



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### MONO COUNTY, *California's Eastern Sierra*

P.O. Box 696 · Bridgeport, CA 93517  
Phone (760) 932-5410 · Fax (760) 932-5411

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Jim Leddy – County Administrative Officer  
(760) 932-5410 - jleddy@mono.ca.gov

## **Mono County Local Transportation Commission Maximizes Highway Support through new Agreements**

*Ongoing collaborative approach brings more road dollars to Eastern Sierra*

**Mono County, Calif.** – On Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> the Mono County Local Transportation Commission (LTC) revised two Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) for highway projects on both US 395 and State Route 14 corridors. Since 1999, the Mono County LTC has recognized the need to collaborate with other regional transportation planning agencies in order to leverage and maximize transportation funding for the Eastern Sierra. The LTC is composed of three Town Council members and three Board of Supervisors members. Without local support and funding, many of these projects would not be competitive for statewide funding that benefits the traveling public, residents, and the Eastern Sierra's tourist based economies.

Local Transportation Commission Chair and Mono County Board of Supervisors Member Larry Johnston commented, "These MOU's are a great way to leverage outside funds that ordinarily would not come to the Eastern Sierras. These are significant documents and a valuable update."

Mammoth Lakes Mayor Rick Wood who also sits on the LTC commented, "This regional approach is benefitting all our residents and visitors. This MOU shows the value in long term partnering on crucial infrastructure and we should continue these efforts."

Caltrans Regional Planning Representative Forest Becket commented, "I appreciate the continued support of all the agencies for this collaborative undertaking."

The first MOU involves revisions on the planning and programming for construction of the final two-lane sections between Lee Vining in Mono County and Mojave in Kern County on State Route 14 and US 395. These projects are the Olancho Cartago 4-lane project on 395 and the final three segments on

State Route 14 known as Freeman Gulch 4-lane project. The MOU partners include the Mono County Local Transportation Commission, Inyo County Local Transportation Commission, Kern Council of Governments, and Caltrans.

The second MOU involves the environmental work and planning for the eventual 4-laning of US 395 from north of Adelanto to State Route 58 in San Bernardino County. The MOU partners include Mono County Local Transportation Commission, Inyo County Local Transportation Commission, Kern Council of Governments, San Bernardino Associated Governments and Caltrans.

The LTC thanked all of the MOU partners and Caltrans for making these projects possible.

**Benefits of Partnering**

- Collaborating on funding
- Maximizing IIP (State Share) funds
- Showing Commitment and Prioritization
- Making Projects a Reality
- Regional Corridor Approach

**What the MOUs have done**

- Allowed earlier project delivery
- Shown regional commitment
- Made projects competitive for statewide funds
- Created political focus and support
- Provided early model for current partnership emphasis

For more information you may contact Mono County Principal Planner, Gerry LeFrancois at (760) 924-1800 or [glefrancois@mono.ca.gov](mailto:glefrancois@mono.ca.gov)

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Mono County offers a rural setting with the most spectacular landscapes in the state. Situated between the crest of the has a land area of 3,030 square miles, or just over 2 million acres, 94% of which is publicly owned. Much of this land is County is home to vast scenic and recreational resources, and has unsurpassed access to wilderness and adventure.

The county is home to, and named after Mono Lake, which is a large high-desert saline lake. Also located in the county 1800's was home to as many as 7,000 people, and is today maintained as a State Historic Park for the public to come an

Scenic Highway 395 weaves its way north-south through the heart of the county, effectively dividing the steep mountains to the west from the vast desert valley to the east. As it provides access to Yosemite National Park via Lee Vining, it passes beneath towering peaks, and past broad desert expanses.

