is to push projects out into future program years. Staff proposes the same program years except for the Seibu to School project. Dave Grah of the City has requests that the program year for the construction component of this project be moving from 2016/2017 to 2017/2018. The right of way negotiations with the City of Los Angeles are proceeding slowly so the City of Bishop requests a little more room to

make sure it can deliver the project. Otherwise the project is ready to go. The RTIP does include two new years of Planning, Programming and Monitoring Funds at \$200,000.00 a year to actively engage in development of projects when future cycles allow for additional programming. The action today is to approve the RTIP and to authorize the Executive Director to sign and make minor technical corrections if necessary. Since the RTIP was developed and copied Caltrans staff pointed out that one of the numbers in the performance report needed to be adjusted and the change has been made. The RTIP is due to be submitted to the CTC by the December 15th.

Rick Pucci had a question regarding the Seebu to School bike path. Is there anything that the LTC can do to help with the negotiations with the City of Los Angeles? This project has to do with getting children back and forth to school safely. If it truly is a matter of getting something through the system at the City of Los Angeles then perhaps another agency could assist in moving this forward. It is a convoluted process to get something through their system but to have it stalled for almost a year and then next year we don't want to hear the same thing that they just didn't get a chance to get to it.

Deston Dishion with the City of Bishop explained that part of the hang up was that City of Los Angeles wanted to call it a "path to nowhere" because it did not connect to anything. The Tribe actually has a good number of houses back there that have paths that are not concrete or asphalt that this could connect to. DWP asked the City of Bishop to get letters from the Tribe and schools and other organizations which they did and they turned them in to DWP and nothing further has happened since then. If there was some way that the LTC or Caltrans can help to move it along it would be very beneficial to the project. With Toiyabe Health Clinic going in very near to the end of this path it seems like there is a lot of construction going on and it would be a great time to get this project going. There has been talk of moving the path over to be more on school property but nothing further has happened with that idea either at this time. It was proposed to move it over where the school fence is now with the City offering to improve the schools irrigation, etc. but nothing more has happened with this idea.

Laura Smith asked Deston Dishion why this path was designed to end nowhere versus ending at a destination. Deston stated that the Tribe has designed and is pretty far along with their plans of the subdivision of homes there and at this time they can't promise where they are going to build those homes and they don't want a path that would detour a hundred homes being built right there. Right now they have the path back there at the fish ponds that all connect to Seibu and that path would connect right there. The original path was going to go right where the new homes are proposed to go so they didn't want to put it there. A path does not have to be concrete or pavement to be maintained and the City is proposing to link to this type of path.

Doug Thompson made the comment that the Tribe, DWP and City need to come to some sort of agreement to finish this worthy project. Deston Dishion stated that an agreement would help this project get completed. The project would open a network of paths.

Mark Tillemans asked if this was going to be a liability to the City of Los Angeles. Deston stated that constructing the path is just the right thing to do.

Rick Pucci then offered to assist in any way that he could in possibly writing a letter to DWP to follow up on it. We need to get it to a point where we know where the real issue is so that we can address the problem and be done with this. This has gone on for years and we need to help the kids.

Courtney reported that the State Legislature has a special transportation session that is open ended and everyone agrees that they need more money Statewide for transportation, however there is a conflict about where the money comes from. The County was hoping to move forward with the match for the South Lake Federal Lands Access Program Reconstruction Project. The grant is approved though the match funding is uncertain. This has delayed the project some though there is still an opportunity to deliver the project as part of the 2018 STIP and potentially before then if another funding source presents itself. The CTC may elect to push out the project program years in the Inyo LTC RTIP because of a funding shortfall in the first several years of the STIP. When the Caltrans state office submitted the Interagency Transportation Improvement Program to the CTC, Olancho – Cartago was included with the same program years as shown in the 2014 STIP. The CTC needs to push out some projects to future program years and this may happen to Olancho-Cartago.

Rick Pucci made the comment that with some of these programs if we keep pushing them out we will lose the funding all together. The bottom line is that after five years if we haven't done the project then we're not going to do it. In talking about the Seibu to School path there is \$480,000 so this is one of those projects where someone can say that they don't want to do the project and can just pull the money and put it somewhere else. So we need to be very careful about this. We don't want to lose track on this project. Courtney agreed and said that staff would coordinate with the City and if there is further delay can bring this matter back to the Commission. Mark Tillemans also stated the importance of having a paper trail and to join forces and to work with Caltrans and the City.

Ryan Dermody stated that he has seen it happen many times before where projects get pushed out and construction costs rise and now the cost of construction and the cost of labor have gone up and you won't have enough money for the project.

Motion to approve the 2016 RTIP made by Patricia Gardner and seconded by Rick Pucci. Motion carried 5-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6: Request Commission to receive a presentation from Caltrans District 9 staff on the Bishop ADA Sidewalk Project.

Brent Green opened with a greeting to the Commission. He stated that Caltrans has about 30 or so projects in the pipeline and each project has delivery years. A delivery year is when they are ready to advertise for construction. The Bishop ADA project is the biggest delivery plan

project for the 2017 year and the largest project that will impact the City. As an example, many projects have little or no Right of Way (ROW) take. This project requires over 132 ROW acquisitions. The majority of those are temporary. Even with temporary acquisition you still have to get concurrence and approval from the property owner. Just because it is temporary doesn't mean that it will be less difficult than a permanent take.

Even though the project won't go to construction for a few years Caltrans has already started contacting affected property owners. Many people know that this project is coming but it does not become reality until they get a letter in the mail from Caltrans stating that they want to talk to the owner about their property. Caltrans has started that process and have gotten quite a few letters out to the property owners on Line Street. One of the main reasons that Caltrans is here is to make you aware of what is going on. You may get some phone calls on this project.

Caltrans would also like to solicit LTC feedback. In terms of the project scope we pretty much have that set. But in terms of outreach we have noticed with other projects such as Lee Vining, June Lake and Bridgeport sidewalk projects; the more outreach that is done the better the project. You will be overwhelmed by all of the information in this presentation. There is a lot of information here and we have given everyone a summary sheet for your reference.

Truman Denio and Rick Kuykendall took the podium and presented a Bishop ADA Compliance project slide show. The following information was presented:

Project Goals

- Improve access for mobility challenged residents and visitors.
- Attain compliance with applicable State and Federal law and guidelines.

Project Timeline

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Design complete | October 2016 |
| • Right of Way Purchase Complete | February 2017 |
| • Contract Advertise | February 2017 |
| • Construction | May 2017 to May 2018 |
| • Project Complete | May 2018 |

Project Features

- **Sidewalk** – Reconstruct 8,900 linear feet due to cross slopes exceeding 2.0%, and cracked, broken, or lifted surfaces.
- **Curb Ramps** – Reconstruct 99 ramps due to excessive slope, lack of detectable warning surface, raised lip at gutter line, or cracked, broken surfaces.
- **Driveways** – Reconstruct 126 driveways access points due to the lack of 50" wide pedestrian path with a cross slope of less than 2.0%
- **Accessible** Pedestrian Signals (APS) – Modification of 44 existing pedestrian signals to APS installations with countdown timer heads.
- **Drainage** – Installation of slotted drain along the west side of US 395 from existing inlet at Clarke Street to Church Street.

Line Street Curb Ramps

- **Northwest Corner** – Split level design due to elevation difference between business entrances and street level.
- **Southeast Corner** – Widen existing sidewalk to shorten pedestrian crossing length and to eliminate de facto right turn lane. Existing parking will remain.
- **Temporary Closure of Line Street** – Short term closure (one week) to allow for better quality of construction, better traffic flow on US 395, and less total impact due to construction efficiencies.

Right of Way needs

- **Fee Parcels** – For permanent facilities (curb ramps, utility poles, sidewalk)
- **Temporary Construction Easements** – For additional space during construction and construction of driveway conforms.

Night Work

- Fewer pedestrians and vehicles at night so less impact to traffic with night work.
- Majority of businesses closed at night so less access impact with night work.
- Noise impacts for hotels and residences worse with night work.

A brief discussion was held to discuss the temporary easements needed for the construction crews to have a safe zone to work in. This will also apply to the property owners whose driveways will be rebuilt, the crews will need to be able to access their particular parcels to complete the work.

Additional discussions were held about the possibility of placing the utilities underground as asked by Laura Smith. That would not be feasible at this time due to cost constraints. Doug Thompson asked about the different spots downtown that continue to flood during the rainy seasons and it was mentioned that these areas will not be addressed with this project. This particular project is an ADA project and drainage issues cannot be included in the outline of this project.

ITEM NO. 7: Receive the fourth quarter invoice of Rural Planning Assistance funds in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and the first quarter invoice for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

In the fiscal year 2014/2015 the Rural Planning Assistance funds were completely expended in addition to funds carried over from FY 2013-2014. The report also provides information on the status of the Planning, Programming, and Monitoring funds (PPM) and Local Transportation Funds (LTF). The first quarter invoice was also presented for FY 2015-2016. It appears that everything is on course for this year. LTC staff has quite a few projects. The City of Bishop is starting a storm water master plan project. The County and City are moving forward with an ADA pedestrian inventory. The County just completed a project study report.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 8: ESTA Report – Quarterly Report

Jill Batchelder pointed out that there was an error made on her report. It was originally reported that there were 118,000 riders and it should read 18,656.

The ridership of 18,000+ is very good for this time period. ESTA was up over 8% from this same time last year. Passenger trips per hour were at 3.65 which was within our target goals with the exception of the Lone Pine Dial-A-Ride and Tecopa. Everything else fell within the target.

