

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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MINUTES

May 8, 2017
(Adopted June 12, 2017)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: John Peters, Fred Stump. **ABSENT:** Larry Johnston

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Sandy Hogan, Dan Holler for Shields Richardson, John Wentworth

COUNTY STAFF: Scott Burns, Jeff Walters, Michael Draper, Garrett Higerd, Wendy Sugimura, CD Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Grady Dutton

CALTRANS: Brent Green, Mark Heckman

ESTA: Jill Batchelder

SSTAC: Rick Franz, Jill Batchelder, Beth Himelhoch, Molly DesBaillets, Megan Foster, Pat Espinosa

GUEST: Mike Bodine, *The Sheet*

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair John Peters called the meeting to order at 9:03 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

MOTION: Approve minutes of April 20, 2017, as amended: Item 4, graph 2, line 2: LTC has ~~never allocated funds not dedicated this funding~~ to streets and roads in recent years. (Hogan/Stump. Ayes: 4-0. Abstain due to absence: Holler. Absent: Johnston.)

4. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Stump:** Rock Creek Road opened after fishing opener, commended road staff. **Wentworth:** Shady Rest brought up at CPT, needs multi-agency cooperation to address chaos and confusion. Don't assume Town will plow Sawmill Road. 10-12' snow in Lakes Basin. Looking at front country improvements. Work with Mono and LTC agencies. Inyo Craters & Shady Rest in Peters' district. **Holler:** None. **Hogan:** Harsh winter. During 1996-97 flood, road damage to Reds Meadow Road. USFS (US Forest Service) engineers said couldn't open till July 4. Town stepped up, organized volunteers, opened two to three weeks earlier. Important to get road open. What was discovered underneath was massive damage. Holler set up Reds Meadow and Lakes Basin opening meeting, Stump cited one of problems this year is lost institutional memory. Wise to listen to people who were around then. Peters noted different leadership. Humboldt/Toiyabe indicated two USFS road crew visits to address issues. Flood mediation, directing runoff. **Peters:** Amazed at level of communication and collaboration of agencies. Photos, Facebook posts show gravity of situation. Immense amount of work appreciated. Wentworth suggested Town/USFS articulate, go to marketing agencies to get message out to visitors on what expectations should be. Have tourism entities get messaging together. Peters had concerns with month of June reservations at higher-elevation resorts. Maybe expose to new recreational opportunities. Hogan noted impact on PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) hikers and pack stations.

5. ADMINISTRATION

A. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Unmet Transit Needs (*continued from April 10, 2017*): Michael Draper described this annual hearing designed to ensure broad community participation. No needs added in April, but a few others since then. SSTAC meeting called to order: Thanked Town for disabled transit.

Beth Himelhoch commended ESTA on routes to Mammoth Lakes.

COMMISSIONERS

Sandy Hogan Larry Johnston John Peters, chair Shields Richardson Fred Stump John Wentworth, vice-chair

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING Molly DesBaillets mentioned evening DAR (Dial-A-Ride) for Mammoth families without transportation. Heard requests for market, DIY (Do It Yourself) center.

Jill Batchelder reported no calls or requests for ESTA service in six months, so discontinued. DAR (Dial-A-Ride) goes into evening, and people can apply for ADA (American Disabilities Act) if functionally unable to ride fixed route. Trolley runs evenings/nighttime.

When locals used taxi service, was DAR dialed back? Batchelder indicated a few years since evening DAR. Operating costs, passengers served led toward fixed route. Items on matrix came from RPACs.

Megan Foster noted Walker DAR runs only Monday through Thursday. Increase in seniors to community center for lunch, socialization. Maybe again on Friday? Batchelder would see if funding exists to add Friday service. DesBaillets suggested updated matrix, new resolution.

Maybe ESTA could pursue cost analysis to support additional day? Batchelder stated ESTA will pursue cost analysis on feasibility.

How do transit requests flow from matrix? Burns indicated matrix shows if reasonable to meet. Draft resolution identified four unmet needs, none reasonable to meet. Hearing is annual process, but does not prohibit adjustment to services throughout year. Peters recalled Walker concern not mentioned at RPAC.

DesBaillets suggested needs listed be communicated back to group that gathered. She brought up last year the Mammoth evening DAR. Batchelder indicated it was considered unmet need by definition, another step to see if it qualifies as reasonable to meet. Hogan wanted feedback from ESTA on use of route.

Mike Bodine asked about Bridgeport to June Lake route now that clinic is closed. Peters noted it was listed as request under recreation. He commended ESTA on great presentations in Bridgeport and Antelope Valley, and Behavioral Health launched kids programs. **CLOSE BOTH HEARINGS.**

B. Resolution R17-05: Continue Resolution to June 12 meeting.

C. OWP (Overall Work Program) amendment 2016-17, final adjustments: Wendy Sugimura presented adjusted budget. Keep money for administration/management. Money from training into regional trails: \$21,200. Stump indicated restroom needed along trail between Paradise/Tom's Place. Part of trail planning initiation.

Sugimura noted funding moved from airport to elsewhere. Ordinance is needed. Full range of options. Lots money into ATP (Active Transportation Program). Community emergency access funding out, moved to hazard mitigation plan.

Dutton noted Mahaffey and Hayes worked out details. Spend money before it goes away.

Debrief of winter funds? Burns indicated it depends on timing, delay till full extent available. Could tap under flexible work elements.

Inyo Craters/Shady Rest? Burns noted RTP (Regional Transportation Plan) adjust in December has funding, but Housing Element does not. Mammoth Vicinity policy needs high-level work to clarify policies.

Wentworth thought initiatives would coincide, work well for economic development, recreation. Town/County work together. He suggested agencies coordinate messaging to avoid ongoing problems.

MOTION: M17-01: Approve budget adjustment.

D. Walk/Bike/Ride: John Wentworth presented PowerPoint on an effort started in September 2016. Recreation is economy/lifeblood of region. Town looking beyond municipal boundary. Consultant provided actions and tools. Devise models of transit hubs/trail connections. Main Street proposal. Integrate state highway into town in meaningful, functional way. Bike share program. Car share/ride share. Integrate Digital 395 technology. Transit frequencies. Snow management that supports pedestrian mobility. Mobility partnership. E-bikes: National policy says illegal on trails, but visitors unlikely to ride four miles to lakes. Wayfinding signage. Financing. Start on 1.0 right away. State/federal funding interface. Bring up at CTC (California Transportation Commission).

How to take advantage of Digital 395? Peters saw tech components as huge.

Caltrans plan? Mark Heckman mentioned update of ITS plan for Inyo, Mono. Closed-circuit cameras on CMS (Changeable Message Signs). Back from Bay Area. Talked about complete streets. Door-to-door service. Delivery locations for groceries online removed. How deliver stuff? Some subdivisions get drone delivery, retail going bye-bye. Delivery last 50' a "train wreck."

No broadband or phone at Tamarack. How put in infrastructure? Heckman went for \$250,000, see what happens. If ITS grant not approved, keep reapplying.

Peters suggested Complete Streets as future topic (IT component).

--- Break: 10:30 – 10:38 am ---

E. CTC (California Transportation Commission): Burns reviewed letter, sought ideas.

Brent Green noted CTC staff has format, but commissioners don't dictate their agenda. Emphasized that Caltrans would attend, but not in lead role. In past, local stakeholders had passionate people speak to sell message.

Peters suggested Walk/Bike/Ride, YARTS, field trip. Wentworth wanted to invite USFS for specific perspective and suggested working group to include interface and tech issues.

Stump noted area of coverage is entire Eastern Sierra. Important to have brief PowerPoint on area. Real rural portions, even to Death Valley, up US 6, seasonal interconnectivity interrupted at times, lack of other alternatives. CTC needs to understand we're functioning in limited capacity. Projects we support are regional, we're a team. Divvy up time frames for things to happen. Do this toward beginning.

Green recalled other counties show county map, highlighting particular projects.

Bay Area commissioners taking Amtrak to Reno, public transit to Mammoth would show how distant we are. So Cal could travel through Inyo on ESTA from Lancaster, highlighting elements of joint MOU projects.

Peters noted Mono relies heavily on state highway system.

Other entities to invite: Inyo LTC, Kern/Inyo; YARTS; NPS (National Park Service), Kathleen Morse especially; Jeremy Marshall, MWTC (Mountain Warfare Training Center).

Set up subcommittee June 12.

6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

A. Reds Meadow Road federal grant

1. **Support letter:** Grady Dutton indicated 8.3 mi to DEPO (Devils Postpile National Monument). The 2.5 mi at top is in dire need of help. Serious issues after thaw. Submit two-part project: upper two-lane, exclude uphill bike lane, reconstruct lower 5.8 mi. Extra \$2 million hurts chance for grant. Include as much as possible for cyclists. Maintenance costs: ESTA adopted \$1 surcharge on shuttle: \$60,000/yr for 25 yr. Start next June to build war chest prior to construction. Take toll credits for federal projects. NPS willing to provide \$500,000 with commitment from Inyo National Forest/Town to solve issues. Concerns about upper portion. Town Council voted to accept NPS offer. USFS offered same. Already \$750,000 for design/environmental work for Minaret Vista and other related items like trailheads. True regional project. For LTC: Letter of support and financial participation. Local match would require resolution. LTC helped get Upper Main Street under way. Apply funds toward maintenance. Start 2021, finish 2022. Would be 10-12 years before any money needed. Request today: sharing maintenance of road. ESTA funding for 25 years. Asked LTC to commit first 25 years as well. Not recommend an amount. Overmatch or maintenance.

Spending Mono money in Madera? *Dutton indicated it's a Town highway.* Burns will research further.

Stump mentioned comments on 1996-97. Drainage on low section included? *Dutton noted FHWA design is done all over the place. Very good job, especially on drainage.*

MOTION: Authorize LTC support letter on Reds Meadow Road reconstruction project
(*Hogan/Stump. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Johnston.*)

Dutton wanted to formalize LTC commitment. Consensus: LTC would assist maintenance funding.

Potential STIP project in 2026 cycle that should come to fruition by 2028? *Dutton thought it could be appropriate.*

DEPO excluded? *Only Reds Meadow Road.*

Higerd thought it a reasonable request; i.e., Rock Creek, Convict Lake. Understanding that as part of road system, LTC could participate in maintenance of FLAP projects. This road is not currently in Town's maintained mileage.

MOTION: LTC considered adding mileage identified thru FLAP grant to Town's road inventory
(*Wentworth/Hogan. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Johnston.*)

2. **County boundary change:** Scott Burns indicated not LAFCO role. Governor-appointed commission. If counties agree, send conditions, adopt resolution, and forward to Secretary of State.

Stump noted no election needed. Small area transfer, no inhabitants yet major [impact].

Burns will research minor vs. major. Wanted to go for grant now, work Madera in.

Wentworth saw it inappropriate with FLAP application. Benefits to Mono. Keep conversation going.

Dan Holler talked to Assemblyman Bigelow several years ago, but reached standstill, dropped.

B. US Bicycle Route: Johnston saw risk biking through Yosemite. Garrett Higerd cited increased bike traffic in Yosemite where no shoulders exist, may violate other Park planning. E-bike component? *Defer to Park on e-bike.* LTC could authorize letter for chair's signature. If LTC approves, forward to BOS

7. TRANSIT

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA): Jill Batchelder presented operating statistics. \$73,000 in passenger fares, use up. Farebox ratios for Mammoth up very high. Fare promotion on 10-punch pass attracted snow shovelers. Gray Line discontinued, but ridership increased on trolley and Red Line. Passengers/hour met and exceeded. Long-distance routes: Goal = 100 passenger miles/service hour.

B. YARTS (Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System): Michael Draper spoke with Dick Whittington, who talked with Supervisors Corless and Gardner about reservations, which have been halted temporarily. Total of 73 exist Memorial Day to June 24. YARTS contacted riders to offer refunds. Disappointed, but appreciated contact. Stopping completely for now. Mono has been most successful in reservations. Justin Nalder's Facebook and social media blasts contributed. May 15 summer kickoff on west side. Two issues: Rush Creek Lodge east of Groveland. Parking lot built improperly, so try again. Hwy 41 in Coarsegold has no bus stop, as former site no longer wants it. Stump suggested Investigating bus stop at large Cal Fire station in Coarsegold.

8. CALTRANS

A. Activities in Mono County & Statewide information: Brent Green noted Commissioner John Peters spoke at annual fallen workers memorial. Install charging station in Bishop and Crestview.

Green indicated preventive projects may be 20 years instead of five. Fix for long term. SB 1 money allocated for poor or fair.

LTC was invited to attend press event on Tioga Road next Monday. Requires vests/hard hats/shovels. Helicopter footage showed heavily snow-covered road up to entry gate. NPS/Caltrans project is a week or so ahead, but no projected opening now. Mono County's side is usually done first. Jeff Walters stated NPS is averaging half-mile/day in 10-12' of snow, now to White Wolf.

B: Highway 168 TCR (Transportation Concept Report): Mark Heckman noted emphasis on West Line Street to lakes. Mono has Oasis segment only. Stump suggested agricultural equipment in "purpose."

9. QUARTERLY REPORTS

A. Town of Mammoth Lakes: Grady Dutton noted sidewalk from Mountain Boulevard to Minaret Road starts May 15. SCE removing last of poles, so no street lights on north side of Main Street till done. Airport RFQ: Discussing Bishop airport. Showed how Lakes Basin was severely impacted. Lots in shadow, more like glacier, heavy, wet, solid. Horseshoe restrooms totally buried. Some power lines down in snow. Cabin use prohibited till sewer fixed. Will coordinate for half marathon. Not this much water in 45 years, not snowbanks, drifts. Look up 1970s. 1982-83 = 546" snow. No prior years come close to this year. Have to fell a lot of trees. Peters thought photos truly captivating. Wentworth lauded MCWD's snowcats.

B. Mono County: Garrett Higerd stated North Shore Drive pavement project is out to bid. February gully washes on Lower Rock Creek Road need emergency repairs. Permanent repairs estimated \$0.5 million to \$1 million. Stump recalled that when CHP closed US 395, traffic used Lower Rock Creek.

Higerd is monitoring emergency declarations. Potential bike lanes in future. Erosion underneath edges, pavement compromised. Other projects in queue. SB 1 provides additional funds. Maybe expedite pavement protection. Proposed project list by mid-June.

--- Wentworth departed at 12:10 pm ---

Stump indicated Orange County has initiated a ballot measure to repeal SB 1.

C. Caltrans: Brent Green q three sidewalk projects that may not be consistent with Town's long-term plans. Walker CAPM (Capital Maintenance Project) date? *Two-season job starts this summer.*

10. **INFORMATIONAL:** No items.

11. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Unmet transit needs R17-05; 2) TDA allocations; 3) final OWP; 4) CTC subcommittee; and 5) end-of-winter debrief.

12. **ADJOURN** at 12:13 p.m. to June 12 2017

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary