



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**

May 16, 2018

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Doug Thompson
Joe Peci
Dan Totheroh
Bob Kimball
Chris Costello

Others present:

John Helm, ESTA
Karie Bentley, ESTA
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Peter Bernasconi, Bishop Paiute Tribe
Rhiannon Baker, Inyo County HHS
Jill Batchelder, Caltrans
Brent Green, Caltrans
Joan Stathem, ESTA rider
Ryan Standridge, Staff
Clint Quilter, Executive Director
Courtney Smith, Staff

ITEM NO. 2 Public Comment

There was no one from the public that wished to comment on any subject that was not scheduled on the Agenda. Chair Thompson closed the public comment period at 09:03 A.M.

ACTION ITEMS

Courtney Smith brought to the Commissions attention the late addition of Item No. 10B. Mr. Smith explained that 1) Eastern Sierra Transit Authority staff were made aware of the submittal deadline for the FTA Section 5311(f) grant deadline after today's meeting was noticed and 2) the grant submittal is required to be submitted before the next regularly scheduled meeting. He requested the FTA Section 5311(f) Resolution be added as Item 10B.

Commissioner Dan Totheroh made a motion to Agendize Item 10B as an action item and seconded by Commissioner Joe Pesci. The motion passed 5-0.

ITEM NO. 3 Election of Vice Chair

Before Opening the Election of the Vice Chair Doug Thompson requested a moment of silence in memory of Commissioner Patricia Gardner.

Joe Pesci volunteered to serve as the Vice Chair. No additional nominations were given.

Motion to elect Joe Pesci as Vice Chair was made by Commissioner Dan Totheroh and Seconded by Commissioner Chris Costello. The motion Passed 5-0

ITEM NO. 4 Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission – Requests approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2018.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Bob Kimball and seconded by Commissioner Joe Pesci. The motion passed 5-0.

ITEM NO. 5 Request Commission: 1) receive a copy of the meeting notes of the Social Services Transit Advisory Council and 2) conduct a public hearing to gather input on unmet transit needs.

Courtney Smith gave an overview of the social service transit advisory meeting required by the State.

Chair Doug Thompson opened the Public Hearing at 9:07 A.M.

There was no one from the public that wished to comment. Commissioner Pesci made a motion to close the public hearing and Commissioner Dan Totheroh seconded that. The Public hearing closed at 9:08 A.M.

ITEM NO. 6 Request Commission ratify a State Transportation Improvement Program amendment to 1) allow the City of Bishop to apply for a 12 month time extension request for the Seibu to School path and 2) authorize the Executive Director to sign the extension request.

Courtney Smith described to the commission that the requested time extension deadline was last month and that the Executive Director opted to sign the extension. Staff recommends the commission ratify the time extension.

City of Bishop's Public Works Director David Grah stated that the City of Bishop is making headway with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The delay was due to additional appraisal required by LADWP; it has been completed but not made public yet.

Commissioner Joe Pecs made a motion to ratify a STIP amendment allowing the City of Bishop to apply for an extension and authorize the Executive Director to sign. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Totheroh. The motion passed 5-0.

ITEM NO. 7 Request Commission approve Resolutions No. 2018-03 a resolution approving 1) the FY 2017-2018 Federal Exchange Program and State Match Program Agreement, Agreement No. X18-6134(025) with the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$108,664, 2) apportioning and allocating Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to the County of Inyo and City of Bishop based on population, and 3) authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement.

Courtney Smith referenced the staff report that explained how annually the agreement is received and allocated to the City of Bishop and County of Inyo.

Commissioner Chris Costello made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-03, Supporting the allocation of funds for FY 2017-2018, and authorize the Executive director to sign and seconded by Commissioner Dan Totheroh. The motion passed 5-0.

ITEM NO. 8 Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2018-04, a resolution to 1) approve the Overall Work Program for the Inyo County LTC for FY 2017/2018, 2) authorize the Executive Director to sign related documents and 3) allow staff to make minor technical changes if required.

Courtney Smith described the changes made to the Draft Overall Work Program (OWP) in response to comments submitted by Caltrans District 9.

Commissioner Joe Pesci inquired as to the status of the Drone Policy. Executive Director Clint Quilter informed the commissioners that the Ag Commissioner and Legal are work on a County wide drone policy. Courtney Smith also added that staff is going through the process of obtaining a drone pilot license.

David Grah expressed his support of the OWP and appreciation of the county keeping the city in mind.

Motion to approve Resolution 2018-04 which 1) approves the FY 2018/2019 OWP, 2) authorize executive director to sign, and 3) authorizes staff to make any minor technical changes to the OWP was made by Commissioner Joe Pesci and seconded by Commissioner Bob Kimball. The motion passed 5-0.

ITEM NO. 9 Request Commission 1) approve the FY 2016-2017 List of Transit Operators eligible to receive State Transit Assistance funds as a direct recipient under PUC 99314 and 2) authorize the executive director to sign the certification.

Courtney Smith explained that Assembly Bill 1113 was signed into law in July 2017 and created the requirement to reply to the State Controller's Office. The bill provides that only STA-eligible operators, as defined, are eligible to receive an allocation from the portion of program funds based on transit operator revenues.

Under the Public Utilities Code (PUC), State Transit Assistance funds are allocated to eligible public transit providers via two different formulas. These are Section 99313 which is population based on population and Section 99314 which is allocated based on transit revenue. The legislation is specifically in regards to Section 99314 allocations.

The list by the Controller's Office only includes Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging or ESAAA. ESAAA is not an eligible entity to receive Section 99314 funds directly because they are not eligible to receive funds under Section 4 or Section 8 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA). ESAAA receives their funds under Section 4.5 of the TDA.

Eastern Sierra Transit Authority is in an unusual position in that they are the only agency in California that is the primary public transit provider for two counties. The SCO is only willing to allocate Section 99314 funds to one public transit agency. These funds are allocated to ESTA via the Mono County LTC. ESTA staff informally calculates what percentage of their total revenue was from services provided in Inyo County versus Mono County and then develops projects for the corresponding amount of funds that benefit each County.

Bob Kimball commended John Helm on the continued ability to keep the agreement equitable.

Motion to approve FY 2016-2017 eligibility list and authorize the executive director to certify by Commissioner Joe Pesci and seconded by Commissioner Chris Costello. Motion passed 5-0.

ITEM NO. 10 Request Commission 1) receive a report on a proposed Caltrans District 9 sidewalk extension project on W. Line Street 2) provide feedback, and 3) consider approval of a letter of support for this project.

Jill Batchelder presented a brief background on the active transportation program being adopted by Governor Brown in 2013 that resulted in the consolidation of funds from the transportation alternative program, bicycle transportation account, and the safe routes to school focusing on active modes of transportation that reduces greenhouse emissions. This was the first year Caltrans is eligible to directly apply. If awarded Caltrans would be extend the sidewalk on W. Line Street to will link pedestrian infrastructure improvements to churches, schools, the Bishop Reservation, and city.

Commissioner Doug Thompson expressed his excitement to have sidewalks extended westward on this important corridor.

Motion to approve a letter of support by Commissioner Joe Pesci and seconded by Commissioner Chris Costello. Motion passed 5-0.

ITEM NO. 10B Request commission approve Resolution No. 2018-05 that authorizes the Executive Director to sign the Certification and Assurances for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) Continued Funding for Operating Assistance

John Helm informed the Commission of the time sensitive turnaround for the submittal to continue federal transit section 5311(f) funding. John explained that ESTA has set aside 5311(f) match funds if necessary although there is a possibility toll credits may cover the match.

Commissioner Doug Thompson expressed how essential the Mammoth to Lancaster Route, and Lone Pine to Reno route became when Greyhound left the area.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2018-05 that authorizes the Executive Director to sign the Certification and Assurances for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) by Commissioner Joe Pesci and seconded by Commissioner Dan Tothoroh. Motion passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 11 Request Commission conduct a workshop prioritizing potential Active Transportation Program grant applications.

Courtney Smith noted that Caltrans released a call for ATP grant application today. Applications are required to be submitted by July 31st. **The purpose of the program is to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking.**

Courtney ran through the attached project list that is generally ranked from highest to lowest priority. Courtney noted that these grants are competitive and local agencies have struggled to submit successful projects. The City of Bishop was awarded the Spruce, Yaney, Hanby sidewalk project. County staff has preliminarily begun to complete an Engineer's estimate of probable cost for the Barlow Lake project and City staff have tentatively selected the reconstruction of the bike path between Sierra Street and North Sierra Highway. Staff is especially seeking feedback on these projects.

Commissioner Joe Pesci asked about the level of involvement the tribe has had. Staff confirmed they had been working with the Peter Bernasconi. Peter then noted that the Barlow sidewalk and bicycle lane project has been presented before the Tribal Council and received positive feedback.

Commission Costello asked if the Barlow lane Projects on the list are separate and that it would make sense to combine these projects. Courtney explained to the commission that it is the intention of County staff to combine the projects - the reconstruction of the existing

Class I bicycle lane on S. Barlow and the construction of a sidewalk and bicycle lanes between W. Line Street and North Sierra Highway.

David Grah cautioned the commission to consider the right-of-way process that some projects will incur that may not be completed in the time frame. The projects listed, that require an involved right-of-way process, are high importance but they may not fit into the ATP grant criteria due to time constraints.

Staff asked for a consensus of the priority list. Commissioner Joe Pesci expressed his support for staff's initial ranking. After some conversation about the County project list, the Commission ranked the two Barlow Lane projects and the Lone Pine downtown sidewalks projects as being of highest importance at this point in time. The Commission ranked the Bike Path Rehab, Diaz to School Path, and Fowler Sidewalk as being the highest priority City of Bishop active transportation projects at this time.

Public Comment was opened at 9:55 A.M. There was no one from the public that wished to comment and Chair Thompson closed the public comment period at 9:56 A.M.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 12 ESTA Report

John Helm reported that ridership this quarter was flat compared to last year. This is due to the increase in hours and miles on moving the US 395 North and South routes service to five days a week. At recent CALACT conferences, transit agencies statewide have noted a significant decrease in ridership in the last couple of years. ESTA's numbers have remained fairly steady and so far have not joined this trend. John announced ESTA will be offering Mule days shuttles with fixed rates. The ESTA executive director recruitment ongoing until a director is appointed. ESTA is using an executive search firm to assist with the search. So far the recruitment has been unsuccessful. ESTA is awaiting the answer from a finalist. Mr. Helm announced that this would be the final LTC meeting he would be attending. He introduced administrative manager Karie Bentley to the Commission and informed the Commission that Karie will be the ESTA point of contact until the new director is selected.

ITEM NO. 13 Tribal Report

Peter Bernasconi updated the commission on transportation issues. The tribe hired a transportation planner that is working to update the bike plan. The Tribe is working on a Safety Plan to reduce severe accidents. The Tribe will pursue additional transit grant funding to provide vouchers to use the ESTA bus service. Peter reiterated the tribe's support of the Barlow Lane sidewalk project. The tribe is currently working on a project to add a gas station.

ITEM NO. 14 Caltrans Report

- Average Annual Daily Traffic Count Data for US 395, US 6, SR 14, & SR 58
- Caltrans project update

Jill Batchelder reviewed the annual daily traffic count information for District 9 that were included in the packet.

Bob Kimball noted that there are issues with interval of the lights at Schat's Bakery and at Yaney street. Brent Green said that this is being looked at and the Bishop ADA project will fix it.

Brent Green thanked Commissioner Thompson for attending the fallen workers memorial. Freeman Gulch project went to construct because of Inyo County LTC. Brent expressed how important it is for LTC attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on June 12. Commissioner Totheroh requested an email reminder. Caltrans in conjunction with the California Highway Patrol held a bike rodeo in Bishop as a part of bike month and it was well attended.

Brent green gave an update on the Bishop ADA project. There were some initial quantity issues that may affect the final dollar amount and the scope may be reduced. Caltrans will continue the outreach on the project

Joe Pesci asked if the contractor has compromised the curbing with doing the sidewalk first. Brent said he would forward this comment to project staff.

Brent Green mentioned that District 8 has had a large amount of inquires of traffic counts, fatalities, accidents along US 395 in San Bernardino County. Caltrans is looking to organize a summit to bring together affected parties.

ITEM NO. 15 City of Bishop Report

Dave Grah is supporting bike month by riding to work all but one day this month. Dave reiterates the Seibu to School bike path project is still waiting on LADWP. The environmental component for the Yaney, Spruce, and Hanby sidewalk project is almost complete. The City of Bishop hopes to start construction next year. The LTC funded drainage study project will be completed next week. The LTC is funding a survey as part of the development of a project study report for an East Line Street improvement project.

Joe Pesci mentioned that Dave Grah is work on a contract to install north bound traffic radar feedback signs on US 395 as it enters Bishop.

ITEM NO. 16 Executive Director's Report

Clint Quilter gave an update that the Shoshone Airport runway project and West Bishop, Projects are complete. The combined Whitney Portal and Horseshoe Meadows roads project has just received construction bids. N. Round Valley Bridge proposals are being prepared.

ITEM NO. 17 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Joe Pesci suggested ESTA arrange for transportation to Freeman Gulch opening.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at: 10:45 a.m.

Attest:

Clint Quilter
Executive Director

By: Ryan Standridge, Staff