



August 12, 2019

STAFF REPORT

Subject: ESTA Executive Director's Report

Presented By: Phil Moores, Executive Director

1. Performance Report:

May:

Ridership increased 17.5% in May 2019 compared to last year. Passengers per service hour continues to be strong at around 18 PSH. Accidents (zero!), Bishop Dial-a-Ride wait times, road calls, and customer comments met the monthly goals. We missed around three trips in May due to mechanical issues.

June:

Ridership decreased 41.4% in June 2019 compared to last year due to late snow fall. Passengers per service hour dropped to 11 PSH. Accidents (one minor), Bishop Dial-a-Ride wait times, road calls, and customer comments met the monthly goals. We missed around two trips in June due to mechanical issues.

2. Safety:

The Lakes Basin Trolley has experienced several problems with bike trailers. Lost and damaged bicycles and one dislodged trailer on the highway. We have closed several stations on the trailers with weak or broken components. The new fat-tire bikes rented to visitors in Mammoth do not fit properly on the trailers. We are currently working with the manufacturers on a design that will accommodate the new fat-tire bikes more safely. We inspected the hitches on the fleet of trailers.

3. Maintenance:

Discussions with TOML are ongoing regarding the ESTA fleet. The Town has not been able to adequately service the vehicles with current mechanic staffing levels. The potential for utilizing the ESTA leased facility in Mammoth is being explored. The ideal solution is a dedicated mechanic solely concerned with keeping ESTA vehicles in good running condition. However, the Town's many and various responsibilities make this difficult. In cooperation with Town staff, I have issued a letter to the Town increasing



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the preventative maintenance inspection schedule from 5000 miles/120-day to 5,000-mile/60-day. As an example, San Luis Obispo RTA services their fleet on a 3,000-mile/45-day schedule. It's important to note, this more challenging schedule may result in missed service for the town and loss of income for ESTA.

4. Training:

We recently successfully trained and licensed seven drivers. Unfortunately, some of the existing Mammoth drivers chose not to return to work after the shoulder season break. With the infusion of new drivers, Mammoth operations are feeling some relief. However, we are still not out of the woods with driver shortages. ESTA is not able to staff all charter requests and even some regularly expected services have been delayed or cancelled.

5. Planning:

Schedule adjustments to 395 North will go into effect Sept. 16, 2019. These changes will improve driver break times and bring drive time hours in compliance with the law.

We are reviewing grant opportunities with the FTA and Caltrans, and plans for the new Bishop Yard facility are continuing in coordination with Inyo County.