



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Clint Quilter, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Inyo County Board of Supervisors Chambers
224 N. Edwards Street
Independence, CA 93526**

March 21, 2018

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Doug Thompson
Joe Peci
Dan Totheroh
Bob Kimball
Rick Pucci

Others present:

John Helm, ESTA
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Ryan Dermody, Caltrans
Brent Green, Caltrans
Joan Stathem, ESTA rider
Ryan Standridge, Staff
Clint Quilter, Executive Director
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 January 17, 2018.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Rick Pucci and seconded by Commissioner Dan Totheroh. Motion passed 4-0-1 with Commissioner Joe Peci abstaining.

ITEM NO. 4 Request Commission consider approval of Resolution No. 2018-02 authorizing the execution of the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) and allocating \$26,403 of FY 2017-2018 funds toward the purchase of an electric bus.

John Helm explained that the main focus for this program is the low greenhouse gas production. The projects that are submitted through this program for funding need to show that they reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ESTA currently has funding through this program that helps subsidize the cost of an additional run from Bishop to Mammoth and it is also subsidizing a fare reduction on that same route to bring more riders to that route. Every vehicle that we take off of the road between Bishop and Mammoth helps to decrease the greenhouse gases on this segment. Once again this year we are requesting funding for these two programs. The funding increased almost \$40,000.00 from funding that we have this current fiscal year due to Senate Bill 1. ESTA is looking around to find another project that would accomplish the goal to result in a reduction in greenhouse gases. One of the things that this program really pushes is low or zero emission vehicles. ESTA doesn't currently have any zero emission vehicles but it is the way of the future. The public transit industry may see mandates in the future where all transit operators will be required to purchase only zero emission vehicles. ESTA staff is proposing to stockpile funds from multiple years of this grant source along with other transit funds to purchase a zero emission vehicle. To this end, ESTA staff is requesting the balance of the \$66,000.00 total of LCTOP funds to be set aside for a zero emission vehicle to be purchased in about 4 years.

Joe Peci asked if the State would allow those funds to be held for that long and John Helm confirmed that they can be held for that length of time.

A brief discussion was held regarding the price of the new bus. John Helm noted that this price does include a charging station for the vehicle at the ESTA facility in Bishop.

Motion to approve Resolution 2018-02 made by Commissioner Joe Peci and seconded by Commissioner Dan Totheroh. Motion passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 5 Introduction by LTC staff to the Draft Overall Work Program (OWP) for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and provide feedback.

Courtney Smith introduced The OWP is a one-year scope of work and budget for transportation planning activities and funding sources to be accomplished during the

upcoming State fiscal year. The Draft FY 2018/2019 draft document can be viewed online at <http://www.involtc.org/owp.html>, and was mailed to transportation partners in the area. Please submit any comments on the Draft OWP to him by April 27, 2018. Staff is tentatively planning to present a Final Draft OWP to your Commission for approval at the May 16, 2018 meeting.

The OWP is specifically concerned with State requirements for the expenditure of Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds. However, Transportation Development Act and Planning, Programming, & Monitoring funds are included. The OWP is a statement of proposed work and estimated costs that tie specific available transportation planning funding sources to specific transportation planning activities. RPA funds must be used for activities associated with the rural planning process. The funds should not be used for activities that go beyond the planning process or for activities that have been identified as ineligible such as project specific work involving transportation engineering, Transportation Development Act administration, and non-planning grant administration. See attached Appendix A from the FY 2017 Regional Planning Handbook for examples of eligible and ineligible expenditures of RPA funds. This Appendix has been updated and especially distinguishes between direct and indirect expenditures. To use Rural Planning Assistance funds for indirect costs requires the completion of an Indirect Cost Allocation Plan (ICAP). The completion of an ICAP requires additional administrative work and staff is trying to avoid that if possible.

Transportation Development Act (TDA) administrative funds - these funds are used for tasks necessary for the allocation of Transportation Development Act funds to eligible transit claimants. For the last three years the LTC has used these funds for general LTC-related indirect costs. TDA Administrative funds are also being set aside for the completion of a Triennial Performance Audit of the ICLTC and the Eastern Sierra Area Agency for Aging.

Planning Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds are available to the ICLTC to cover costs of: 1) regional transportation planning, including the development and preparation of the regional transportation plan; 2) project planning, including the development of project study reports or major investment studies, conducted by regional agencies or by local agencies in cooperation with regional agencies; 3) program development, including the preparation of RTIPs and studies supporting them; and 4) monitoring the implementation of STIP projects, including project delivery, timely use of funds, and compliance with State law and the California Transportation Commission's guidelines. There is \$100,000 in PPM funds programmed to the ICLTC in FY 2018- 2019 as part of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The ICLTC has up to three years to use these funds. In the upcoming fiscal year, the FY 2016-2017, the FY 2017-2018, and the FY 2018-2019 PPM funds will be available for expenditure in the coming fiscal year.

Doug Thompson asked Courtney if there was a way to re-word the Bishop to Reno and Bishop to Lancaster routes, technically it starts in Mammoth and Lone Pine but it covers the entire area.

ITEM NO. 6 Receive the second quarter invoice of Rural Planning Assistance funds in Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

The Inyo County Local Transportation Commission staff has invoiced the State for reimbursement of Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds in the amount of \$31,922 for the 2nd quarter of FY 2017-2018 (October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017). This reimbursement request is for work completed in accordance with the FY 2017-2018 Overall Work Program.

It is anticipated that the LTC is on pace to expend 100% of its RPA funds for this fiscal year. Given the current project load (the update to the Pavement Management Plan) staff believes that the LTC is within its current budget and expending funds at an appropriate rate. No amendments to the FY 2017-2018 OWP are required at this time.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7 ESTA

John Helm reported that ESTA executive director recruitment is well underway. They are using the firm CPS HR Consultants for their search. There are now two finalists that will be coming to town next week for interviews. There will be a two panel interview process, first with the ESTA Board and then with a panel made up with representatives of the four entities that make up ESTA. ESTA is hoping to have an update at the next meeting.

ESTA has also been in the process of looking at how they are organized and how they deliver services to the Eastern Sierra. The timing of this study has been really good because of the turnover in administration in the ESTA office. Some of the input from the consultants with regards to the current positions and their functions has been very helpful. We have a new plan that we are putting into place. The plan was endorsed by the ESTA Board and ESTA hopes to be filling two other positions within the next month.

At an ESTA board meeting last month, the board approved the services and routes that ESTA will serve in the next 6 months. The services for April – September were approved last Friday. The Board approved the operation of the Bishop Creek Shuttle again this summer. Ridership was low last year but it was not an average year to judge that based on the amount of snowfall that we experienced and the late opening date for high country activities. ESTA will try to put out good marketing information so that everyone is aware of this route. They will also continue to run the Reno to Lancaster routes five days a week. All other services will remain the same.

Joe Peci thanked the ESTA Board for continuing the Bishop Creek shuttle service.

ITEM NO. 8 Tribal Report

None

ITEM NO. 9 Caltrans Report Quarterly Project Update

Ryan Dermody noted that District 9 is working on an Eastern Sierra freight study. Results should be in around February 2019. Preliminarily one of the biggest freight issues in the area is truck parking. It does not appear that there will be substantial increases in truck traffic for our area though stay tuned. District 9 is also working on an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) study. The last ITS study done in our area was in 2001. This study focuses on using updated computer data to provide up to the minute information for the traveling public about changeable conditions such as wind and snow. In order to qualify to purchase updated equipment you need to have a plan in place.

There is a new "quick map" application available for your smart phone to see the live cams, CHP incidents, chain controls, and to even find out exactly where the snow plows are working.

With the Bike and Pedestrian plan in place, District 9 is now eligible to apply for Active Transportation Program grants. District 9 is looking to submit an application to expand the sidewalks on West Line Street from Barlow Lane to Manor Market. District 9 will ask for letters of support from the LTC and County for this project.

Jill Batchelter is now with Caltrans and has been assigned Inyo County. So, you will be seeing her from time to time at the meetings.

Caltrans report for Inyo County. Note that all of the light maintenance projects are not listed on this report. The McNally shoulder widening project on Highway 6 which is in Inyo County but runs into Mono County will go into construction this spring. Anyone going out Highway 6 should be aware that there will be a significant project to widen the shoulders.

The contractor for the North See Vee Lane at North Sierra Highway signal project was here a few weeks ago to complete some culvert work while the water levels were low. All of that work has been completed and the contractor will come back in a couple of months to install the signals.

On the other end of See Vee at West Line Street, that signal will go to construction this fall.

The Olancha-Cartago four lane project is getting very busy. Last week the Inyo County Supervisors approved the access highway agreement. Caltrans is now moving forward with the right-of-way phase, which includes the purchase of the right-of-way for the new alignment.

Caltrans staff is also working on an Incidental Take permit with Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Olancha-Cartago project is in Desert Tortoise and Mojave Ground Squirrel habitat so we need implement mitigation measures. In July, the archeology pre-mitigation work will begin.

Joe Peci asked if construction for the Olancha/Cartago 4 lane is still on target for the start of 2020. Ryan confirmed this date.

Brent Green said that SB1 is currently on everyone's mind. Caltrans is promoting this and you will see the signs on the projects that have been funded by this. There is just as much money in local streets and roads as there are in State funded roads. Clint Quilter noted that the County's first year SB 1 projects backfill basic work that hasn't been getting done. This includes a crack sealing project and painting maintenance project.

