



# INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



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Michael Errante, Executive Director

## MINUTES

### INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

#### **Inyo County Board Chambers, 224 N. Edwards St., Independence**

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](mailto: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).

#### **July 19, 2023**

#### **9:10 a.m. Open Meeting**

#### 1. Roll Call

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Chair Celeste Berg  
Commissioner Jose Garcia  
Commissioner Scott Marcellin  
Commissioner Jennifer Roeser  
Commissioner Jeffery Ray

#### **Others Present:**

Mike Errante: Inyo County Public Works Director  
Nora Gamino: City of Bishop Public Works Director  
Kristina Amaya: Inyo County Public Works/ LTC  
Justine Kokx: Inyo County Public Works/ LTC  
Neil Peacock: Caltrans  
Maggie Ritter: Caltrans  
Karl Seiberling: Caltrans  
Dawn Vidal: ESTA  
Elaine Kabala: ESCOG Director  
John Pickney: Assistant Public Works Director  
Cindy Duriscoe: Big Pine Paiute Tribe Representative  
Brain Adkins: Environmental Director Bishop Paiute Tribe  
Bob Strub: Member of the Public  
Sabine Elia: Member of the Public

Mr. McNamara

## 2. Public Comment

Bob Strub from Lone Pine approached the podium. He had 2 comments. He and seniors in Lone Pine are excited about the project to better the handicap access on Locus. He also expressed that they are grateful for the response on reopening the highways in Darwin.

## ACTION ITEMS

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 17, 2023.

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

2. Request Commission approve the Unmet Transit Needs list for 2023 via Resolution No. 2023-04.

**\*Motion to approve the unmet transit needs list was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Garcia. All in favor.**

3. Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2023-02 apportioning and allocating Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for fiscal year 2023-2024.

**\*Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-2024 was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Garcia. All in favor.**

4. Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2023-03 allocating all of fiscal year 2023-2024 State Transit Assistance (STA) Funds as estimated in the amount of \$226,448 to Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) for public transit operating and capital expenses.

**\*Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-03 allocating all of fiscal year 2023-2024 funds was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Garcia. All in favor.**

5. Request Commission approve Resolution No. 2023-05 a resolution approving 1) the fiscal year 2022-2023 Federal Exchange Program and State Match Program Agreement, Agreement No. X22-6134(036) with the Department of Transportation in an amount of \$8,193; 2) apportioning and allocating Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds to the County of Inyo and City of Bishop based on population, and 3) authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement.

\* Justine and John explained the possible reasons why the funding amount decreased this year.

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

NONE

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

6. City of Bishop Report: Nora provided an update on the *Whitney Alley* improvement projects and would like community feedback. Nora referred to the City of Bishops Website where feedback can be provided and more information including maps can be accessed.

[https://www.cityofbishop.com/departments/public\\_works/whitney\\_alley.php](https://www.cityofbishop.com/departments/public_works/whitney_alley.php)

Commissioner Roeser inquired about the status of East Line Street Bridge project. Nora explained that the project is going through environmental analysis right now which included conducting a field survey and collecting data. The environmental compliance is expected to be finished in October. Nora and the City of Bishop will ask for community feedback on design when the environmental analysis is finished in October.

Commissioner Marcellin expressed concern about the Whiney Alley project eliminating 11 parking spots. Nora responded that in Bishop it is difficult to find parking but there are some parking spots that are not as noticeable to the public that can be filled by Bishop employees (example being The Elks Lodge parking lot). Nora suggested that it would be a good idea for employees of businesses to park here to free up spaces that are easier for the public to access. An idea expressed by Nora was to conduct a parking study. Commissioner Marcellin suggested asking for public opinion on this matter.

7. ESTA Report: Dawn is filling in for Phil. On July 1<sup>st</sup> the Lone Pine to Reno back again bus system had its first run. Since then, they have run the buses for 3 Saturdays. ESTA had many people participate and passengers on the buses were pleased with the outcome. For example, on one Friday in June the bus arrived in Bishop and there were not enough seats available. additional bus was sent that weekend to accommodate the other passengers.

