

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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MINUTES

January 14, 2019
(Adopted February 11, 2019)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Jennifer Halferty, John Peters, Fred Stump
TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Sandy Hogan, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth
COUNTY STAFF: Wendy Sugimura, Gerry Le Francois, Hailey Lang, Garrett Higerd, Tony Dublino (teleconference), CD Ritter
TOWN STAFF: Haislip Hayes
CALTRANS: Ryan Dermody, Austin West
ESTA: Phil Moores
GUESTS: Don Condon, Electric Auto Association; Susanna Danner, Eastern Sierra Land Trust

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

3. **MINUTES**

MOTION: Approve minutes of Dec. 10, 2018, as amended. 6C: Aspendell, highest-elevation full-time community in **California Inyo County**. (*Stump/Hogan. Ayes: 4. Abstain due to absence: Wentworth, Halferty.*)

4. **WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONER JENNIFER HALFERTY:** Stump explained how Caltrans became partner at table in 2013. Ryan Dermody sits at Inyo LTC as well.

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Stump:** None. **Hogan:** Thanked Caltrans for work in north county. **Peters:** Echoed snow clearing, resident compliments, great presence with crews/equipment Inquiry from AV RPAC. New member wants to revisit Walker speed limit (45 mph through Walker about 15 mph faster than any other community). Maybe Caltrans attend RPAC? **Halferty:** None. **Wentworth:** Shutdown affecting Town in lots of ways, quantifying, maybe Caltrans have input. **Dermody:** Allocations for transportation good, hurting on USFWS, NEPA consults stopped. Could affect project delivery BLM closed, nothing on Olancha/Cartago. **Salcido:** None.

6. **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION**

A. **Electric vehicle charging needs assessment update:** Hailey Lang called electric cars hot topic, LTC policy document for infrastructure could tailor better to Mono. Talk to utility companies on capabilities. Liberty: Walker/Coleville/Topaz. Agent said installation of infrastructure there and viable. Any business owner can contact. Maintenance by third party. If put charger in, do maintenance, Mono oversee. Type 2 most popular in state, but fast chargers could fill in gaps for long-term travel users. Different voltages: type 2 takes longer (4-5 hr), fast type 3 more costly (\$50,000-\$80,000). One car at a time. Liberty has grant programs. \$4 million for fast, oversee installation, cover 50% of charger itself.

Liberty cover US 6? *Valley Electric from Nevada*. Stump wanted to add to mix. Would cover Oasis. Edison not service that area. Route to Vegas is through Fish Lake Valley. Lang will provide update. Stump noted building at US 95, but nothing there. Wentworth suggested Westgard Pass.

Charging stations at schools? *Coleville for school use only.*

Bridgeport gas stations? *Le Francois stated under construction.*

COMMISSIONERS

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Don Condon indicated Tesla can use everything with adaptors. Peters noted Tesla at Virginia Creek Settlement is level 2, as is Bridgeport Marina. Condon stated any 220 outlet works.

Lang indicated Liberty will roll out program for state parks. Edison has disadvantaged program pilot, needs space for minimum 10 charging stations that meet requirements.

Stump wanted to ask Edison to speak to Benton Paiutes **s** tribe who **wen own** property along US 6. Benton is a disadvantaged community. Reservation is part of the trust. SCE pays construction, applicant gets rebate for installation. Pilot for chargers upcoming, pay 100% of cost, rebate included

Stump: Freight study identified need for truck stops. Maybe integrate chargers into truck stops. Dermody indicated Caltrans stations to construction in Bishop, Coso, Division Creek, Boron in summer. Will ask consultant.

Lang cited Edison's fleet program that covers 50% of costs.

B. Digital-395 5G implementation: Gerry Le Francois noted people unaware of: fastest, latest, greatest. Federal preemption on land use with existing towers: new array granted up to 10% increase in tower height. Local entities preempted from any type of review. First project in Coleville area may want preemption. Ask for maximum.

Anything to do with 5G? *Apply to any upgrades.*

Wendy Sugimura cited two types of exemptions: cell towers and 5G specifically before end of month.

Wentworth noted 5G needs towers closer together. Sugimura stated 5G preemptions are controversial in state. Not actually an exemption, CEQA applies.

Wentworth was Back East at conference which wanted to bring back national scenic byways program. Any relief from 5G towers popping up all over? Hogan noted most towers on USFS land. Talking to them? Sugimura noted not since shutdown. How affects NEPA compliance. Mono has no planning authority on USFS land, just building inspections

Entity build on federal land utilizing this exemption? Sugimura stated could apply to federal agencies

Stump mentioned Hwy 6 and "holes" on US 395. If can't close 4G hole. *Sugimura indicated certain timelines involved in shot clock.*

Wentworth indicated consumer electronics show indicated few devices ready to employ. Infrastructure not quite there yet. Preserve visual corridors from sprouting towers.

Le Francois: Updates on technology on agenda. Feds make states aware of program. LTC directed to do scenic byway.

Stump saw thrust as connectivity along routes or within communities. Communities are spread out with federal land in between.

Peters thought **sea 5G** change in technology could create bigger gaps.

C. Wildlife crossing update and approve vice-chair's signature on letters: Hailey Lang mentioned comment letters.

Stump favored coordination with Town/airport wildlife planning. Maybe to Town and FAA, or at least cc. Which letter appropriate to cc? *Caltrans.*

Dermody started draft charter, sent to Mono. Land ownership: largest is LADWP. Letter to LADWP? *Sugimura: Yes, elevate conversation. Contact Clarence Martin.*

Sugimura talked to biological division, unsure how many know about it. Keep apprised.

Federal agencies shut down; send letters anyway.

MOTION: Authorize signatures on existing letters except cc Caltrans letter to Town and FAA, another letter to LADWP in LA or Bishop. *(Stump/Hogan. Ayes: 6-0.)*

Fund PID? *Yes, 100% by Caltrans. Down staff, maybe not till late summer or fall. Scope, cost, schedule laid out.*

7. ADMINISTRATION

A. LTC Audit Report: Finance Director Janet Dutcher credited Megan Mahaffey, who took care of all before childbirth. Followed audit standards in risk-based approach. Got clean opinion in materiality scope. Ended year with \$217,000 in equity, increased \$54,000 from prior year. LTC funded by grants.

Money diverted from reserves for fifth-day service in Walker/Coleville reflected? *Came from fiduciary fund.*

Dutcher indicated as revenues go up and down, spending does as well. Much more PPM (Planning, Programming, Monitoring) money.

Stump noted staffing up in CDD, saw potential change in spending grant revenue. Sugimura commended staff for masterful job on work output.

Dutcher noted restrictions on grant not narrower than scope of activities, so fund balances unassigned. STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) pays money up front, accounts for it later

Le Francois cited reduced potential for PPM. The STIP cycle every two years funds new five-year work program. No new money to allocate. A gap before 2020 cycle. Gives projects chance to get ready for construction.

Le Francois mentioned PTMISEA (Public Transportation Modernization Improvement & Service Enhancement Account) redirected to ESTA for bus stop lighting in October or November.

Dutcher noted report stated "nothing came to our attention" on procedure or law violation. Clean bill of health.

Audit to state or feds, or just available on request? *State controller requires filing but not federal government. STIP PPM state money, so no federal dollars in report and no requirement to file.*

--- Break: 10:20-10:30 am ---

8. TRANSIT

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA): Phil Moores presented ESTA ridership data for last six months. Ridership up 6% over last year. Weather strong factor. Mammoth Express up. Reds Meadow up quite a bit. No real way to measure factors. Safety: Mountain buses needed kits on board, snow builds up in wheel wells, so tools to keep buses safe. Training for office staff Feb. 8. Cameras for Mammoth buses are tool to determine truth about accidents, liability. People try to reduce their own liabilities, but cameras don't lie. Keeps riders in line. Purchase/install by summer. Problems with DMV testing, didn't pass in Bakersfield. ESTA approved for its own employer testing program. Looking for drivers but financial struggles, where to live. Three drivers trained in Mammoth. Reno Greyhound closed doors, relocated to Centennial Plaza in Sparks. Move there Jan. 28.

Hogan noted Dial-A-Rides down. Does Walker function as on-call? *Yes, weekdays. Weekends need ADA-specific. Many variables involved.*

Hogan recalled Greyhound left in 2001, Inyo-Mono Transit picked up till ESTA formed in 2007.

B. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS): Gerry Le Francois noted Mono representatives. Cindy Kelly mentioned park service shutdown. Selena McKinney preparing SRT (Short-Range Transit) plan.

Hogan noted AAC (Authority Advisory Committee) met last week. Jeff Simpson attended. Need to talk scheduling. AAC usually not have quorum. Afternoon meeting would work for East Side. Demo projects need time frames so kick in their share. Mono's share is \$35,000/year, maybe consider more. Meet in spring about dropping June Lake loop, get more of an express route. Maybe drop some of five stops in Mammoth Lakes, one in Lee Vining. YARTS carries only 2% of visitors.

Stump suggested concentrating usage at stops. Maybe approach Starbucks. Corporate chose location near court. Hogan noted YARTS is slow on advertising.

Quorum issues? Hogan indicated AAC has 16 members. New routes take a long time. Bus replacements needed, contract with VIA for buses and drivers.

9. CALTRANS

A. SB 1 update: Ryan Dermody stated in throes of SB 1, hard choices on treatments. JL CAPM \$15 mil up to \$38 mil. Need adjustments.

B. Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information: Ryan Dermody noted Jan. 10 budget by Governor Newsom: \$14.6 billion for transportation. Key principles: air space under overpasses homeless camps official. Local transportation funding linking funding to housing supply contributions. May withhold transportation funding if regional housing needs not met.

Definition of region: Towns and counties working together? Wendy Sugimura stated always attempt to tie location of housing with transportation needs. Same challenges exist. Wentworth thought Town and County ought to correlate work on housing, not disparate jurisdictions. Extend to Inyo county? *Yes.*

Dermody attended CAC on bike requests. Potential funding sources. What does June Lake really want for on-ground improvements?

Sugimura sited multi-modal plan for community workshops to determine problems, options to resolve. Improve biking, pedestrian along SR 158.

Dermody indicated need for consensus, not lots of opinions.

Wentworth announced Matt Parulo, new recreation coordinator, starts today.

10. QUARTERLY REPORTS

A. Town of Mammoth Lakes: Haislip Hayes noted some projects completed. Start new downtown project in March. Done by July 4 festivities, special events. Town applied for multi-use path on south of 203, not rank well.

Different tack on future applications. Project study reports on multi-use paths at Wednesday Town Council meeting, eligible for STIP funding. Always looking for projects that keep Town competitive. Old Mammoth? *Getting all projects teed up for funding.*

Sidewalks to Aspen Village, farther up? *If not bus maybe pedestrian access.*

Halferty noted south side gets up to Loco Frijole, then people dart across street. No funding to go all way up south side? *Not right now.* Crosswalk where pedestrians get stuck at end of sidewalk? *Talks with Caltrans, nothing funded, preliminary conversations on infrastructure needed. Have game plan but not fully funded. Engineering study needed.*

CD Ritter commended sidewalk on north side, walked yesterday.

Peters wanted regional perspective: address Housing Element that will be woven into all grants. Need plan.

Hogan cited worker housing in ghetto. Play up housing need for sidewalks tied in with crosswalk

Halferty preferred denser housing around transit corridors. Transit hub in town needs increased density.

Stump suggested future agenda item: airport plans update, FAA grant. Two reasons: Airport road rebuild, no heavy construction on brand new road. If Town Council not support, best use of STIP funding. See commercial service to Mammoth Yosemite Airport. Perceive Bishop/Mammoth Yosemite complementary, not either/or. No water at Bishop Airport.

B. Mono County: Garrett Higerd verbally updated current projects: civic center, new jail. Challenges with staffing. Eastside Lane in Antelope Valley, lots lane miles so phased approach to chip away at different segments. Will have full list in next quarterly. Working with IT to purchase drone. Pilot process determined accuracy by hiring local land survey. Process data, use OWP (Overall Work Program) funds. All projects will have drone component. Snow is stalling some projects. LTC has a part as funding source. Airport Road and Hot Creek Hatchery programmed in 2014, working on environmental phase, construction in 2020-21.

Shelf life of environmental docs? Hogan cited five years for NEPA. Stump noted it was supposed to be built last year. Le Francois: CEQA OK if baseline doesn't change.

Higerd indicated intersection improvement so traffic sweep around curve like Meridian/203. Right of way issues with USFS, adding bike lanes to roadway. Other SB-1 projects: Hackney Drive into Walker community center, ball field, etc. Unpaved parking. Mono City: Preventive maintenance, not full rehabilitation of Benton Crossing Road: Green church outward. Chip seal poses problem for cyclists, so maybe out to fog line. Truck traffic to landfill makes difference on that road. South Landing Road to Crowley Lake Drive overlay. Future project: Upgrade problem streets in Long Valley area, including Sierra Springs. Using OWP funds on bridge asset inventory update, BOS will hear end of May or June.

Summers Meadow guardrail? *Planned work constructed. Geometry of guardrails tight for livestock trucks. Tried to optimize approach so it works.*

C. Caltrans: *g Natina* used on Convict Lake, Walker projects. STIP projects more like adding four lanes. Olancha/Cartago (purchasing property, working on environmental permitting, ready to construct fall 2020, break ground 2021).

Aspen/Walker to bid? *Sheep Ranch widening had local crews, encourage same approach, request correspondence within county where materials can be stored. Get in front, let community participate in discussion if possible. Hit hard at RPACs, town halls. Constructive conversations late in game.*

Dermody cited Freeman Gulch-1 done, Freeman Gulch-2 design July, no ROW funding till next STIP cycle (was BLM land, but mitigation for Mojave ground squirrel and desert tortoise).

Stump mentioned N. Sherwin shoulders: Look at dissolving Lower Rock Creek exit, integrate with Tom's Place. Connect Lower Rock Creek to Crowley Lake Drive. Intersection not safe. *Dermody responded can't afford, no accident stats.*

Relocate guardrail north of Conway Summit? *Dermody: Long way out, but after Freeman Gulch-2 and -3. Tied into passing lanes as well.*

Hogan thought maybe other counties could contribute to us [as Mono has done to them].

11. **INFORMATIONAL:** No items

12. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Town's airport development issues; 2) election of officers; 3) update on MOUs, history; 4) shutdown impacts; 5) housing/transportation nexus from State; 6) governor's budget impact on transportation.

13. **ADJOURN** at 11:56 a.m. to February 11, 2019

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary