



# 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 8:00 a.m.

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@invocounty.us](mailto:jkokx@invocounty.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).

### February 21, 2024

#### 8:01 a.m. Open Meeting

#### 1. Roll Call

#### Commissioners Present

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

#### Others Present

Justine Kokx: LTC Transportation Planner  
Phil Moores: ESTA  
John Pinckney: Inyo County Public Works  
Michale Errante: Inyo County Public Works  
Robert Strub; Lone Pine Resident  
Sabine Elia: Lone Pine Resident  
Maggie Ritter: Caltrans

#### Agenda Item No. 2a

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

Neil Peacock: Caltrans  
Annelise Quintanar: Caltrans  
Cindy Duriscoe, Big Pine Paiute Tribe  
Nora Gamino, City of Bishop

## 2. Public Comment

None

## ACTION ITEMS

1. 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.

**\*\*Celeste Berg was nominated as Chair by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Vice Chair Ray; all in favor.**

**\*\*Jeffery Ray was nominated as Vice Chair by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Muchovej; all in favor.**

## 2. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of the meeting of November 29, 2023.
- b. Ratify via minute order the audit of fiscal year 2021-2022, and the Executive Director to sign the Audit Engagement Letter with Price Paige & Company.

**\*\*Approval of the consent agenda motioned by Commissioner Muchovej and seconded by Commissioner Roeser. All in favor.**

3. Ratify via minute order the Initial Allocation Package for SB125 Transit & Inner-City Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funds and authorize the Executive Director to sign submittal documents.

Phil Moores provided a summary of the initial allocation package to purchase two electric vans and chargers for Lone Pine and Bishop and expand the dial a ride service in the Bishop area to include Wilkerson, Mesa, Rovana, Starlite and Round Valley. Lone Pine is on his radar for possible dial a ride expansion using these SB125 funds.

Vice-Chair Ray would like to see more services in south county communities such as Keeler, Olancho and Pearsonville. Phil replied that dial a ride service to Keeler already exists with advance notice, and the other communities he mentioned are served by the Lancaster route.

Commissioner Muchovej questioned the value of moving forward with this new funding so conservatively considering the potentially large amount of available funding. Phil responded that it has a competitive component and projects must meet two criteria which are growth and reduced GHG's at the same time. Furthermore, the approach that Phil prefers to take is a cautious one; he is watching the development of technology, which is continuously evolving and very volatile, and especially challenging in rural areas. Commissioner Muchovej would like to

make it clear that he expects to maximize the full amount of available funding to help build and support the technology that will enable the County to meet its GHG reduction goals.

Commissioners Ray and Marcellin appreciated the cautious approach considering the length of time available to spend the funds and the volatility of the ZEV industry.

Phil is very interested in hydrogen, believes it may take over the EV industry. Prefers to watch and see. Commissioners Muchovej and Roeser suggested that ESTA hire a planner to assist with taking advantage of all the state and federal resources coming out right now.

Neil Peacock recommended incorporating into the OWP a work element focused on building out alternative fuels. He also recommended ESTA develop a long-range transit plan.

Phil would like to see a sort of coalition of alternative fuel players in the region.

**\*\*Approval of the Initial Allocation Package for SB125 TIRCP funds motioned by Commissioner Muchovej and seconded by Commissioner Roeser. All in favor.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **4. [FY2024-2025 Draft Overall Work Program](#)**

Justine summarized the purpose of the Overall Work Program, the funding sources and amounts, timelines to expend.

Commissioner Roeser asked if there was latitude within the OWP and funding to hire a person or stewardship volunteer to monitor combined use routes. She also expressed interest in conducting traffic counts on Buttermilk and Movie Roads during busy weekends. Justine responded that the funding is flexible and could accommodate monitoring and traffic counts, but asked who could do it? John Pinckney replied that traffic counters would have to be video or in person to be able to decipher licensed vs. non-licensed users. Counters can't tell the difference. Commissioner Roeser clarified that she was asking about busy weekends, not full time, just for the flexibility to conduct some work like that.

Commissioner Muchovej asked about the Pavement Management Program (PMP) and noticed the staff report did not reference 1/3 of the PMP in FY23-24. Staff responded that staffing challenges and constant vacancies precluded that from happening this (last) fiscal year. A new Engineering Tech starts next week. The goal is to get back on track using the in-house resources. A consultant can cost up to \$50K, while conducting in-house would be more cost effective, around \$20-\$30K. John reiterated that the goal of the PMP is to focus maintenance on the roads falling below 70-80 PCI, which is most cost effective, and not on the failed roads that get all of

the complaints. Commissioner Roeser appreciated the follow through on this method by the rehabilitation of Rolling Green and Grandview.

Commissioner Muchovej would like the OWP to include an activity or work element to develop a consortium to look at long term alternative fuels for the area, and it might mean hiring a person to spearhead this long-term vision of alternative fueling infrastructure in the region. He added that it is unconscionable that here we are with the LTC, ESTA and ESCOG, all with small budgets, small staffs, who are struggling with capacity for planning, but we are being held to all these state requirements on alternate fuels, and we don't have a stronger partner with Caltrans, who has a huge budget in these areas. Neil replied that he appreciated the comment and said he has been working his angles and back channels and hopes to be able to provide support in this area in the future.

John added that the OWP should also include an activity that addresses the need for commuter van programs between communities and work sites. There is an opportunity here to reduce GHG's. Commissioner Roeser concurred and has observed resistance to programs like this from the County's risk manager.

Cindy Duriscoe added that this is the perfect time and maybe the only chance we will get to take advantage of these funding opportunities.

Chair Berg asked if there had been any changes with the Bishop Tribe for the ATP program. Justine had to shift gears to focus on the Tecopa area after receiving no interest and after no-show meeting.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **5. City of Bishop Report**

Nora Gamino reported that Notice of Intent comment for the East Line Street Bridge has closed. Will take to the CTC for PS&E allocation in May. Finalizing design elements based on public comments. Kicked off the S. Warren Street Improvement project with consultant. This is an earmark project and a continuation of the N. Warren Street project. Tweaking some of the design features and working through NEPA. Also working on drainage issues on Johnson Drive, east of the bridge. Attended the Caltrans/CTC workshop for the ATP grant program and held a site visit for the Sierra bike path project. Based on feedback from the CTC, we have decided to grow the project into a medium-sized project to close gaps. Commissioner Roeser asked about the pedestrian island on the E. Line Street Bridge, the road department doesn't like those when plowing snow and they are difficult to maneuver with wider loads and trailers. Nora said that this is just an idea at this point, they are looking at a variety of traffic calming measures, nothing decided upon yet.

### **6. ESTA Executive Director's Report**

- Executive Director’s Report & Annual Report Attached

Phil reported that ESTA is going strong. They are fully staffed; they’ve developed a reputation as a great place to work. Commissioner Muchovej asked about the ridership in Benton, does Phil know why it has plummeted? Phil replied that both Benton and Walker haven’t rebounded from COVID, and the decline is probably related to the small population, remoteness, and natural disasters. It’s challenging to grow ridership in these areas due to a variety of factors.

**7. Caltrans Report**

Annelise provided updates on various Caltrans projects and highway conditions.

**8. Tribal Report**

Cindy Duriscoe reported on behalf of the Big Pine and Bishop Tribes. They have partnered on a shuttle service using EV shuttle vans through the Clean Mobility Options program. Open to Tribal members at first, it may open up to everyone in the future. Coordinating with Phil to develop two bus stops. More to come. Big Pine Tribe also had a site visit with the CTC for their ATP project. They have decided to expand the project but will submit a planning grant proposal this round to better define their project. They don’t have engineering support, so a plan is what they are working on for now.

**9. DVNP Report**

None

**10. USFS Report**

None

**11. Executive Director’s Report**

- Review the ICLTC’s approved USBR 85 designation.

John Pinckney provided an overview and refresher of the USBR 85 designation project. Caltrans needs to submit this to congress in April to get the official designation. Commissioners would like this to be added to the LTC website.

**12. Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC**

Everyone congratulated John on his retirement.

Commissioner Roeser provided an update on the BIRPI. Focusing on how to implement now. Working with 7 entities including the Tribe, Indian Creek, CSD, USFS, DWP,CDFW, BLM. Have narrowed the planning area down to all of Buttermilk area and to specific climbing areas and the road in particular.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 10:33 until 8:00 a.m. Wednesday March 20, 2024, Bishop City Chambers.

## **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

- SSTAC Unmet Transit Needs hearings (March/April)
- FY2024-2025 Final Overall Work Program (May)