



**INYO COUNTY
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**



P.O. DRAWER Q
INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526
PHONE: (760) 878-0201
FAX: (760) 878-2001

Michael Errante, Executive Director

MINUTES

**INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
ONLINE MEETING**

DATE: April 21, 2021

9:00 a.m. Chair Steven Muchovej called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Steven Muchovej
Rick Pucci
Doug Thompson
Celeste Berg
Jose Garcia
Jennifer Roeser

Others present:

Michael Errante, LTC Executive Director
John Pinckney, LTC Staff
Cynthia Browning, LTC Secretary
Phil Moores, ESTA
Deston Dishion, City of Bishop
Kami Bayer, Caltrans
Dennee Alcalá, Caltrans
Mark Heckman, Caltrans
Austin West, Caltrans
Brad Larson, Caltrans
Adam Weitzmann, Caltrans
David Grah, Eastern Sierra Engineering

ITEM NO. 2 Public Comment- None

ACTION ITEMS:

ITEM NO. 3 Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2021.

* Ryan Dermody of Caltrans asked for a correction on Item No. 9 where Commissioner Muchovej had asked John Pinckney if a feasibility study for truck routes toward Bishop Airport could happen. John had answered that it would be a Caltrans Project. Ryan Dermody wanted to clarify that it would not be a Caltrans Project.

*Motion to approve, with modification, was made by Commissioner Rick Pucci, seconded by Jennifer Roeser. All in favor 6

ITEM NO. 4 Request Commission receive a staff report and a copy of the meeting notes of the Social Services Transit Advisory Council and conduct a public hearing to gather input on unmet transit needs.

*Public comment opened by Commissioner Muchovej: No comments were made

*Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Pucci and seconded by Commissioner Garcia. All in favor 6

ITEM NO. 5 Request Commission program by Resolution No. 2021-02 the FY2021 FTA Section 5311 Program of Projects (POP) with ESTA as the sub recipient of \$116,573 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the Certifications and Assurances for operating assistance for general public transit services in Inyo County

*Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Berg and seconded by Commissioner Roeser. All in favor 6

ITEM NO. 6 Request Commission authorize by Resolution No. 2020-03 the Executive Director to sign the Certification and Assurances for the FTA Section 5311(f) Continued Funding for Operating Assistance for ESTA's 395 Intercity Bus Routes.

*Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Pucci and seconded by Commissioner Garcia. All in favor 6

ITEM NO. 7 Request Commission program by Resolution No. 2021-04 the 5311 CRRSAA funds and Program of Projects with ESTA as the sub recipient in the amount \$308,189 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the Certifications and Assurances for operating assistance for general public transit services in Inyo County.

*Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Pucci. All in favor 6

ITEM NO. 8 Request Commission authorize the Executive Director to sign a Letter of Support for ESTA's grant application seeking funding to expand the Bishop DAR hours.

*Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Berg and seconded by Commissioner Garcia. All in favor 6

ITEM NO. 9 Request Commission ratify a Federal Appropriations request for construction funding of the Olancha Cartago Project as submitted to US Rep. Obernolte on April 9th, 2021.

*Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Pucci. All in favor 6

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 10 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Highway Infrastructure Programs Funding Distribution

*John Pinckney said that the CTC has been trying to decide how to allocate \$911 million in federal transportation relief funds. John went on to say that the ICLTC at the previous meeting had supported a letter to the CTC asking that they distribute the funding according to the STIP formula. However, the Large MPO's favored the distribution with the block grant formula. The CTC has elected to go down the middle and distribute with a 50/50 formula. What this means for us, John explained, is that we will receive \$1.957 million dollars in transportation funding. We have until this Friday if we want new projects under this funding in the upcoming fiscal year. John said that we do not have any new projects, but we have several existing projects that are underfunded. John stated that we do not have to allocate these funds immediately unless we have new projects. John asked if the Commissioners have any questions and if not, indicated that he will come back in the future with discussions on using the funds.

* Commissioner Muchovej asked which projects we could use these funds for. John answered, Lone Pine Town Streets Rehab and East Line Street Bridge.

*Commissioner Thompson asked if John could get him a list of prioritized projects. John said that he would re-give the Commissioners a hard copy of the Regional Transportation Plan, focusing on pg. 100 with helpful tables to identify the projects.

ITEM NO. 11 Discussion of, and request an update on, the best options for incorporating pedestrian safety elements within the timeframe and funding available on Caltrans SHOPP funded Projects: Manzanar Pavement US395 and Fish Springs Pavement US395.

*Jennifer Roeser stated that this is a presentation and opportunity for Caltrans to take public comment. Commissioner Roeser went on to say that the State Highway Operation and Protection Program allow us an opportunity to incorporate some potential pedestrian safety features.

*Austin West of Caltrans District 9 Planning said that he will be giving a presentation of projects and introduced Kami Bayer, Project Engineer for Fish Springs Pavement Project; David Grah of Eastern Sierra Engineering, Design Consultant for the Manzanar Pavement Project; and Brad Larson, Caltrans District 9 Traffic Operations, to answer questions on projects in Independence and Big Pine.

*Commissioner Muchovej opened the floor for public comment.

*Nancy Masters, with the Independence Civic Club, stated that she has personally been working with four lane issues in Independence since the 1990's. Some of the things talked about in the past is the want for a bulb-out in front of the Legion Hall where there are steep stairs; differing paving for the crosswalks so they are highly visible to traffic; pedestrian refuge at the main crossing at the post office; Installing traffic cameras in the area; stop lights in Independence at the cross section at the Post Office. Nancy's final comment was that she believes water lines are in the existing sidewalks as the result of the four Lane expansions. She suggested the possibility of landscaping the sidewalks.

Nancy went on to say that if Caltrans wants to form a working committee she would be happy to be on it.

*Commissioner Roeser shared several comments from the public regarding pedestrian safety:

- Consider replacing the crosswalk at Dewey St. in Big Pine
- Add 3-D speed bumps.
- More signage indicating speed limits.
- Several comments about adding cameras.
- Comments from Independence for activated pedestrian crossing lights.
- The need for a Veterans walkway path in Big Pine.
- The crosswalk at Blake Street needs special attention. Concern has come up due to the children walking school

*Commissioner Roeser finished by thanking Caltrans for giving the presentation.

*Commissioner Muchovej encouraged people to visit the Caltrans website to make comments as well as visiting their online Complete Streets Toolbox.

*Ryan Dermody, Caltrans District 9 Director, thanked his team and added that the landscaping ideas are helpful and encouraged the community to help as well.

*Nancy Masters inquired if there are any other grant opportunities that local communities can seek through other sources for funding some of these changes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 12 ESTA Report

*Phil Moores reported that ridership jumped. January's report was 71% down and February is 51% down. Bishop Creek service is scheduled to run as well as Red's Meadows. Loading restrictions are still a concern and will hurt us financially, Phil said. The town of Mammoth Lakes stepped forward and committed \$150,000 as an insurance policy to encourage us to run the service. Red's Meadows service will start by July 4th weekend. Bishop Creek is scheduled to start June 12th. ESTA intends to move its team into the Airport location in July.

ITEM NO. 13 Tribal Report None

ITEM NO. 14 DVNP Report

*Jane Mercer reported that they are working on the bike trail project with Pacific West Region and are in the environmental planning stage.

ITEM NO. 15 Caltrans Report

*Dennee Alcalá introduced their new Inyo County Planner, Adam Weitzmann and went on to share a construction map of projects.

Dennee said the supplemental funding is being pursued for the Olancha Cartago Project and the Frontier utility relocation work had begun this week. The desert tortoise fence installation is set to begin next week. Dennee also reported that the rectangular rapid flashing beacon was installed at Crocker St. in Big Pine.

Dennee said that the California Transportation Plan 2050 has been released and the 2022 Asset Transportation Management Plan is being developed with workshops coming soon.

ITEM NO. 16 City of Bishop Report

*Deston Dishion reported that the City of Bishop has requested funding for preliminary design and environmental for the East Line Street Bridge Project.

ITEM NO. 17 Executive Director's Report

*Michael Errante gave updates on the South Lake Road Project and the Consolidated Office Building. Mike stated that one section of lanes on South Lake Road had failed due to an obstruction of water which caused some damage. FHWA said there was no warranty on the work. They said if we could find that their 100 feet of underdrain failed they would consider participating but the extent of damage went beyond the 100 foot section of drain. The goal is to have everything done by May 7th. Fortunately, Mike said, we were able to get contractor's quotes quickly.

Mike went on to report that the Consolidated Office Building has some delays. The elevator company arrived this morning and will start work. The goal is to start moving in at the end of May or the first two weeks of June.

ITEM NO. 18 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC
None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT: 10:46 am