

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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MINUTES

August 14, 2017
(Adopted September 11, 2017)

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

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

COUNTY STAFF: Scott Burns, Gerry Le Francois, Megan Mahaffey, Michael Draper, Paul Roten, CD Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Grady Dutton

CALTRANS: Brent Green, Ryan Dermody, Austin West

ESTA: Jill Batchelder

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. A moment of silence was held in honor of woman killed in terrorist attack in Charlottesville, VA, during white supremacist violence over removal of Robert E. Lee statue over weekend.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: No items

3. MINUTES: Continue minutes of June 12, 2017 (*no July meeting*) as amended to Sept. 11 meeting: Item 8A, graph 6: ~~Gray area on stewardship/cost. Departments have different roles.~~

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS: **Stump:** Commended Caltrans for turn pocket on US 6 and Mono public works for flood damage repair on Crowley Lake Drive. Dispute on funding. Road reopened for high volume of recreational traffic. **Dermody:** Road crew and engineers were on different tracks, missed funding opportunity. Focus meeting on roles/responsibilities. **Stump:** Email CAO, Jeff Walters, Garrett Higerd on communication. Dermody recalled past issues occurred as well. **Dutton:** Airport RFQ got eight quality responses. Upper Main Street sidewalk will begin next Monday, demolishing railroad tie wall. Under SB 1 Town eligible to reapply for sidewalks on Lower Main, maybe finish whole project. CTC reprogrammed grant for roundabout to lower sidewalks. FLAP grant \$.14 mil for Reds Meadow Road, USFS funded environmental, support letters received from Town, Inyo & Mono LTCs. Full rebuild, two lanes. Encourage start sooner. FWHA did sign schedule for Upper Rock Creek, citizen noted problem. He thanked ESTA for help on Reds Meadow. **Hogan:** Final section of 580 in Nevada involved lots of money and time, now open. Great artwork, landscaping. Overpasses have Old West images of wild horses. Share with CTC (California Transportation Commission), ask NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation) for photos. Beautiful freeways. Deer overcrossings in Nevada. **Richardson:** Back East visitors commended our great roads. Motorcycle ride to Murphys via Sonora Pass, spectacular drive. Switchback curves beat up from winter. Easy fix? **Green:** Some immediate repairs, west side looks better than east side. Caltrans doing shoulder work and dig-outs in critical frog habitat so enviro issues exist (Dermody). **Peters:** Task force is meeting to identify recreation opportunities in Mono. Caltrans' is driving force behind this. Brent Green gave critical input. Recommendation to BOS. Repair to provide access at lower Summers Meadow Road, bridge washed out June 17, access restored last weekend. Plan to replace bridge as part of federal bridge inventory. Not require SB 1 funds. \$750,000 repair/replace before winter. County roads are being striped, hundreds of miles throughout fall. BOS approved ordinance of temporary roughly graded road to allow ATV events in fall, worked with new CHP commander from Redding and sheriffs. CHP is OK with safety aspect of events using roads used in past. Mammoth sign board has missing slot in middle. **Stump:** Commissioner Johnston is undergoing radiation and chemo, back in September. Appears to tolerate treatment.

COMMISSIONERS

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

5. ADMINISTRATION

A. **STIP (State Transportation Improvement Plan) fund estimate:** Gerry Le Francois noted LTC looks at it every two years. Fund estimate looks fairly robust for Mono LTC. CTC will consider adoption this week. Currently working with agency partners on MOU projects. Fund estimate \$12 million, big amount. In 2016, MOU projects were defunded, in better position now. Sent letter to Winzenread. Freeman Gulch segment 1 paid by Inyo and Mono, who expect payback for moving project forward. Meet with partners on projects that were deleted. Freeman Gulch segments 2 and 3, final project Olancho/Cartago.

North Conway first project? Already had Topaz project in District 9's SHOPP (State Highway Operation & Protection Program) program, so much less effect on STIP shares. MOUs keep going. Prioritize projects. Bridgeport Valley passing lanes, Conway Ranch. Dermody noted freight funding streams now available.

Wildlife mitigation part of Conway? Dermody indicated not part of focus yet.

Le Francois reported staff meeting with Eastern Sierra partners. District 8 reached out on projects by Adelanto. State spending lots of money on SR 58 with big focus on truck traffic. Spoke with Kern COG staff, whose focus is elsewhere, like Centennial Freeway in Bakersfield area. Mono and Inyo have ongoing commitment on Hwy 14. Kern recognizes Mono's commitment. Figure out how much money may come to us. Winzenread wants continued focus on MOUs. **Standing agenda item till mid-December.** May need special meeting to make deadline. Peters volunteered to attend.

Hogan recalled lots of southbound traffic midweek on Conway really holds up traffic.

6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

A. **End-of-winter debrief:** Gerry Le Francois did outreach to others, like Monterey County, something similar, will send questionnaire, recommended FEMA input. OWP component, so send questionnaire to agencies. Dutton mentioned Sept. 20 at Town Council. Le Francois will ask for input. Peters did not want to wait too long.

B. **CTC (California Transportation Commission) subcommittee:** Gerry Le Francois met with staff, District 9, CTC staff to develop draft agenda. Wentworth, Peters, Corless have block of rooms at Village. CTC staff wants webcast of first day. Afternoon theme of partnerships, presentations by Inyo LTC and Mono BOS. Piece on land use and recreation. District 9 input.

How many attendees? Le Francois thought 30-40. Tie in Dick Whittington for YARTS connection. Le Francois noted Town funds trolley by general tax, money for feet-first focus. Hogan wanted to waive YARTS, as no funding except NPS. Hogan would like to do history of Reds Meadow in 1970-80s. Only other path is PCT (Pacific Crest Trail).

Le Francois suggested Reds Meadow tour on day two. Lake Mary Bike Trail another multi-agency effort. Hogan wanted to notify Madera County as well, as it collects TOT.

Audience outreach? State Parks, NPS. Air travel ties in. Elected officials from Inyo and Mono, Inyo LTC and BOS, courtesy invite to USFS, CHP; notifying RPACs.

Suggestions: Name badges; placards on table; ticket for first drink at mixer; list of contacts; RSVPs. Limited time here, so don't over-dilute with issues, many specific requests. Focus on Eastern Sierra education, transportation. Support what we *do* have (buses not trains). Emphasize bike/pedestrian component. Delete Reds field trip (put grant in PowerPoint). Lakes Basin better for compressed field trip. Bring in Inyo issues. One field trip covering several topics: mountain summit, Lakes Basin (shows trolleys, bike trailers). Get info packet of partnerships.

Green suggested talking points with takeaways. Scope of region, physical element, diversity of valley, population types, land uses, recreation activities, highway as main street, mountain pass winter closures, shoulder-widening projects. Intent for SB 1 funding. Build big to small for frame of reference. Peters offered to organize Tioga Pass, Bodie tour first day.

Hogan suggested community planners like Bill Taylor and Karen Johnston for institutional knowledge.

Green thought CTC needs frame of reference to show investing money wisely. CTC commissioners are developers.

--- Break: 10:15-10:25 am ---

7. TRANSIT

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)

1. Walker Dial-A-Ride: Jill Batchelder cited 152,000 rides in Mono, passengers/hr up 11% over last quarter. Reds Meadow started later this year. Ridership: 30%-40% increase in Mammoth Express. Friday in Walker had same riders as other weekdays. June Lake shuttle in July better than last year, but not stellar. Fluctuated wildly. Free this year with funding from LTF (Local Transportation Funds) and local businesses.

Dutton commended ESTA for being ready day after routes in Mammoth opened. Batchelder noted 395 route runs all weekdays now, new days filling up. Mammoth Express discount passes continued.

Peters stated users in Walker area appreciative. Vibrant place on Fridays.

2. ESTA Gray Line: Batchelder cited some public meetings through Town and ESTA. Ridership just not there to continue, so ceased. How to do turnaround to serve those areas? Need exists, but not in volume of other areas.

Hogan reminded of locals, kids who counted on it. Underserving residents. Voted many years ago to fund transit. Cut back during hard times. Part of Measure U is transit. Amazing that community committed to transit. Richardson stated it's not abandoned area, working on turnaround.

B. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS): Dick Whittington got grant from FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) first ever transit-funded project. Run free service on free park entry days for three-year trial period. Lots of brochures in tourism boxes (6,000), on 395.. About 15,000 reservations online. Hired part-time staffer. Transaction fee might encourage people to stick with reservations. Attended regional meeting with Hogan recently.

YARTS annual meeting? Already met.

Green noted YARTS meeting with Caltrans headquarters tomorrow for information sharing. Dermody suggested three Caltrans districts get involved with YARTS for funding streams.

8. CALTRANS

A. Eastern Sierra Nevada Freight Study/Cambridge Systematics: Ryan Dermody noted competitive grant awarded after two years, and introduced presenter Dan Anderson.

What is a truck? Tractor/trailer, 18-wheeler.

Peters cited use of air brakes as an issue in North County. Maybe study could mention in questionnaire.

Where will public outreach occur? *Primary one-on-one with manufacturing, warehouse facilities, truckers. No traditional public meeting, as only handful of people usually shows up.*

Stump indicated Benton tribe wants truck stop north of store/restaurant at former trailer park area. Edison is upgrading maintenance station at Chidago Canyon Road for greater service. Power could allow such a project sans generators.

Crestview rest area? Open now. All rest areas full of trucks. Wintertime opening is key. Peters noted new truck stop south of Gardnerville now pretty busy for data collection.

B. Mono County activities & pertinent statewide information: Ryan Dermody noted camera, weather stations, signal timing, etc. Getting consultant next February on grant. Another grant for Complete Streets (non-motorized).

Used for major feeder designations? Roads as detours? Pushing people off main highway for bikes?

Peters noted County roads are used for detours in Antelope Valley, leading to erosion/deterioration. Grants available for natural detour if 395 closed? Dermody indicated yes. Some bridges have weight restrictions. Hazard Mitigation Plan could address alternative routes. Paul Roten stated any alternate use degrades roads.

Austin West, from Oakland and UC Irvine, traveled to NY, VT, NH, and ME: Awful roads.

Dermody noted small construction window in Mono. Green stated all hires ramped up substantially, as SB 1 has money, but vacancies need staffing. Wanted no vacancies by November. Doing more, and when winter hits, will do better than last year.

9. **INFORMATIONAL:** Paul Roten noted public works has pavement preservation process funding next year.

10. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) SB 1; 2) quarterlies; 3) CTC run-through; 4) LTC quorum, look at County alternate commissioner issue, maybe standing staff alternate like Town for continuity? Peters recalled conflict with ESTA or YARTS. Burns stated Commissioner Johnston had strong preference for elected officials. Stump reminded LTC needs to transact business. Burns suggested 5) LTC Handbook;

Peters wanted to better coordinate with Caltrans on not missing opportunities when not on same page, maybe DPW. Stump noted staff is overloaded. Maybe checklist on grant opportunities. 6) DPW (Department of Public Works) on jail, new facility.

11. **ADJOURN** at 11:31 am to September 11, 2017

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary