



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



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Michael Errante, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Bishop City Council Chambers 301 W. Line St., Bishop, CA 93514

All members of the public are encouraged to participate in the discussion of any items on the Agenda. Questions and comments will be accepted via e-mail to: jkokx@inyocounty.us. Any member of the public may also make comments during the scheduled "Public Comment" period on this agenda concerning any subject related to the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission. PUBLIC NOTICE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Transportation Commission Secretary at (760) 878-0201. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28CFR 35. 102-35. ADA Title II).

September 27, 2023

9:00 a.m. Open Meeting

Chairperson Celeste Berg to participate virtually from 382 Miramonte Pl, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Chair: Celeste Berg
Vice Chair: Jeffery Ray
Commissioner: Jose Garcia
Commissioner: Stephen Muchovej
Commissioner: Jennifer Roeser
Commissioner: Scott Marcellin

Others Present:

John Pinckney: Inyo County Public Works Assistant Director
Nora Gamino: City of Bishop Public Works Director
Anna Budnyk: City of Bishop Planner
Justine Kokx: Inyo County Public Works/LTC
Kristina Amaya: Inyo County Public Works
Genevieve Evans: LSC
Acadia Davis: LSC
Phili Moore: ESTA
Jenny Park: IMAH
Andrew Besold: Caltrans

Chair Celeste Berg, Vice-Chair Jeffery Ray, Commissioners: Jennifer Roeser, Stephen Muchovej, Jose Garcia, Scott Marcellin

Neil Peacock: Caltrans
Karl Seiberling: Caltrans
Maggie Ritter: Caltrans
Bob Strub: Lone Pine Resident
Sabine Elia: Lone Pine Resident

2. Public Comment: No Public Comment

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the virtual participation by Chair Berg in accordance with AB 2449
 - b. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 16, 2023.
 - c. State of Good Repair ESTA
 - d. Ratify Letter of Support for the Caltrans Reconnecting Communities Highways to Boulevards Grant Program application, and Resolution No. 2023-06 authorizing ICLTC to be Co-Applicant.
- **Motion to approve “Consent Agenda” was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Muchovej. All in favor.**

2. Approve Resolution No. 2023-07 to accept Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds in the amount of \$201,500, with a local cash match (staff time) of \$26,111, totaling \$227,611.
- **Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-07 to accept Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds. Motioned by Commissioner Jen Roeser and Seconded by Commissioner Jose Garcia.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Genevieve Evans of LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. presented information about the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). She explained why the RTP is important and included 5 points. First, state law requires the RTP to be updated every 4-5 years. Second, implementing an RTP provides accountability for taxpayer money. Third, the RTP is a good reference document for ICLTC staff and Commissioners. The reader should be able to accurately identify what ICLTC goals are for the long term. When someone updates the RTP or when a new grant funding source comes through the RTP acts as a reference. The RTP is a reference by providing a project list page that explains why the project is important as well as a section that explains what the public input is for this project. Fourth, RTP addresses many different types of transportation related plans all in one document. This includes trucking, roads, bridges, maintenance for ESTA and

aviation. RTP does not address non-motorized transportation which is why ATP will be updated as well. Lastly, the capital transportation improvement projects funded with state or federal money must be identified in the RTP. For some grant and funding sources they may ask for the LTC to identify what page number the project is on and where it is in the RTP. The process to get the RTP implemented is lengthy. Some portions of the planning process include the following: follow a RTP checklist provided by Caltrans, considering BLM and Forest service plans to make sure we are not conflicting with them, participating in public comment, and then finally ICLTC will adopt the document (expected in November 2023).

- Acadia Davis presented and explained the demographics and economics of Inyo County in the context of the regional transportation needs/issues in Inyo County. The high priority for state highways is completion of US 395 Olancha-Cartago 4-Lane Project. The use of a pavement condition index is used to evaluate the conditions of roads in the County and City. The average pavement condition index for Inyo County is categorized as “fair” and for the City the average PCI is categorized as poor. The RTP is also going to include information about projects for the 12% of roads in Inyo County that are categorized as “poor” or “failed”. As ESTA transportation ages it is important to consider replacement of transit vehicles. The focus is going to be on fleet electrification and implementing the infrastructure necessary for these goals.
- Trucking is the primary movement of goods to Inyo County. Some concerns that will be addressed in the RTP will be potential conflict between trucks and multiple user groups, lack of acceleration lanes, designated truck parking and truck/ bypass routes. The City of Bishop does not have a designated truck route and it negatively effects city roadways.
- Aviation transportation is another important transportation need in the county. The City of Bishop Airport has a new commercial passenger service. This will include maintaining county operated airports at accessible standards this includes the Bishop airports now that there is commercial services.
- The different elements of the RTP are as follows, the policy element, action element, and the financial element. Acadia goes into detail about each element and how LTC can use these as a reference.
- As a part of the RTP process it is mandatory that the RTP is evaluated under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The environmental impact of these projects are going to be discussed and addressed on an individual basis.
- Acadia discussed the ATP (Active Transportation Plan) update. Non- motorized Facilities would include expanding bike lanes, bike paths, and sidewalks.
- Acadia and Genevieve answered questions.
 - Public Comment from Bob Strub, do you have the expertise of GIS? Yes, they have a graphics technician who assists with GIS. Mr. Strub explained that the environmental portion of the RTP should include an evaluation of the viewshed of Inyo County’s primary corridor known as US 395, so that the areas not visible from 6’ above the roadway can be determined and then shown as part of the RTP. Comment revised per request by Mr. Strub at the October 18, 2023 meeting.
- Commissioner Roeser is concerned with the policy element and flexibility. Some of the state guidelines for EVs may not be feasibly accommodatable in Inyo County. EV

vehicles are now going down in sales and the concern is being locked into something that might not be relevant in 10 years. Genevieve expressed that there is some room for flexibility.

- Commissioner Muchovej appreciated the great presentation. Commissioner Muchovej asked if E-Bikes would be considered motorized or active transportation.
 - Genevieve replied that E-bikes would fall under active transportation.
- Commissioner Muchovej also wants to know what public comments would be the most useful to the RTP process? Genevieve replied that we would benefit from questions that pertain to issues that are not addressed in the RTP.
- Commissioner Marcellin wanted to know if there is an alternative to the fog seal because after this last winter the seal did not hold up. He is specifically referring to Carol Lane in Bishop. He continues that after one bad winter it looks like nothing has been done.
- Commissioner Ray commented on the safety concern with implementing more bike lanes and pedestrian pathways. He wants to make sure that with the development of active transportation there is also a plan for public safety as well. Karl from Caltrans replied to Commissioner Ray and explained that Caltrans has a project and development plan for Lone Pine.
- Commissioner Roeser commented and explained that she wants to see more in the RTP about safety and communities. She wants Safety to be above the other issues especially on the 395 corridors because safety features in the document are underwhelming and we need to emphasize that the priorities in the document are pedestrian and vehicle safety. Genevieve says that they prioritize safety over some of the other categories. Neil Peacock from Caltrans reiterated the increasingly important role that discretionary program funding is going to hold for the reasonable future in terms of funding these priorities. Caltrans is putting together the top 5 projects that are most competitive for funding and will be meeting with LTC staff about their recommendations. To be strategic with funding other projects may take priority.
 - *Final adoption is November 29th.
- Commissioner Marcellin had a suggestion about the ATP, there is a multiuse pathway that parallels S. Barlow Lane that needs rehab. People are starting to use Barlow Lane instead of that pathway.
- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Public Draft available on the Inyo County LTC website: [Public Draft 2023 RTP Update](#) [2023 RTP Initial Study & Negative Declaration](#)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. City of Bishop Report

Anastasiia Budnyk provided an update about *Whitney Alley Project*. For updates click the following link [City of Bishop, California](#). Chair Berg asked for clarification on the funding. Would Clean California Grant plug into phase 1? Anastasiia clarified that if they are not awarded the Clean California Grant, they will have to find more funding to complete the project. The Commissioners elaborated more on the City of Bishop parking study and what they would like to see regarding improved parking for the community and awareness.

4. ESTA Report

- Executive Director's Report

Phil provided and updated ESTA Report. Ridership was a little low this month, but Phil remained optimistic that pre-COVID numbers will be reached. For the winter season there was a steady flow of skilled applicants, and the city of Bishop is fully staffed. He continued that they are waiting for a lease agreement to go through for admin building and they were working on design. Commissioner Marcellin asked if propane rather than electric was on the alternative fuel list for buses. Phil said that propane was being phased out due to not being 0 emissions. Phil welcomed any of the commissioners to reach out to him with any further questions.

5. Caltrans Report

Karl and Maggie provided a monthly update. Commissioner Roeser had a question about closures on HWY 178 because peak season for tourism is soon. John recommended Caltrans Quick Maps Website. Commissioner Garcia had a question regarding the Bishop Pavement Project. He wanted to know if the crosswalk on Main and Church Street will be repainted. He was concerned about public safety because vehicles that drive North don't stop for pedestrians. Maggie was going to take this to the design team. Commissioner Roeser asked where the Bishop Pavement Project is in the design phase. Maggie expressed that the design was completed, and they went to public comment recently. Completion is expected in Fall 2024.

Neil provided an update for Lindsay Hart who is the temporary climate planning manager for Caltrans. It is expected that emergency work is going to become more common therefore techniques such as an Arizona Crossings would be beneficial for preventative measures. Caltrans planning department proposed a trends analysis that demonstrated damage on the roads vs where there might be future damages. The goal is to see if the plan and the reality are correct. Commissioner Roeser requested to see the different methods Inyo County could implement in prevent damages on Inyo County roads. Neil would follow up.

6. Tribal Report: N/A

7. DVNP Report: N/A

8. USFS Report: N/A

9. Executive Director's Report : John Pickney filled in for Mike Errante. He presented an LTC map that lists a description of each project as well as the location. Commissioner Ray asked if there are any updates on Whitney Portal Road. John explained that there are 2 projects, one with Matt Clair that is almost finished and one that is still in progress. The Public Works department is working on getting funding for the portion of Whitney Portal Road that has failed. Commissioner Ray wanted to make sure that when the road work is completed it is good quality work. John explained Public Works is working hard to get the appropriate tools and funding together.

10. Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC:

Commissioner Roeser had a request to put something on the agenda for next month. The Lone Pine Paiute Tribe sent a letter to the board requesting that a bypass be built, and she asked if this could be discussed. The other part of her report was on the Buttermilk Road, and she updated everyone on the progress. The last thing she wanted to discuss was the GIS Layer. She wanted John Pickney to share this with the commission, and she thought it would be helpful to them. Commissioner Garcia cannot attend the next meeting. John suggested that usually the Commission likes to combine the November and December meetings. Justine will follow up. Commissioner Ray wanted to attend the next Kern COG meeting and help this move forward. Commissioner Ray also wanted to work on community involvement. He suggested Lone Pine Town Hall might be a good place to get the community together.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned until 9 a.m., Wednesday October 18, 2023, Independence Board Chambers

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- Final RTP public hearing & adoption
- Airport presentation
- Final 2024 RTIP and 2024 STIP
- FY23-24 OWP Amendment (FY22-23 RPA Rollover & STPG)