

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

PO Box 347
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
.924.1800 phone, 924.1801 fax
commdev@mono.ca.gov

PO Box 8
Bridgeport, CA 93517
760.932.5420 phone, 932.54
www.monocounty.ca.gov

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2013
(Adopted December 9, 2013)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Larry Johnston, Fred Stump **ABSENT:** Tim Fesko
TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Jo Bacon, Sandy Hogan, Rick Wood (alternate for Lehman)
COUNTY STAFF: Scott Burns, Jim Leddy, Gerry Le Francois, Jeff Walters, Megan Mahaffey, C.D. Ritter
TOWN STAFF: Peter Bernasconi, Jamie Robertson
CALTRANS: Forest Becket
ESTA: Jill Batchelder
GUESTS: Tim Taylor, Karen Ferrell-Ingram

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Larry Johnston called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., and alternate Rick Wood led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Tim Taylor, 30-year CDFW wildlife biologist, viewed wildlife crossing possibilities on US 395 with Commissioner Johnston. Mono has six migratory herds, high number of road kill, especially spring and fall. Proposed project extends from Caltrans station to SR 203 and 203 into Mammoth. Hundreds of deer head to high country March through June, foraging on spring growth. Living by and crossing highway increase risk of vehicle collisions. Utah studies show one of seven deer killed on road is recovered by maintenance personnel or researchers, so likely not all road kill is tabulated. Research shows keeping animals off highway is only way to reduce road kill. CDFW supports deer project, will help collect data, and design structures.

Potential cost or damage by deer/vehicle collisions? *Substantial. Check with insurance companies.* Commissioner Hogan cited human fatalities, a CHP rollover several years ago. People are tired of seeing dead deer on road.

Commissioner Stump asked about proposed sage grouse area. Perches for predators? *More concern for grouse flying into fences. Mark fences with reflectors that twist and flip in wind. Sage grouse don't live close to roadway.*

Would scenic highway designation interfere? *Not great area for deer crossing, as no creek crossings, so consider overpass structure.*

Commissioner Johnston requested a return at another meeting for update and further discussion.

Peter Bernasconi introduced Jamie Robertson, new assistant engineer working with OWP, budgets.

3. **MINUTES:** Special Meeting October 17, 2013

MOTION: Adopt minutes of Oct. 17 as amended: 1) Public comment: Commissioner Hogan distributed message from Eastside Velo **on new law** regarding motorists keeping 3' clearance from bicycles; 2) Item 7A: (State **requirement** is 10%); and 3) 7B: YARTS **Authority Advisory Committee** meeting yesterday...
(Hogan/Bacon. Ayes: 4. Abstain due to absence: Wood. Absent: Fesko.)

4. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Johnston: Visited Tonopah 200-megawatt solar plant under construction, highly visible, looks like FEMA encampment, motels are filled.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. **Amendment 1 to Overall Work Program (OWP):** Megan Mahaffey distributed the amendment. Foregoing asset management plan from this funding source? *Peter Bernasconi: Yes.*

Commissioner Hogan noted match was postponed awaiting other funding. Three years to use grant funding.

MOTION: Approve Amendment 1 to the Overall Work Program (OWP), which authorizes rollover Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds for the current OWP and other adjustments by Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County. (*Stump/Bacon. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Fesko.*)

B. Pavement Management System: Nate Greenberg noted existing system is steel box from Street Saver, designed for larger municipalities with street density, lots of pavement. Hard to get data out to analyze. Contracts are with Lumos (conceptual project design, data collection) and Gnomon (technical focus to design system). Asset management component complements pavement management. Database with series of data sets showing street alignments, signs, culverts, etc. Use within existing technology, full control of data model. Greenberg showed data graphically. Pavement Condition Index (PCI) has 10-point scale evaluating routine maintenance, capital preventive maintenance, and structural improvements. All Mono streets were assessed, all data is in. Every two years track what's been done and how it affects PCI rating.

Sign management plan includes mailbox inventories within right of way, cattle guards, and culverts. No issues with integration of Street Saver into this system. Consolidated data set will be viewed holistically.

Bernasconi noted Street Saver has useful parts that evaluate overall costs with treatments. Big gap existed for many years; required more effort. Includes signs, drainages. Trails? *In PCI index.* Certify County roads only? Yes.

C. Pavement Management System certification: Jeff Walters will add Mono County Exhibit 3.

MOTION: Certify Pavement Management System and adopt it as budgeting & project selection tool (*Stump/Bacon. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Fesko.*)

D. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for 14/395 corridor & US 395 in San Bernardino County: Gerry Le Francois introduced Minute Order M13-02 (mis-labeled as M13-01). Kern COG acknowledges reimbursement of 20% to Mono and Inyo. Four-county MOU has correct names, all within District 8.

Alternate Rick Wood was happy MOUs are still around. Commissioner Hogan lauded regional cooperation and suggested publicizing the MOUs. Forest Becket confirmed MOUs were updated and clarified.

MOTION: Approve Minute Order M13-02 to authorize chair and executive officer's signatures on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 14/395 corridor and MOU for US 395 in San Bernardino County. (*Wood/Hogan. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Fesko.*)

E. Resolution R13-10: Jill Batchelder stated bus-washing equipment would make Mammoth Transit Facility fully usable. Bonds will be sold in fall 2014.

Included in Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)? *No, separate, with no effect on RTIP.* What if bonds don't sell? *ESTA would be responsible.*

MOTION: Approve Resolution R13-10 allocating \$15,000 of FY 2014-15 Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement & Service Enhancement Program (PTMISEA) funds to the purchase and installation of bus-washing equipment at the Mammoth Lakes Transit Facility, approving a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) for the project, and authorizing the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority's executive director to complete and execute all documents for PTMISEA plan submittal, allocation requests and Letter of No Prejudice approval (*Hogan/Bacon. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Fesko.*)

6. ADMINISTRATION

A. Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP): Gerry Le Francois noted RTIP recurs every two years, and several staff meetings were held in recent weeks. He highlighted projects for Mono and Town. Significant cost is \$9.3 million, with \$3.8 million to program new projects for the first time in three or four cycles. Mono projects: 1) Airport Road rehab: \$1.4 million cost includes bike lanes (\$220,000), which makes sense for extension to Benton Crossing Road; and 2) Convict Road: Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) match into 2012 STIP/RTIP to use reserve dollars. Do preventive features to extend road life instead of full rehab.

Jeff Walters indicated other agencies across the country use thin overlays to preserve roads for many years. Commissioner Johnston described it as proactive vs. reactive.

Peter Bernasconi noted town council discussed sidewalk projects along state highway. Commissioner Stump noted that Airport Road rehabilitation funding had diminished by \$400,000 since last presentation. Why the change? *Added bike lane.* Walters expressed shock at bike lane cost. Commissioner Hogan referred to policy that new roads

include bike lanes. Stump, however, preferred balancing priorities with pavement maintenance on a variety of roads, not just one. Walters will share concerns with Garrett Higerd. Impacts to other roads could occur if focus is on Airport Road. Stump suggested taking longer to rehabilitate Airport Road.

Commissioner Bacon noted town council thought Airport Road should be a Mono priority. Stump agreed it should be a priority, but not with sacrifices. Maybe keep current configuration.

Le Francois reminded that RTIP is due to State Dec. 14. If RTIP is approved Dec. 9, when would Airport Road construction begin? *Fiscal year 2017-18.*

B. Financial Element of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Gerry Le Francois noted update of Ch. 6. The RTP is a policy document, whereas RTIP implements specific projects. MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century) changed funding categories, added/deleted funding sources. Consider MOU for Mono. LTC priorities acknowledged, tweak policies later. Mono spends \$600,000/yr to maintain roads and wants State credit.

Commissioner Johnston noted snow removal for Town, but not County. *Le Francois cited Tioga Road.* Forest Becket noted Financial Element of RTP shows what counties are doing locally, with snow removal as a cost.

Redline changes? Scott Burns noted other Ch. 6 is really old. Too many changes make redline not worthwhile.

C. Going to the Sun Road at Glacier National Park: Jeff Walters spoke with Lou Summerfield, who worked years at Glacier National Park before moving to Yosemite. Differences between Glacier and Tioga exist as well as similarities. Glacier is working on expensive upgrade, replacing guardrail with wood for historic flavor. Lots of avalanche danger. On Tioga Road, very little guardrail was installed due to avalanche and rockfall. Glacier preps for winter by installing snow poles 60'-80' tall and using GPS systems to assist plowing. Buses "Jammers" are from late 1930s, but Ford Motor Co. donated new bus chassis in 2002; **modern buses are also used in the free transit system.**

Walters met with National Park Service and Caltrans recently. Tioga traffic delays will occur next summer during road repair from Crane Flat to White Wolf, with new base, no widening, no bike lane, no guardrail or masonry work. Rest of Tioga Road will be repaired in later years.

Old-style buses for Eastside may not be available anymore. Maybe open-air buses like San Francisco, but consider weather conditions. Park superintendent's goal is to open Tioga by Memorial Day. Olmsted Point needs drone-style snowcat to deal with avalanche danger.

Commissioner Johnston wanted to change utilitarian entry to more park-like setting even though can't replicate narrower Glacier road. Create some better turnout sites, add wall treatment to address rockfall issues and tie in with aesthetics. Could be statewide funded.

Forest Becket cited SHOPP (State Highway Operation & Protection Program) for rehabs listed in draft RTP. Every project is on US 395, a more regionally significant corridor. State Route 120 would be funded by minor program, small improvements. Re-did bridge east of Ellery Lake. Work in partnership, competitive funding sources for pullouts, etc. If pursued MOU effort, would not get additional 40%, as SR 120 is not interregional focus route.

Commissioner Hogan indicated "jammers" at Glacier are powered by propane. Walters cited Glacier's effort to reduce carbon emissions. Commissioner Stump cited astounding vehicle size difference between YARTS bus and jammers. Hogan explained tight road turns at Glacier restrict bus size.

7. TRANSIT

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA): Jill Batchelder noted ESTA starts Redline Nov. 22 and other winter routes Nov. 27, depending on snow conditions.

B. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS): Scott Burns had nothing to report.

8. CALTRANS

A. District 8 interim projects: Forest Becket presented District 8 PowerPoint on corridor improvement between US 15 and SR 58. Key theme is reducing congestion/increasing operational efficiency. Growth occurred so fast in Victorville/Adelanto area, new strategy was needed. Speed differential between vehicle types. Create west-east commute corridor Apple Valley to Palmdale instead of bypassing Adelanto/Hesperia. Future 395 four-lane would likely use interchange.

B. Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information: Becket had nothing to report. Commissioner Stump reported White Mountain fire district noted cattle signage relating to 100 head of wild horses

or wildlife, even though BLM had removed cattle **grazing permits**. Caltrans would need more information on prevalent conditions.

9. **QUARTERLY REPORTS** (*Caltrans presented in October, Mono County will present in December*)
 - A. **Town of Mammoth Lakes:** Continue to December.
10. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) RTIP; 2) RTP; 3) Tim Taylor on deer; 4) Town & County quarterly reports; 5) USFWS comment extension on sage grouse, if not get it, have LTC weigh in, as it affects road projects.
11. **ADJOURN** at 11:08 a.m. to Dec. 9, 2013.

Prepared by C.D. Ritter, LTC secretary