

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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MINUTES

May 13, 2019
(Adopted June 10, 2019)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Jennifer Halferty, John Peters, Fred Stump

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Sandy Hogan, Dan Holler for Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth

COUNTY STAFF: Wendy Sugimura, Gerry Le Francois, Garrett Higerd, Megan Mahaffey, Hailey Lang, CD Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Haislip Hayes

CALTRANS: Mark Heckman, Austin West

ESTA: Phil Moores

PUBLIC: Rick Franz, Laurel Martin, Charles Broten, Pat Espinosa, Molly Des Bailleys, Kathy Peterson, Finlay Torrance (all with Social Services Transportation Advisory Council); Julie Brown, June Mountain Ski Area; John Pinckney, Inyo County transportation planner

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Fred Stump called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** John Pinkney, Inyo County transportation planner, introduced himself.

3. MINUTES

MOTION: Approve minutes of April 8, 2019, as submitted (*Hogan/Peters. Ayes: 5. Abstain due to absence: Wentworth.*)

4. PUBLIC HEARING: Unmet Transit Needs.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Michael Draper introduced the annual review process/citizen participation on unmet needs. Thanked SSTAC, which was introduced. Reappointments last meeting. Outreach via public hearing and RPAC meetings. Matrix presented at meeting.

Phil Moores noted process identifies people without access to life necessities. Standard for meeting needs: operationally feasible (staffing, ESTA operations); community acceptance; available to general public; economically feasible; cost effectiveness of meeting farebox in two years (level of productivity).

Holler noted all relate to Mammoth Lakes services contracted with ESTA. Allocated current levels of service. Increase in per-hour cost. Funding for vehicle replacement. Old Mammoth Road discussion continuing.

Halferty indicated Purple Line use high, not delineated to see usage. Most densely populated occupied district (workforce). Hits all essential services. Need more than every 30 minutes. Some residents to not have cars.

Hogan cited contract issue with Town. How fit into unmet needs. *Holler: Town funding not there.* Moores noted Town and MMSA match federal and state grants.

Grants ongoing? *Moores: Pursuing all time. Rarely use operational funds for capital purposes.*

Fare on Purple? *Moores: Free. Riders not pay fare but cost for services exists. 395 routes collect fare.*

Replacement cost? *Moores: \$250,000/vehicle. Once provide level of service, expect next year as well.*

Broten lauded essential lifeline for low-income sector. Heavily used. Much appreciated by users.

Peterson saw demand, need, cost. Potential path forward? Town subsidize? Federal or State money?

Moores explained that expansion requires several years of funding. Tri-Valley expansions. Town and MMSA help. ESTA budget not thick with funds, so challenging but not insurmountable.

Partnership with MMSA? *Subsidizes at least a third.*

Stump noted need for fuller report from Town on moneys to increase with Caltrans and ESTA weighing in. Future agenda item.

COMMISSIONERS

Jennifer Halferty Sandy Hogan John Peters Lynda Salcido Fred Stump John Wentworth

Wentworth mentioned transit element at The Parcel. Charette in August. *Moore's met with group, entire property surrounded by other services. Pedestrian access to numerous stops.*

Potential to analyze Old Mammoth Road service times to Purple Line? Add another bus to Purple. More options on timing so residents don't drive.

Items 4-5:

Restore route to Carson City for needs. Sonora Junction stop? Phone booth, potential for farebox when hundreds of PCT (Pacific Coast Trail) travelers coming down. Also, opportunity for workforce transport to marine base, van service, housing in Coleville.

DesBaillets thought workforce units at marine housing would help families.

Year-round stop ultimately? *Peters: Already year-round, next to Caltrans yard so snow removal available. No restrooms.* Franz will talk with maintenance.

Stump: Bring topic up with Caltrans staff, report back to ESTA.

Moore's included \$3,000 in TDA request. Only once/week, only by request. Work with passengers on Gardnerville vs Carson City.

Peters noted people go to Carson City for medical services. *Moore's: Great example of unmet need.*

Item 6:

Moore's noted operationally impossible to go to June Lake. Went to June Lake CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee). Numbers could change. Could be higher demand. Summer service didn't take off. Volunteer driver in Cambria could be model for Mono. CAC wants to be connected. Employee shuttle in winter discontinued. MMSA has no services in foreseeable future.

Moore's cited serious issue as lack of drivers. 300 hours of overtime unsustainable. Less severe for ESTA. Vanpool program not utilized at all. May be good for employees.

Julie Brown contracted with ESTA a decade. Population not support, relies on bed base in Mammoth Lakes. Jobs market fluctuates. Up to 150 employees. Local lodging property offers staff housing. Need to get to Mammoth Lakes for needs. Challenging February weather. Very important to residents of June Lake. No line item yet. Become item 6A.

Hogan noted YARTS dropping loop for stop at junction south. Summer pilot program didn't fly. ESETS has on-demand to places. Pilot programs didn't work.

Brown looked at other years. Jobs market fluctuation. Hiring in June Lake is difficult. Huge requirement to keep staff at minimum level.

Wentworth suggested private sector component find solution.

Torrance: Provide public transportation, not cut services back.

Brown: Guests rely on service as well, on website.

Items 7-9:

Stump thanked for in-depth contact. Been here before, not immediate. Population could jump to 800-900. Need commuter service to Bishop. Tri-Valley considered disadvantaged. Senior population needs to get to Bishop. Only one bus stop in Chalfant, need one in Benton.

Peterson: Senior center in Bishop. Assisting older parents, increased access. Moore's: Keep on radar as demand increases.

Stump: Chalfant residents work in Mammoth Lakes. Moore's: Bus stops are like storefront. Need presence in Benton.

Stump: EV policy includes Benton.

Bus stop on reservation in Benton? *Moore's: Need presence in town.* DesBaillets: Extend to tribe.

Stump: ESUSD not pick up students at reservation.

Moore's: Bring options, costs to ESTA board.

Peterson: Tribe may have purchased vehicle. Might coordinate if asked.

Item 10:

Peters: Not in parameters but a need. Get word, schedules out.

Moore's: See north county independent of other schedules. Walker DAR discussion.

Espinosa: Part of senior goals is outreach to Bridgeport for services, Walker senior center serves hot meals. Include Bridgeport to Walker via DAR (Dial-A-Ride), to Toiyabe. Social activities for Bridgeport seniors to Walker for meals, socialization. *Moore's: Better utilize DAR.*

Peters: Identified potential opportunity. All services in Bridgeport used by Antelope Valley as well. Connectivity. Improve quality of life in summer. Maximize outreach and usage. More community awareness of working together. Chambers of commerce working together. Identify recreational opportunities.

Stump: Further public input, evaluate unmet needs in report.

DesBaillets: Same as last year, DAR in Mammoth Lakes serves Spanish speakers. Partnership with Spanish-speaking staff to help DAR driver know of service request. Impact on staff time of First Five. Zero capacity for Spanish speaking. Other agencies in town have that capacity, so maybe partnerships.

Halferty: Digitized form online? Google translation.

Wentworth: Drivers have simple translation option. Recreation needs on matrix. New Benjamin **Berry Barry** in recreation partnership, PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) Association.

Holler: SB 1 grant for parking issues. Intercept with transit, bikes, etc.

Laurel Martin: Staff appreciates Moores' great accessibility. Athletes from Bishop to MMSA, special needs population at adult age possible through ESTA. Recreational nodes at spots between Bishop and Mammoth (Whitmore and Convict). **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING.**

---BREAK: 10:15-10:20-10:28 a.m. ---

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Hogan:** Sheep Ranch shoulders looks good. **Holler:** None. **Wentworth:** Benjamin **Berry Barry**. Devin Middlebrook at South Lake on EV, good lessons to share. Mountain Town News: CO to join CA on EV policies. First 500 mi on electric bike. **Halferty:** Movie "Quiet Force," small film about workforce, especially Latino. Mammoth Lakes, Jackson Hole. **Hogan:** Show again? **Halferty:** MLH (Mammoth Lakes Housing) did flier on it. Read article, exciting to see CO involved. **Peters:** Incident on 395 in Bridgeport: Driver mistakenly pushed gas, reversed into Ken's Sporting Goods that resulted in adjacent businesses closing four days to determine building safety. Heard lots of negative reaction to back-in parking. Another opportunity in Bridgeport with CSA (County Service Area) for community. Immigrant Street speeding traffic issue. CSA approved radar speed sign to reduce speeding. Longstanding area request for same type of signs at either end of town. Offer from Caltrans to install/maintain for life if purchased. CSA ran into difficulty with county counsel on use of funds. Exclude project with agency outside county. No traffic signal in Bridgeport. CHP showing speed citations. Potential opportunity to fund \$12,000. Tens of thousands for Caltrans to install/maintain. Not require encroachment permit, just install/maintain. ; **Holler:** BOS approve use of funds? **Stump:** None.

6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

A. **2020 STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program):** Le Francois worked with District 6, 8, and 9 on Olancho/Cartago, fully funded. Kern COG has active group, intends to finish FG (Freeman Gulch) -1, -3 despite Central Valley concerns. FG-1 ribbon cut last spring. FG-2 environmental approvals, a lot to finish. STIP cycle could help. Kramer Junction Hwy 58 going well. All projects off table when 2016 imploded. District 9 priorities will emerge. Broad fund estimate on CTC (California Transportation Commission) webpage. Potential shares not broken out. First STIP under SB 1. LTC funded buses through STIP, hopefully this round. Close to \$2 million now.

B. **EV charging-station policy document:** Hailey Lang presented major changes in red text. Staff continued outreach on costs and benefits, changes to policy language. RFP (Request for Proposals) process follow-up: Falls within exemption to competitive bid process. Utility companies subsidizing.

Le Francois: Amend RTP, policies dovetail into that plan. End of summer bring back to LTC. Financial element needs update. Holler requested Town update on RTP.

Wentworth: Send to Middlebrook before June 10 meeting.

Le Francois: Boulton sent information on Vons EV project in Bishop.

Stump: Inyo policy? *Pinkney: Ready for draft RTP, address it there.* Stump: Interconnectivity with points south. Send draft to Inyo.

C. **Senate Bill 152 Beall/ATP (Active Transportation Program):** Gerry Le Francois reached out, replies in packet. RCTF (Rural Counties Task Force) following as well. Latest revision. Trying to increase rural component. ATP grants highly competitive, as Town knows. Cited old TE (Transportation Enhancement) process. Federal regional trails component rolled into ATP. MPSs carry more sway, unsure where will go at hearing today. Component to soften disadvantaged "should" instead of "shall." Predominantly Benton area.

Holler saw 200,000 population as real challenge. *Lang: All rural RTPAs (Regional Transportation Planning Agencies) submitted letters of opposition, also other Northern California groups. Felt sideswiped by this effort. Metropolitan Transportation Commission, mainly Bay Area.*

Halferty wanted formal letter, authorize chair to sign. Give staff direction to Town/Mono.

Wentworth suggested framing argument around recreation. Lang saw shortchanging ability to secure more funds, urbans visit rural. Halferty noted rurals travel farther to essential services.

D. **Eastern Sierra Wildlife Stewardship Team:** Hailey Lang noted group met recently. Caltrans looking at funding issues and constraints. Secured funding for PID (Project Initiation Document). Moving along, meeting quarterly or as needed. Find additional funding.

Species-centric? *Austin West: Majority collisions mule deer.*

Wentworth saw hot-button topic of wild horses along Mono Lake. See what's going on.

Hogan: Mainly wildlife crossing by airport. Tim Taylor talking to SNARL (Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory) in a few weeks.

7. ADMINISTRATION

8. TRANSIT

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)

1. **Resolution R19-02:** Unallocated STA (State Transit Assistance) funding. Phil Moores noted next month claimant letter. Unused STA funds into reserve. Funds for vehicle replacement. Caltrans has left-over funds? Competitive grant \$250,000 for trolley, \$15,000 toward grant. Clean up pots of money to simplify complicated funding strategy.

Replacement trolley owned by ESTA? *Moores: Yes, not Town.*

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R19-02 approving commitment of balance of STA funds. If grants unsuccessful, apply toward future grant applications for vehicles or cameras. (*Hogan/Halferty. Ayes: 6-0.*)

2. **Resolution R19-03:** Continued funding for operating assistance for 395 intercity bus routes

Moores indicated funds for 395 corridor services.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R19-03 authorizing co-executive director to sign the Certification and Assurances for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) continued funding for operating assistance for the 395 intercity bus routes (*Peters/Hogan. Ayes: 6-0.*)

Tom's Place bus stop: *Moores: Scheduled, shelter in yard for public works. Valuable for hikers.*

B. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS): Hogan: Firm commitment for AAC meetings in afternoons to include Michael Draper and Jeff Simpson. Waterfalls awesome now. Dropping June Lake Loop.

9. **CALTRANS:** Mark Heckman is applying for grants. Submitted fact sheet Friday for Olancho/Cartago, maximum \$25 million. Agencies select managed lanes project, rail project, and one other. Within two weeks decide if go forward. Presentation last week to Kern TTAC (Transportation Technical Advisory Committee) wrapped public comment. Wildlife crossing preapplication for Prop 68 funding, \$2 million to complete environmental.

Who to? Wildlife Conservation Board has lots of money. *Heckman: SB 127 in Senate utilizing SHOPP (State Highway Operation & Protection Program) money. Brush fire exercise to see if might qualify. Caltrans working with legislator. Workers Memorial last month.*

Fales/Little Walker area start date? *Heckman: Will find out.*

Peters: Snow clearing on Sonora. Tioga got 4 million hits. Caltrans filmed another video. NPS (National Park Service) maybe punched through.

10. **INFORMATIONAL: Town of Mammoth Lakes update on transportation-related activities.** Dan Holler stated Minaret Road roundabout funds reprogrammed for sidewalks on Main. No funds programmed for roundabout, as traffic counts not show need. Minaret Road/Hwy 203 at Forest Trail also under review to mitigate traffic. Other at Snowcreek 8/Old Mammoth Road. Another Main/Old Mammoth Road: traffic mitigation issues. Question is snow removal and storage. More roundabouts throughout state. Different designs possible. Sidewalk on Main, contract for directional signage, Environmental Assessment at airport. Lakes Basin: No definite date yet. Hope for Memorial, but unlikely.

Hogan: South Lake looking at roundabouts. Truckee has, manages with lots of snow. Former Caltrans director threw up roadblocks.

Higerd: Getting projects ready for bid. Eastside Lane phase I out to bid soon. Hackney Drive at comm ctr in Walker getting close. South Landing Road moving forward. Mono City maintenance. Benton Crossing from green church to landfill. Civic Center in full swing, requires lots of time, staff out varied reasons.

Stump: Marks all over road in Crowley Lake. Related to Mono? Higerd: No. Call USA Dig hotline. Maybe RACE Communications?

11. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Review and adopt 2019-20 OWP (Overall Work Program); 2) SB 152 Beall update; 3) letter of support for Olancho/Cartago; 4) unmet needs; 5) annual allocations; 6) letter to sign = info.

12. **ADJOURN** at 11:27 a.m. to June 10, 2019

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary