



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Michael Errante, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

On-line only meeting

DATE: March 17th 2021

9:00 a.m. Doug Thompson called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

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

Others present:

Michael Errante, Executive Director
John Pinckney, Staff
Cynthia Browning, LTC Secretary
Phil Moores, ESTA
Ron Phillips, City of Bishop
Deston Dishion, City of Bishop
Gerry LeFrancois, Mono LTC
Jenny Park, IMAH
Jane Mercer, Death Valley National Park
Dennee Alcalá, Caltrans
Mark Heckman, Caltrans
Austin West, Caltrans

ITEM NO. 2 Public Comment- None

ACTION ITEMS:

ITEM NO. 3 Election of Officers - The LTC By-Laws state the Chair and Vice-Chair *shall* be nominated and then elected at the first meeting of the calendar year.

***Commissioner Pucci nominated Stephen Muchovej for Chair.**

***Seconded by Commissioner Garcia.**

All in favor 6

***Commissioner Roeser nominated Rick Pucci for Vice-Chair.**

***Seconded by Commissioner Muchovej.**

All in favor 6

ITEM NO. 4 Secretary of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2020.

***Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve. Commissioner Roeser seconded.**

All in favor 6

ITEM NO. 5 Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2021-01 authorizing the execution of the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) and allocating \$19,118 of FY 2020-2021 funds toward the purchase of an electric bus.

***Commissioner Pucci motioned to approve. Commissioner Garcia seconded**

All in favor 6

ITEM NO. 6 Request Commission authorize staff to submit a letter supporting allocation of Federal CRRSAA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act) transportation funding in accordance with STIP allocation formula distribution

***Commissioner Muchovej proposed to submit the letter. No objections were made.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 7 Request Commission receive a staff report on Local Transportation Fund estimates for FY 21-22

John Pinckney briefly outlined the staff report from the packet and stated that the Commission is being asked to receive the Inyo County Auditor's estimate of Local Transportation Funds (LTF) tax revenues available in FY 21-22 for distribution in accordance with the Transportation

Development Act (TDA). Staff has included recommendations and is asking for input and direction on proposed allocations

Staff is recommending, in line with last year, a 10% Administrative Allocation plus any required audit fees. A reserve balance is crucial to making annual allocations and the monthly payments. Tax revenues vary by month and year. Staff recommends setting a reserve target of 15% to 20% of the annual allocation amount. Currently there are excess reserves (over the 15 to 20% target) in the LTF account. Last year prior to covid, staff was requesting your commission to distribute approximately \$250,000 in reserves according to the priorities on pg.2; to 2% Bike & Ped, 5% Community Transit (ESAAA) with the remainder to ESTA.

ITEM NO. 8 City of Bishop Main Street crosswalks and safety discussion

Deston Dishion said that at the February 8th City Council meeting, Council and staff discussed the safety of pedestrian crossings on Main St. and W. Line St. Over the past several decades Caltrans has moved several crosswalks along Main Street. The public is concerned about these crosswalks. Deston went on to say that through the discussions at the meeting, they narrowed it down to pedestrian crossings having speed feedback signs in the city limits. He said they also talked about enhanced crossings.

Deston said he is looking for support from the LTC to send a letter requesting Caltrans, within their SHOPP budget, to look at these improvements on the Main St. Commissioner Muchovej also requested that the LTC send a letter to Caltrans requesting funds.

Commissioner Thompson stated that the whole corridor has the same issues and an overall study for all of the towns should be done, not just Bishop.

Commissioner Roeser said she agrees with Doug Thompson, that in supporting the city, she would also like to bring forth the issue with the entire corridor. Jen said she supports the proposal to submit a letter, but would like to include the rest of the corridor.

Commissioner Muchovej said that if we did the homework of identifying those particular crosswalks, we would have an improved chance of receiving SHOPP funds. Commissioner Muchovej said he would like the commission to do some brainstorming before the next meeting to identify these points in order to present a coherent picture to Caltrans. Commissioner Pucci said Caltrans is the best on doing these kinds of studies, referring to the macro studies. He suggested that we get some ideas with what really helps.

Mark Heckman of Caltrans said that statewide their SHOPP is only funded for 37% of the statewide needs. He went on to say that while it may appear they have a lot of money, they are 63% underfunded. Mark said there are a lot of needs statewide and they compete with LA and the Bay Area.

Commissioner Berg said she is in support of the letter, looking for some specificity.

ITEM NO. 9 Introduction by LTC staff to the Draft Overall Work Program for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and provide feedback.

John Pinckney presented the OWP outlined in the agenda. He stated that one of the major sources of funding for the LTC is through the OWP agreement with Caltrans. John said he has included, in the agenda packet, the draft that he submitted to Caltrans. John went on to say that the OWP provides funding to staff salaries, oversight, commission meetings, administration time, both for the LTC and the Overall Work Program.

John shared on screen, the LTC 2020/2021 OWP funding source and expenditure summary (page 67 of the packet).

Commissioner Roeser asked John where the Planning Program and Monitoring fund comes from. John answered that it comes from 5% of the STIP program.

Commissioner Muchovej asked if there is a chance that in the Overall Work Program for next year, we can work on an update of feasibility study looking to have a truck route that goes toward the Bishop Airport and meets up at HWY 6 at Laws. John answered that it would be a Caltrans project and we can possibly put some money toward it.

Mark Heckman stated that if the LTC wants to pursue this study, a decision must be made by the June 2021 LTC meeting.

ITEM NO. 10 Receive the second quarter invoice of Rural Planning Assistance funds in Fiscal Year 2020-2021

John Pinckney briefly went over the quarterly invoice. No questions or comments made.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 11 ESTA Report

Phil Moores said covid has had no direct impact to their staff. Ridership is 71% down. Phil went on to say that congress passed a new Federal bailout for public transit and he hopes to get relief. Phil said that ESTA will be running the Reds Meadow Shuttle this year.

Phil shared an electric bus video.

ITEM NO. 12 Tribal Report -None

ITEM NO. 13 DVNP Report

Jane Mercer reported that DVNP has an existing multi-use trail that they are looking to extend. Jane went on to say that the existing trail goes from Borax to the visitor's center. They are looking to extend that trail from the Visitor's Center to the Furnace Creek Ranch and then taking that same off road trail next to SR 190 to the Furnace Creek Inn.

Jane also reported that the DVNP is working with Caltrans to widen a shoulder from Furnace Creek Inn to the entrance at Cow Creek (Park Road) and Looking to put up signs with history information about Cow Creek.

ITEM NO. 14 Caltrans Report
Annual Average Daily Traffic Report
Update of wildlife crossings

Denee Alcala reported that the Olancha Cartago Desert Tortoise Fence Installation Project has been approved and will begin construction next month. Other projects are the PED safety project will begin at the end of this month. Denee went on to say that they are in the development environmental phase of the Bishop Pavement Project on Main Street and Hwy 168.

Austin West reported on the wildlife crossing. He said that the Eastern Sierra wildlife Stewardship Team received some funding through BLM from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to purchase and install signs and fencing near Mammoth Creek and also wildlife undercrossing and fencing on the Senora Shoulders Project in Mono County. Austin went on to say that the Eastern Sierra Land Trust is looking for private funding for our projects along the Airport in Mammoth Lakes.

Austin also mentioned that Caltrans has their annual average daily traffic report for 2020, a corridor look at the historic volume on Hwy395, Hwy14, Hwy58 and Hwy 6.

ITEM NO. 15 City of Bishop Report

Deston Dishion reported that the City of Bishop has been working with two of Caltrans' projects: The raised median at Church St. and at the Park to get irrigation and landscaping and the grinding and repaving program on Main Street.

ITEM NO. 16 Executive Director's Report

Michael Errante gave a brief update and highlights on current projects. No questions or comments

ITEM NO. 17 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Commissioner Rick Pucci thanked Doug Thompson for his long term dedication and service as Chairman for the LTC.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

ADJOURNMENT: 11:26 a.m.