

# Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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## MINUTES

December 12, 2016  
(Adopted February 13, 2017)

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Larry Johnston **ABSENT:** Tim Fesko, Fred Stump

**TOWN COMMISSIONERS:** Sandy Hogan, Shields Richardson, John Wentworth

**COUNTY STAFF:** Scott Burns, Garrett Higerd, Megan Mahaffey, Steve Kerins, Jeff Walters, CD Ritter

**TOWN STAFF:** Grady Dutton

**CALTRANS:** Ryan Dermody, Craig Holste, Cort Hitchens

**ESTA:** John Helm

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**1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Shields Richardson called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No items

**3. MINUTES:** Due to lack of quorum for those meetings, defer adoption of minutes from Oct. 3 and Nov. 14, 2016, to meeting Jan. 9, 2017.

**4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Johnston:** Spoke with Madera Supervisor Tom Wheeler, who appeared uninformed about Reds Meadow Road, but complained that road doesn't go through. Will get more info. Madera collects TOT. State Legislature took no action on transportation funding, but two new pieces now in both houses. **Wentworth:** Senate passed Outdoor REC act with bipartisan support, acknowledging \$650 billion recreation economy, needs President Obama's signature. Met with Outdoor Industry Association, very engaged in next admin. Met with Rep. Paul Cook re Department of Interior office, eager to assist. Town had busy week with Walk, Bike, Ride program. Technology is changing so fast, looking 10-20 years out for opportunities. Met with Mammoth Lakes Housing, possible tax credits for housing opportunities. **Richardson:** None.

## 5. ADMINISTRATION

### A. Conflict-of-Interest Code

Steve Kerins included Waiver of Actual and/or Potential Conflict of Interest in packet.

Different from Town waiver? Town Council is code reviewing body for Town, more seamless, reviewing its own code.

FPPC (Federal Political Practices Commission) standards? Johnston saw two steps: 1) Allow county counsel to represent LTC; and 2) Review code.

LTC Code is fairly old, so reconsider it. As FPPC continually amends, LTC tracks those changes. Other agencies identify people who manage public investments. Still file Form 700 with county clerk. Need additional categories? Consider moving commissioners to official 87200 filing class.

What's filed where, who's actual filer? Need form for LTC. Kerins indicated more research.

Kerins asked commissioners to look at individual filing responsibilities, send before next meeting. He also noted another category with public officials who manage public investments. Amend filing categories? Wentworth wanted to run it by Andy Morris, town attorney. Kerins requested item on next agenda.

Burns clarified that money flows through LTC, but LTC does not invest it.

**MOTION:** Authorize county counsel to represent LTC (*Wentworth/Hogan. Ayes: 4-0 Absent: Fesko, Stump.*)

**B. Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM):** Megan Mahaffey now has contract agreement to get funding through STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program).

Johnston questioned Caltrans bold graph. Mahaffey explained it draws down as it's used. Function like RPA reimbursement program. Extend request for year, but last year for advance PPM funds. Next year reimbursement.

Dermody thought it should have been reimbursed all along. Mahaffey will move forward with reimbursement, so keep extra year while she's on maternity leave. Paying interest.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution R16-14 authorizing LTC executive director to execute PPM (Planning, Programming & Monitoring) fund transfer agreements included in the current RTIP (Regional Transportation Improvement Program) in amount of \$135,000. (*Johnston/Wentworth. Ayes: 4-0. Absent: Fesko, Stump.*)

**C. Regional Transportation Plan:** Gerry Le Francois indicated desire to move to new update of Housing Element from five to eight years, RTP from five to four years (two RTIPs, one Housing in cycle).

**MOTION:** Authorize letter to state HCD (Housing & Community Development) informing of scheduled RTP (Regional Transportation Plan) update in December 2017 (*Johnston/Hogan. Ayes: 4-0. Absent: Fesko, Stump.*)

## 6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

**A. Reds Meadow Road:** Grady Dutton cited working group of Town, USFS, LTC, NPS, and ESTA. Environmental work done prior to snow. In co-op agreement with USFS, Town would be lead applicant. Build enough security, set long-term maintenance, talk to Madera County. Whoever steps up for 25-yr maintenance should provide slurry/fog seals. Small Mono contribution? Full staff report in January, request authorization for FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) grant app. Town Council will request letters of support from agencies.

DEPO (Devils Postpile National Monument) contribution? Dutton cited maps, contacts for higher-ups. USFS/FHWA talking about it nationwide.

Johnston mentioned bike lane. If not feasible, bike space would be fallback. Wentworth suggested Old Mammoth Road chevrons as a possibility. Dutton noted USFS will review environmental impacts. DEPO management plan update, planners from Portland, make sure Department of Interior is involved. Town has obvious interest, but above and beyond is umbrella of sustainable recreation. How would federal agencies work with local jurisdictions to help pay? Town has interest in management plan. Year-round connection to national scenic trails so Interior could help with funds. Make it clear help is needed to sew up package.

Dutton recalled USFS said larger project could get other moneys, like Minaret Vista in 2019. Wentworth wanted an inventory of how all things tie together so all parties understand.

## 7. TRANSIT

### A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)

1. **June Lake summer shuttle service:** John Helm recalled community wanted transit options, June Lake beach to Silver Lake campground. Unfortunately, very low ridership. Presented results to CAC last week. Feedback was to try again. What if community provided fare box recovery, distributed to patrons? Helm saw that as appealing. Genesis for route was grant funding two years ago. June Lake had no transit service, so seemed viable. Unfortunately, LTF (Local Transportation Funds) revenue unavailable in subsequent years. No long-term funding.

Johnston stated stats showed heavier usage was random, not weekends. No long-term funding.

Maybe people take stuff to beach, add a rack? Helm cited room for beach chairs. Wentworth suggested involving private sector. Hogan recalled this was third June Lake project. Helm noted ESTA expanded ski shuttle.

Wentworth wanted to discuss discontinuance of Gray Line in Mammoth. Helm announced service changes. Green, Yellow, Blue lines start this week, overlap with Gray line. Last day for Gray Line is Friday. Funding for Gray can be used year-round for trolley service. Community concern about impacts on students, as vast majority board at Aspen Village. Helm stated Red Line starts at Snowcreek, within reasonable walking distance to transfer to Purple line. Outreach efforts included notices to students, posting on buses.

Hogan noted it took a long time to get Gray Line going, Mobility Commission did lots of work. Seems like outreach was late. Agendized in late October for Planning/Economic Development, on to Town Council. Need more publicity.

Wentworth indicated businesses build transit into marketing. Helpful for Helm to appear at Town Council next week. Net loss with Gray line, not well-vetted. Town Council will consider filling gaps.

Richardson stated business fliers went to print prior to knowledge of change. Make sure to not have that problem again.

**B. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** Scott Burns noted in legislative outreach last week, Richard Harmon set up meetings on YARTS' needs. Recognize as 5311 claimant, start pushing not as traditional transit, but with recreation component. Organizationally, Merced executive director is moving to Santa Barbara, losing institutional knowledge.

John Helm described 5311 as umbrella for federal funding, administered through Caltrans. 5311f is intercity rural transit moneys. YARTS bought bus with 5311f money, expanded to Fresno. Intent is funding rural areas to connect with national intercity transit; e.g., Greyhound. Caltrans has done great job promoting program. Formed subcommittee with Helm, Whittington, others. Looks like less money for Mono.

Grady Dutton mentioned YARTS was represented at Walk, Bike, Ride last week.

## 8. CALTRANS

**A. Crestview Rest Area:** Dermody noted concern over years. Craig Holste presented a status update. Caltrans did not want to close, but sidewalks and parking area had icy conditions. Comfort station snow/ice buildup on walkway melts by day, freezes at night. Drainage is a problem. Improvements next year.

Johnston thought it unacceptable to close sole safety roadside rest area in Mono County. Winter is when people need it during road closure. Icy issues not new in Mono County. Put cinders on it. Frustrated, really disappointed it's not open. Safety roadside rest for staff, CHP, etc.

Wentworth noted California believes climate change is an issue. Get policy in place. Try to figure it out. Holste reminded it remained open during drought winters, but this year crew was unable to keep up with it.

Wait two years? Holste indicated plans may be done in a year, but no construction by next winter. Dermody stated \$1.2 million is minor, but snowmelt systems, roof lines, etc. elevate it to major project.

Hogan reminded that LTC wrote letters in past.

**B. Guardrail throughout Mono County:** Dermody noted Commissioner Johnston requested it. Johnston wanted long-term differentiation from normal guard rails, more park-like, Death Valley, segments with Cor-ten® steel. Get on same page, adopt overall goal. Start with next installation, transition over time.

Wentworth thought it could tell how we feel about our place, a little special.

Craig Holste discussed federal and statewide testing. Landscape architecture website has different kinds of rail. Weathering steel is used in dry climates.

Dermody cited **Matina Natina** colored stain on Conway summit, but Johnston countered, "**Matina Natina** this week, something else next week." FLAP grant projects for bridge abutments. Is **Matina Natina** the standard, or Cor-ten® steel?

Wentworth wanted to meet with Johnston to get things into focus. Dermody reminded that cost is an issue. Johnston suggested Public Works departments of Mono and Town.

Higerd stated Mono is starting system-wide safety analysis of County roads, and guard rails are part of it. Will study different new design standards. Make sure guard rails are safe, regardless of how they look. But, want them to look good as well. Helpful to follow along with Caltrans. Cor-ten® has been fairly expensive add-on by contractors, so Mono chose galvanized, a good product. **Matina Natina** colored finish is attractive on galvanized; e.g., Convict Road. See how **Matina Natina** holds up. Will galvanizing show through? Round Fire burned guard rail posts, but rail lay on ground in perfect condition. Installed new posts, bolted back up.

**C. Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information:** Ryan Dermody mentioned consultant on truck travel patterns. Close to awarding contract in early 2017. Counties provide input on coming impacts.

Wentworth suggested looking at driverless trucks. Overwhelmed by imminent scenario. Effects, policies, etc.

Dermody introduced new transportation planner, Cort Hitchens, and mentioned ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) charging stations.

Wentworth wondered about e-bikes, maybe pilot program in this area.

**9. INFORMATIONAL:** No items

**10. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) initial OWP review; 2) conflict of interest; 3) Crestview; 4) guard rail task force; 5) Reds Meadow update; 6) new LTC commissioner(s)

**11. ADJOURN** at 10:59 a.m. to January 9, 2017

*Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary*