

# Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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## MINUTES

June 9, 2014  
(Adopted August 11, 2014)

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Tim Fesko, Fred Stump **ABSENT:** Larry Johnston (no alternate)

**TOWN COMMISSIONERS:** Jo Bacon, Sandy Hogan, Matthew Lehman

**COUNTY STAFF:** Scott Burns, Gerry Le Francois, Garrett Higerd, Megan Mahaffey, C.D. Ritter

**TOWN STAFF:** Peter Bernasconi, Grady Dutton

**CALTRANS:** Tom Hallenbeck, Ryan Dermody, Dennee Alcala

**ESTA:** John Helm

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1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Jo Bacon called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., and departing commissioner Matthew Lehman led the pledge of allegiance.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Grady Dutton, new Town of Mammoth Lakes public works director, introduced himself.
3. **MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Approve minutes of May 12, 2014, as submitted. *(Fesko/Hogan. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Johnston.)*
4. **ACTION ITEMS:**
  - A. **North County Passing Lanes:** Gerry Le Francois asked Commission to memorialize the North County Passing Lanes, already shown in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as two projects (North Conway and Bridgeport passing lanes). Funding: Mono 40%; Inyo & Kern, 10% each; and State 40%.

**MOTION:** Adopt Resolution R14-09 directing staff to incorporate the North County Passing Lanes into the RTP as an MOU project. *(Fesko/Hogan. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Johnston.)*
  - B. **Local Transportation Fund (LTF) allocations & apportionments:** Megan Mahaffey received letters from participating entities. LTF revenue was higher than projected, so \$10,000 was budgeted for administration costs. R14-10: Hallenbeck clarified that "Business, Transportation & Housing" is now "State Transportation Agency." Resolution refers to background, so reference is appropriate.

**MOTION:** Adopt Resolution R14-10 approving Local Transportation Fund (LTF) allocations & apportionments Adopt Resolution R14-10 approving Local Transportation Fund (LTF) allocations & apportionments *(Lehman/Stump. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Johnston.)*
  - C. **State Transit Assistance (STA) allocations & apportionments:** Megan Mahaffey noted portion to Mono and Inyo. Helm described 99313 on fuel tax revenues, 99314 on ESTA's revenues. Split 99314 between two counties, with 70% to Mono.

**MOTION:** Adopt Resolution R14-11 approving State Transit Assistance (STA) allocations & apportionments *(Hogan/Stump. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Johnston.)*
  - D. **Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Federal Exchange Program:** Megan Mahaffey noted work element in OWP could get more safety research. Scott Burns described it as new money, new program, possibly project eligible, above and beyond the usual. Grant applications are in, projects to direct money toward. Direct project costs only. State highways? *Regional level doesn't know about it yet.*

**MOTION:** Authorize LTC executive director to execute Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Federal Exchange Program (*Lehman/Fesko. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Johnston.*)

**E. Overall Work Program Agreement: Megan noted final step in signing OWPA.**

**MOTION:** Authorize LTC executive director to sign Overall Work Program Agreement and certification & assurances (*Fesko/Hogan. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Johnston.*)

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Stump:** Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD) plans to either move or abolish Head Start building. Apparently not returning to LTC, so request update from MUSD. Convict Resort owner is interested in paying for conduit burial for fiber optic line to resort. Received road maintenance requests from constituents, so recommended setting aside money. **Hogan:** Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) board meets in Mammoth July 28. **Fesko:** Conway rehab started; huge machine for asphalt recycling. **Lehman:** When new to LTC, lots of new info. Workshop for new members, with acronyms and flow chart would be helpful. Hallenbeck cited Caltrans' standard briefing, which Stump found helpful. **Bacon:** Acknowledged Commissioner Lehman's participation and contribution to LTC; attendees applauded.

6. **ADMINISTRATION:** No items

7. **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION:**

A. **Rock Creek Road:** Garrett Higerd cited issue with Southern California Edison (SCE) at recent meeting, developing quickly, very concerned. SCE needs to replace underground power cable, could involve > nine miles of trenching up middle of road. However, paving contractor is already at work. SCE needs encroachment permits from both counties and new or amended special use permit. Meeting today in Bishop. Higerd presented a letter to SCE demanding SCE either fast-track the project to install cable prior to asphalt paving, or eliminate need for trenching by exploring and funding alternatives. SCE is bound by Public Utilities Commission to maintain provided service, perhaps a quota to replace underground wire. This would be a cheaper alternative to an urban environment. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has been accommodating, willing to work with SCE to expedite the project. Maybe use rock saw instead of traditional excavator. Need SCE to cut to chase. County Counsel is reviewing encroachment permits. Can't deny, but could require significant mitigation. USFS involved? *Yes, Inyo; FHWA also.* Trenching along shoulder? *Environmental constraints. Mono and USFS say no overhead lines. SCE cost = \$5 million to \$9 million. Promote green energy. Rate payers, not SCE would pay it. Solar is outside SCE's scope. Enough money is at stake to give to USFS for on-site power generation. Delay 10-15 years? Construction had already started when SCE contacted Mono.* Deadline date is needed.

**MOTION:** Approve letter as amended: "explore **and fund**"; send to Debbie Hess, regional manager. (*Stump/Hogan. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Johnston.*)

8. **TRANSIT**

A. **Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA):**

1. **Proposed 2014-15 transit services:** John Helm outlined changes from north to south. Reds Meadow shuttle had early start, 30% Memorial Day increase over last year. Had 140,000 passenger trips June through Labor Day. Regional routes are funded by Transportation Development Act (TDA). Mammoth Express from Bishop considers weekend service. Intercity routes: Reno from Lone Pine. \$90,000/yr from TDA & Inyo LTC. Operating costs for Red, Green, Yellow, and Blue lines are fully funded by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. Had 750,000 passenger trips/season. Agreement is flexible, so service was reduced during slow winter. Losses sustained? *Covered by monthly fixed fee.*

Commissioner Hogan asked about Purple and Gray routes earlier and later for workers. *To be discussed later this week.* Whitmore Pool route? *Yes, three trips/day.* Kids fare to Reds? *Not reduced, but hasn't increased.* *Big transition from private operator. Still monitoring nature of operating expenses with equipment. No need for increase foreseen.*

Joint Powers Authority? Legally joint powers agreement authority, referred to as local government.

2. **Update:** Mono Senior Services pilot program needs volunteer driver. Federal grant funds four months, seeking ongoing funding. "Next-bus" = notice of upcoming buses. New trolley for Lakes Basin with federal grant. Promotional fare to Whitmore Pool: \$10 pass for \$1/ride instead of \$3/ride.

9. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** Scott Burns reported focus on potential new partners: Fresno next year and interest from Manteca, Modesto, possibly Stockton. Mono Tourism presented a video. National Park Service has transportation person, looking at Merced and Tuolumne river plans. Hogan stated Oakhurst residents wanted bus to stop if passing through, despite Madera County's opposition. Bus was perceived as a threat to driving a car to Yosemite.

10. **CALTRANS**

A. **Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information:** Ryan Dermody noted school's out, and summer construction is beginning; please watch for children and construction workers when driving. Introduced Dennee Alcalá. Map and project list from District 8: SR 58 east at Kramer Junction, construction scheduled to begin in 2017; US 395 near Adelanto, Phase 1 construction scheduled to begin in 2016 (Phases 2 and 3 do not have construction dates yet). Split into three parts for four-lane. How difficult south of Adelanto? Hallenbeck cited economic slowdown. Down to US 15 or high desert corridor. New thought process. Connect to 15 on horizontal exit to avoid Adelanto. SR 18: Pearblossom or air base connect to 395. Kramer Junction: Interchange proposed in 2017.

Tom Hallenbeck indicated bike commute month in May will expand to Mono County next year. Inyo County won, and Los Angeles Department of Water & Power had 20% participation.

B. **Transportation Concept Report (TCR) for US 395 in Kern, Inyo, & Mono counties:** Dennee Alcalá sent draft form to stakeholders for feedback. The document lays out the big picture for 20+ years. SR 203 TCR? *Yes, every highway has five- to seven-year refresher.* Electric-vehicle charging stations? *Tom Hallenbeck identified it as a future consideration. One is installed in Bishop at Caltrans employee parking area.* Commissioner Hogan suggested USFS visitor centers as good sites. Commissioner Lehman noted Tesla has connections into Reno, and SoCal is its largest market. Desire exists, but needs coordination. Hallenbeck mentioned hydrogen vehicles and suggested consideration of all modes, all types. Lehman noted private sector is willing to install. Commissioner Stump thought if Rock Creek Road connected to Lower Rock Creek Road, south intersection could be eliminated, with intersection only at Tom's Place. Caltrans accident data currently does not show an issue at this location. Stump had a request for a right-turn lane at McGee Creek on US 395; also US 6 in Chalfant. Stump would like warning lights for highway crossing. Ryan Dermody indicated Forest Becket is working with Garrett Higerd in looking at the proposal. Stump urged Caltrans to expedite shoulder widening north to state line. Truck traffic is substantial due to no inventory tax in Nevada, proposed utility corridors. Commissioner Hogan questioned missing acronym: CAPM = CApital Preventive Maintenance. AUM = Animal Unit Month, a grazing term, = measure for the amount of consumable forage for grazing animals. Stump described US 6 as an agricultural area with ag equipment on the highway. Dermody indicated that Caltrans has a project list known as the District System Management Plan.

C. **Transportation Concept Report (TCR) for SR 158 (June Lake Loop):** Commissioner Stump requested draft of SR 158 for Supervisor Alpers.

11. **INFORMATIONAL**

A. **Active Transportation Program grant submittals:** Le Francois noted lots of applications statewide, but didn't know how many rurals. California Transportation Commission will screen projects, decide Aug. 20.

B. **LTC Handbook revision:** Follow-up info only.

12. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) SWITRS accident data; 2) MUSD on Head Start (via email); 3) new commissioner briefing. Maybe skip July?

13. **ADJOURN** at 10:40 a.m. to August 11, 2014.

*Prepared by C.D. Ritter, LTC secretary*