Ridership; Bishop Dial-A-Ride and Nite Rider routes are continuing to increase. There were a few years that these routes fell behind but they have rebounded with a 9.7% increase on the Bishop Dial-A-Ride and a 15.5% increase on the Nite Rider. The route to Reno was just booming this past summer. There were lots of hikers and one of the things that added to the increase was the fires. Many people were coming out of the Sierra in the Bridgeport area and catching a ride.

This Saturday ESTA is participating in the Stuff A Bus Holiday Food Drive at K-Mart from 1:00 – 3:00 in coordination with the Salvation Army and KIBS Radio.

The other change that was made recently was an adjustment to the Reno run. It will be coming back 20 minutes earlier to allow some recoup time in Mammoth to help with the leg from there to Bishop. This bus was not hitting the 5:15 p.m. target so the schedule was adjusted to help get Inyo County commuters back home in a timely manner. This adjustment started in October and it has had a positive effect on the ridership. There were passengers that started and were not taking the bus home.

ITEM NO. 9: Tribal Report - None

ITEM NO. 10: Caltrans Report –

Ryan Dermody presented the Caltrans quarterly project status report. Those projects that were highlighted in blue are projects that Caltrans is proposing to insert into the 2016 State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP). This is important because the LTC Commission is going to receive a letter from Caltrans Headquarters Programming asking if you have seen this list and as of today you have. They will be asking if the Commission has any questions. They are really going for the transparency of giving you an opportunity to comment on the SHOPP program. The Commissioners reported they were unable to see the blue print. Courtney indicated he would e-mail the Commission a color copy of the Quarterly Progress Report.

The West Line Street sidewalk project has been awarded and the contractor is in discussion with our project senior engineer and they are looking at starting work this winter.

SR 108, Sonora Pass is now closed for the winter. We expect SR 120 to do the same shortly.

There has been a major reorganization at District 9. Back in the early 90's District 9 was partially merged with District 6 in Fresno. What that meant is that District 9 has had autonomy in 60-75% of what we do. When it comes to the staff that actually does the work, the design of the work, the right-of-way work all of those that are called capital outlay type of activities, all of those are sourced out and paid out of District 6. As of October 29th District 9 is now an independent district. This will increase our staffing over time and there will be benefits that will be transparent to all of you. In addition to that District is going back to doing some work in Eastern Kern County to make it all work.

ITEM NO. 11: City of Bishop Report

Deston Dishion had nothing further for a report today.

ITEM NO. 12: Executive Director's Report

County Quarterly Project Update
Regional Transportation Plan

Courtney reported that before the Commission are their copies of the Final Regional Transportation Plan. This was approved back at the September meeting. He then presented the County project update. The South Bishop resurfacing as well as the Sunland Bicycle Lane projects are both complete. The West Bishop resurfacing project is in the Design phase and we are hoping to go to construction in spring 2016. For the Federal Lands Access program, Upper Rock Creek road is complete. The Whitney Portal Road right of way component is underway and almost complete. Construction is anticipated next year and they are opening bids today. For the South Lake Road improvement project, the County has approved the project agreement and will move forward and pay for the Environmental and Design components. The main cost of the project is construction and the County needs to identify a source to cover the match. Dehy Park has been around for a while and is anticipated to be completed early next spring. Construction is expected next spring and summer for the Ed Powers Bicycle Lanes project. Sabrina Bridge is complete and the other projects are underway. The County was awarded a Highway Safety Improvement Program grant for a South County striping project which will install fog line striping on 78 miles on Stateline Road, Panamint Valley Road, Trona Wildrose Road, and Old Spanish Trails Highway as well as installing rumble strips on Stateline Road. This will make Stateline Road more consistent with what the roads profile looks like across the border in Nevada.

ITEM NO. 13: Reports from members of the Inyo County LTC

Mark Tillemans: Expressed a thank you to Jill Batchelder for all that she does to accommodate the handicap needs of our residents in the area.

Laura Smith: December 5th is the Christmas Parade and thanks to the City of Bishop, Caltrans, Public Works, the Fire Department all collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce, this will be a night parade. This has not happened in many, many years. This will be in conjunction with the tree lighting ceremony and the night of lights festivities so all of the activities will be downtown. Also, wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! Laura also mentioned that we will all miss Dick Noles.

Doug Thompson: The bike paths are interesting. He talked to a group that wants to tie Bridgeport to Lone Pine and he found them to be very interesting. He found that they all have their own secret trails that they take. Doug had some extra time so he went out and drove some of the trails and realized how nice they are. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels during the holiday.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Thompson adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

The next LTC meeting is going to be held on December 16, 2015 in the City of Bishop Council Chambers.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By Denise Hayden, Secretary