



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 On-line only meeting

July 21, 2021

9:00 a.m. Commissioner Rick Pucci called the meeting to order

ITEM NO. 1 Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Rick Pucci
Doug Thompson
Jennifer Roeser
Jose Garcia
Celeste Berg

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
Dennee Alcala, Caltrans
Mark Heckman, Caltrans
Jill Tognazzini, Caltrans
Ryan Spalding, Caltrans
Adam Weitzmann, Caltrans
Jenny Park, IMAH

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 June 16, 2021.

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

ITEM NO. 4 Request Commission consider approval of Resolution No. 2021-10 allocating \$92,335 plus interest of available Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement & Service Enhancement Act (PTMISEA) monies to ESTA for the Bishop Dial-A-Ride Vehicle Replacement Project, and authorizing ESTA's Executive Director and ICLTC Staff to complete and execute all documents for PTMISEA plan submittal and allocation requests.

***Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Berg. All in favor 5**

ITEM NO. 5 Request Commission consider approval of Resolution No. 2021-11 that re-allocates \$159,833.89 plus interest of capital restricted STA funds to ESTA for vehicle purchases, matching funding and or ESTA's new building project

***Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Berg. All in favor 5**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6 ESTA Report

Phil Moores said that he submitted the ESTA report to the Commissioners.

Phil went on to say that ridership is improving, He said that the fleet looks good and that they are getting new vehicles. Phil said that the Electrification Plan Grant was awarded and will get underway in November 2021.

Commissioner Roeser asked Phil how the recruitment for drivers for the Reds Meadows shuttle turned out.

Phil said it was a bad time for recruiting so therefore a regular route was not possible and they were not able to meet the demand. This year instead, he said, ESTA implemented a reservation system so people could reserve a ticket online to go to Red's Meadows.

ITEM NO. 7 Tribal Report- **None**

John Pinckney asked that Death Valley National Park be given a chance to give an update

*DVNP Report- Jane Mercer said there are no updates on the bike trail. They are looking for existing original plans for 190 through the park.

ITEM NO. 8 Caltrans Report

- Bishop Pavement Project
- Fish Springs Pavement Project
- Manzanar Pavement Project

***Jill Tognazzini and Ryan Spalding of Caltrans reported on the Bishop, Fish Springs and Manzanar Pavement Projects included in the agenda Packet and shared on screen.**

*Commissioner Roeser asked when the design phase is completed on the Bishop Pavement Project; will it go out for public comment? Jill answered no but it will be updated at the LTC meetings.

*Commissioner Garcia requested, in regard to the Fish Springs Pavement Project, that he would like input from the community as to whether or not they want a bike lane.

*Commissioner Garcia also commented that he would like to see a bike lane through Main Street in Bishop and suggested an alternate route through Bishop.
Commissioner Pucci suggested that we discuss this topic as an agenda item at a future LTC meeting.

*Mark Heckman of Caltrans asked Jill what the deadline is for comments from the community. Jill answered within the next 6 weeks would be optimal.

*Commissioner Roeser stated that one of the issues in the County is the lack of broadband access. She asked what kinds of opportunities exist to bring projects together in regard to putting in broadband during the construction of another project.
Dennee Alcalá explained that it would have to be discussed in the planning stage of a project. Jill added that if a County and Caltrans project for broadband didn't line up, laying conduit instead is a conversation that should happen.

*Commissioner Roeser asked, in regard to the Four Lane Project in Independence, if water lines had been laid in the sidewalks. Dennee stated that she did not know and asked Jill to find out.

*Mark Heckman reminded the Commission that the deadline for comments on the Bishop, Fish Springs and Manzanar Pavement Projects is September 1st.

ITEM NO. 9 City of Bishop Report

Deston Dishion reported that the CTC officially funded the East Line Bridge Replacement PA&ED (Project Approval & Environmental Document stage). Deston said it is being advertised right now and closes on the 23rd of August.

ITEM NO. 10 Executive Director's Report

John Pinckney shared a map of ongoing projects and Mike Errante gave a brief report on:

- Walker & Carrol Creek Bridge Replacements
- Lone Pine Sidewalk ADA Project
- Cactus Flats Road Realignment
- South Lake Road Improvement Project
- North Round Valley Bridge Replacement
- Onion Valley Guardrail Project
- HSIP Centerline Striping Project
- Lone Pine Town Streets Rehabilitation

ITEM NO. 11 Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

* Commissioner Roeser thanked Adam and Dennee of Caltrans for providing the map for both Big Pine and Independence.

*John Pinckney reported that the CTC just came out with the STIP guidelines and updates this week and the next cycle will not have any new funding due to the soft gas tax revenues. This is the 2022 STIP, John stated, and the LTC commission will be responsible for approving our RTIP submittal, which must be submitted to Caltrans by December 15th. John went on to say that typically the LTC does not have a November meeting so it will be brought to the Commission for approval in October. John also said that we will need to look at the covid relief funding. We were allocated an extra 1.79 million which is not enough to advance any of our projects. John said that we are still pursuing a RAISE Grant and a Federal Appropriations earmark of 2 million dollars for Olancha Cartago. There is a question of whether we will be able to get that credited toward our negative balance in the STIP. John said he will bring more information to the Commission as soon as he has it.

*Commissioner Roeser asked John if there is a mechanism for backfilling the STIP funding and if it is something that can be addressed. John said that he or Mike Errante will call the Deputy Director of the CTC STIP program for guidance.

*Commissioner Pucci said he wanted to make sure that Commissioner Garcia's request to review the concept of the alternate route in the Bishop area will be visited at a later meeting. He went on to suggest that instead of setting up a potential agenda item, that a report from Caltrans could be discussed. Dennee Alcalá of Caltrans said that the report that was done prior is about a decade old. Mark Heckman said that if we are to go down this road again, in what month is the report needed. Pucci said just a summary would be desired and not a review of the entire document. He went on to say that the document could be available if anyone wanted to read it but a summary could brief some of the new Commissioners. Mark Heckman said

that based on the original study published in 2007, most of the congestion in downtown Bishop is from the Bishop residents.

*Commissioner Garcia said that before we get into a workshop regarding the alternate route, it would be helpful to have a “then and now” presentation from Caltrans, Garcia said that he would then take it back to City Council to see if it would be a worthwhile pursuit.

Commissioner Garcia went on to say that if it is the locals that are creating the traffic congestion what else can the City of Bishop do to alleviate it. He told Mark Heckman that the report is not a rush. Mark Heckman said he would try for sometime this fall.

*Commissioner Garcia stated again that he would like to advocate for a bike lane in Bishop. He is advocating taking semi-trucks off of Main Street.

Mark Heckman addressed Joes Garcia and asked why the City of Bishop prohibits bikes and skateboards on the sidewalks. Mark said he had been given a ticket for riding his bike on the sidewalk and was told to use the bike lane which is so narrow that a semi truck’s rear view mirror hit his bike handle and he crashed. Mark said that this sort of thing could be rectified by removing the Ordinance. The Ordinance was passed by the City Council in 2000 Heckman says. Commissioner Garcia said he has not read the ordinance and guess’ it has to do with pedestrian safety. Garcia said he will go back and read the ordinance, talk to the City council and see if it is something that needs to be revisited.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

