

ITEM #4



**INYO COUNTY
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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Michael Errante, Executive Director

MINUTES

DATE: December 16, 2020

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

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Doug Thompson
Rick Pucci
Celeste Berg
Steven Muchovej
Jose Garcia

Others present:

Mark Heckman, Caltrans
Dennee Alcala, Caltrans
Margaret Campbell, RSG
Maren Outwater, RSG
Steve Trevino, RSG
Phil Moores, ESTA
Deston Dishion, City of Bishop
Ron Phillips, City of Bishop
Michael Errante, Executive Director ICLTC
John Pinckney, Staff ICLTC
Cynthia Browning, ICLTC Secretary

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 19, 2020

*Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Muchovej and seconded by Commissioner Pucci. All in favor 5.

ITEM NO. 4 Request Commission approve Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2020-2021 Overall Work Program via Resolution No. 2020-11 approving an agreement with Caltrans to carryover Rural Planning Assistance funds from FY 2019-2020 into FY 2020-2021.

*Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Pucci and Seconded by Commissioner Muchovej All in favor 5.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 5 Present to Commission Triennial Performance Audits of the ICLTC, ESTA and ESAAA as completed by Michael Baker International

*John Pinckney stated that Michael Baker International finished the Performance Audits this fall. It was asked that we look deeper at the performance metrics for the funds that we allocate to ESAAA. John explained that the Eastern Sierra Area Aging Association (ESAAA) is a community transit program for people who do not have transportation for medical appointments and other necessary services. The ESAAA is the only entity that came forward requesting those funds and they are the only entity that qualifies for those funds. John said that he asked our attorney if Northern Inyo Hospital qualifies to request the funds and they do not in their current structure. John finished by stating that these Performance Audits show that we need to do more work to prove that we are administering these funds properly.

*Phil Moores, Executive Director of Eastern Sierra Transit stated that he is available for advice or help to anyone at ESAAA.

*Commissioner Steven Muchovej said that on page 33 and 34 of the ESTA's Performance Audit, there are some calculations that are not correct but that the real numbers are. Commissioner Muchovej went on to say that it is not critical to revise the numbers in order to send it to the state.

*John Pinckney said that he wanted to clarify that we are okay to go forward to submit the required certification to the state that we have completed the Performance Audits. The Commission said it was fine to go forward.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6 **ESTA Report**

*Phil Moores reported that ESTA has remained a COVID free organization. He went on to say that ESTA had a successful "Stuff a bus" event. The "Stuff a bus" program is a nationwide transit tradition. ESTA partnered with the Salvation Army where they park a bus next to a store. When people exit the store they can donate various items into the bus. Phil said that they were able to stock the shelves at the Salvation Army with this program.

Phil went on to say that recruitment went well this year and he was able to get the drivers they needed. He went on to say that ridership is up from the beginning of Covid which was down 80%. Ridership in Bishop is down only 30% from same time last year.

Phil said that he has been working with Supervisor Matt Kingsley and the Senior Center in Tecopa, trying to figure out how to provide bus service to them. Phil went on to say that Jim Copeland may pick up the route.

Phil said that their grants in planning efforts have been successful. They were awarded 7 or 8 new vehicles to replace older fleet vehicles. They will be purchased in the next year.

Phil reported that ESTA has been given notice to proceed with their Short Range Transit Plan and their Coordinated Human Services Plan. He said that Mark Heckman of Caltrans has been critical in making that happen and the kick off meeting will be on Friday. He said that he will present to the LTC Commission to talk about these two plans.

Phil continued that he met with an organization called CalStart. CalStart is a clean energy organization that helps plan for zero emission vehicles. Phil said that he would like to apply for another grant similar to the Planning Grant and partner with CalStart.

ITEM NO. 7 Tribal Report- None

ITEM NO. 8 Caltrans Report

*Mark Heckman said he had been working on the Caltrans D-9 Origination and Destination Study for the past 2 years and it was wrapped up today. RSG subcontractor out of Vermont is here to present the draft report. Mark stated that after the presentation he will send the PDF document to the Commissioners.

*Origination & Destination Study – draft report - presented by: Margaret Campbell, Steven Trevino and Maren Outwater

*SHOPP Project List for Review and Comment: Brandon Fit, Asset manager for District 9, gave a power point presentation.

*Lone Pine US395 Visioning Update: Mark Heckman stated that the 2nd stakeholder meeting took place and said that there will be a 3rd meeting in late January. The stakeholder internal meeting for Caltrans will take place and Doug Thompson and John Pinckney will be invited. John stated that the consultant did a great job at the meetings and the turnout was encouraging.

*Meadow Farms ADA Project Update: Dennee Alcalá of Caltrans reported.

*Dennee stated that they wrapped up the meadow farms ADA. They will be moving into the design and right of way phases of the project. Construction anticipated in the summer of 2024.

*Dennee also reported that the Olancha Cartago Project is progressing with utility relocation. She said she is excited to say that they are doing something different by advertising the desert tortoise fence installation ahead of the prime contract. She went on to explain that the desert tortoise are only

above the ground minimally for the entire calendar year so they will try to harness their active season so that they can get the fence in and remove them from the alignment. Construction should begin spring of 2021.

*Dennee gave a traffic advisory update: Shoshone Culvert Project is going on for at least another month on State Route 178. There will be possible 20 min delays.

*Mark Heckman said that the Sustainability Grant is due Feb 12th. Mark said he will be sending out the application today. Or you go to website and find the information there.

ITEM NO. 9 City of Bishop Report

*Deston Dishion reported that the Spruce Hanby Sidewalk Project had been completed. He said there is 21,000 sq. ft. of new sidewalk, 12 new ramps, and 3000 feet of bike lanes 63 new street trees.

ITEM NO. 10 Executive Director's Report

*Inyo County Active Project Update

*State Parks Grant – USFS NEPA review of County Roads

Michael Errante presented a map and discussed various projects updates.

*John Pinckney reported on the State Parks Grant stating that he was wrapping up the process with the Forest Service. John said that the number of roads we were considering got narrowed down due to objections during the environmental process. It is now narrowed down to looking at easements on Onion Valley Rd., Death Valley Rd., Foothill Rd., and County Rd. Until we get a decision we are still in limbo.

John reported that the Caltrans Highway Improvement Program (HIP) funds will not be allocated for transit. He said we have \$48,100.00 from 3 years ago that need to be used or we will lose it. John mentioned the possibility of allocating it to the Olancha Cartago Project. Ron Phillips at the City of Bishop said that they could possibly use it. John said that if they have a project that qualifies, he would suggest it to the Commission.

John went on to report that the Inyo County Auditor sent John a message that our LTC auditor for last year has declined to give us a new quote and we will need to use a new auditor. The issue would be the cost. We need to get the new auditor on board quickly. Last year was \$6400.00 and this year the new proposal is \$8,100.00 including a first year set up fee of \$1500.00. John stated that he will move to get this approved by the Commission at the next meeting.

*Phil Moores of ESTA commented that he had heard rumors that this auditor issue may affect ESTA's auditing process and he asked John to keep him up to date.

ITEM NO. 11 Report from all members of the Inyo County LTC

None

CORRESPONDENCE- Commissioner Doug Thompson asked John Pinckney if he had followed up on the FLAP projects mentioned at the previous meeting in regard to State Line Road. John answered that LTC has an Inyo County consultant to help work on that proposal and the deadline is in May 2021.

ADJOURNMENT-

11:35a.m