Caltrans statewide has talked about succession planning because of the "baby-boomer" bubble where many of the current Caltrans employees were hired. Estimates show that of the 18,000 Caltrans workers statewide, as many as 12,000 of them will be eligible for retirement in the next 5 years. Caltrans will see a mass change in management and staffing.

Mono County and Inyo County have worked very well together to make sure that the Olancho/Cartago project moved forward. Kern County being on the west side, they are a little less excited about the MOU projects. Brent and Ryan attended one of the Kern Council of Government meetings to let them know that we are still interested in their area. They were encouraged to see Kern COG's support for the MOU projects.

Rick Pucci thanked Brent Green for making the trip to Kern County to keep them informed in our shared projects. Doug mentioned the new freeway in Los Angeles County being constructed between Palmdale and Apple Valley. This will give travelers a new way to get to SR 14. Dan Totheroh mentioned that there is new striping on US 395 that keeps you from passing in areas that you used to be able to pass. Joe Peci added how nice it is to work with Brent Green and District 9 staff. Dan Totheroh concurred.

ITEM NO. 10 City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah thanked Caltrans for the outreach they have done with the City and with local businesses in advance of the Bishop ADA project. Dan Totheroh asked if there was any update on the Sebu to School Path. Dave said they are having continued discussion with LADWP for a second appraisal. Rick Pucci asked if it would be helpful to have LTC write a letter to LADWP to let them know how important this project is. Rick feels that it is necessary to make sure the project gets completed before the funds for this project go away. Dave said that the project has been in the process since 2008. Dave noted that there is an important deadline approaching regarding the funding and that the City may apply for a time extension to the California Transportation Commission. Dave noted that the appraisal requested is just a few days away of being completed. Rick reiterated that we do need to push this project through, it is very important to children in West Bishop.

ITEM NO. 11 Executive Director's Report

2018 STIP status report

Truck traffic issues on Old Spanish Trail Highway

Courtney Smith reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff released their staff recommendations for the 2018 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) at the end of February. All of the projects programmed in the Inyo County LTC Regional

Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) are programmed. However the construction match funding for South Lake Road Construction match is being pushed back from FY 2019-2020 to FY 2021-2022; the environmental component of the Lone Pine Streets rehabilitation project is being pushed back from FY 2018-2019 to FY 2020-2021; and the environmental component of the East Line Street Bridge replacement project is also being pushed back from FY 2018-2019 to FY 2020-2021.

Truck traffic issues on Old Spanish Trail Highway

Your Commission is being asked to: 1. Receive a report from staff on impacts to Old Spanish Trail Highway created by increased truck traffic.

In the past year and a half, Road Department staff has observed an increase in the number of commercial trucks using Old Spanish Trail Highway. The Road Department maintains a 30.1 mile stretch of Old Spanish Trail Highway between SR 127 near Tecopa and the Nevada state line. Old Spanish Trail Highway is a substandard roadway with only one or two inches of asphalt. Road Department staff has increasingly had difficulty keeping up with maintenance needs.

Road Department staff has been in contact with California Highway Patrol regarding ways to enforce vehicle length or weight requirements. To facilitate enforcement of oversize vehicle requirements, Road Department staff is considering the placement of signs stating truck weight and/or length requirements. This will require coordination with Clark County for the portion of Old Spanish Trail Highway or Tecopa Road that is in Nevada, coordination with the Nevada Department of Transportation for signs at the Tecopa Road turnoff off of SR 160, and also with Caltrans for signage on SR 127. Staff is researching the issue and trying to determine what has created the increase in commercial truck traffic.

The year old I-15 Joint Point of Entry includes a weight station for southbound vehicle traffic entering California. It appears that Old Spanish Trail Highway may be seen as an alternative route for oversize vehicles to avoid the new weigh-station, although we are not yet sure that this is the case.

Ryan Dermody said that Caltrans District 9 might be able to help determine where the trucks are coming from and going to. He told Courtney to contact him if he wanted Caltrans to help.

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

Joe Peci asked what the status of trash containers are for those parking on US 6. The Lions Club got permission to clean up that area. Ryan stated that this could be a case of “be careful what you ask for”. Caltrans did put dumpsters out there a few years ago and they filled up quickly because additional people also used them. It is a difficult situation. Ryan stated that there needs to be a truck stop put in out there but land is an issue. Rick Pucci asked if it is legal for the trucks to park there. Rick said that perhaps some signs in that area stating that there is a \$500.00 fine for littering. He didn’t know if that was possible or not. Ryan Dermody will take it back to the office and see what they can do. There are some

people that live out there. The law reads that if they move a few feet every couple of days then they are within the law. Joe talked to the old K-Mart lot owners and asked why the blocked off the parking lot and the owner indicated that the trucks were knocking down the light standards in the parking lot.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at: 9:50 a.m.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By: Ryan Standridge, Staff