Also on July 1<sup>st</sup>, ESTA started the option to go to and from Bishop and Mammoth. Large numbers of passengers participated in the Bishop and Mammoth route as well. Not as many as the Reno route. On the 395 route passengers can make a reservation online but the system is complicated and needs to be updated. Updates should take place shortly. Phil's report reads that the bus systems are getting close to pre-Covid numbers.

Finally, with the changes in the bus systems they updated the brochures and are in the process of getting these out to the public.

8. Caltrans Report: Neil introduced Maggie Ritter, Senior Transportation Planner with Caltrans. Karl Seiberling gave an update on Highway 136 emergency projects opened. 168 snow removal was done June 1<sup>st</sup>. The only project currently affecting traffic is the Olancha/Cartago project. Carl is expecting the traffic delays to be completed in around 3-5 weeks.

The Bishop raised median project needed extra repair work but was finished. On June 30<sup>th</sup> the California Transportation Commission allocated 4.3 billion dollars for California Highways. Large amounts of this money will be going to the County. For example, for Emergency Projects 850 thousand dollars will be allocated to the county to cover the work on highway 120 East of 395; there was flooding in Adobe Valley. A portion of the 850 thousand dollars will be allocated to the emergency road work that was done on highway 168. There will be 7.8 million dollars in IJJA money (infrastructure, investment, and jobs act) allocated to the Olanca Cartago project as supplemental money due to additional costs. Director Dermody obtained that funding. 6 million for construction support at Independence Maintenance station (equipment canopy, water tank, fire suppression). 240 thousand to Lone Pine Town rehabilitation.

Karl and Neil gave an update about the various projects Caltrans is working on. 136 is reopened, 168 snow removal is completed. Completion of installation of the median on the 395 was successful. Commissioner Garcia expressed concerns over the purpose of median and how the installation has caused a worse problem for pedestrians who want to cross the street. Vehicles no longer stop for pedestrians; they view the median as a reason to keep on going. Also, has observed panhandling at the median near Schats. Nora explained that the City of Bishop will soon be adding flashing lights as a part of the Bishop Pavement Project and that installation of these lights should encourage a safer route for pedestrians who wish the cross the road.

9. Tribal Report: Cindy Duriscoe of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe and Brian Adkins of the Bishop Paiute Tribe updated the Commission on plans to implement electric buses and transport for tribal seniors and schools. They were reaching out for input and support from the board and those in the community who are interested. Brian started by explaining the Charge Ready Schools Project. This program is a 2-year program that focuses on increasing availability of EV chargers and EV equipment to schools that qualify. Brian also, expressed interest in electric vans and buses that would take tribal students from home to school to after school tutoring. Another goal was to increase availability of electric vehicles to help tribal elders get to and from where they need as well. Caltrans, ESTA and the county expressed interest. Cindy explained that the Big Pine Tribe is partnering with ESTA to install bus stops on the reservation. Some other ideas Cindy expressed are: to purchase hybrid or electric buses, install fast charging stations for electric vehicles and buses, and install bike lanes which would include a bike box.
10. DVNP Report: None
11. USFS Report: None
12. Executive Director's Report - Tri County MOU update: John Pickney provided an update on the STIP fund. The cost of the Olanca Cartago project has exceeded the amount of money in the STIP fund. Director Dermody's attainment of IJJA funding to cover cost overruns is monumental and greatly appreciated. Kern County owes the County of Inyo money (\$6.23M). Continue looking at strategies to get reimbursed. Commissioner Roeser has done some advocacy in Sacramento around this issue, wants to continue discussions to keep the MOU obligations active. When is next MOU meeting? July 31<sup>st</sup>. John continued that cost overruns are likely, and we need to keep an eye on it. Requested that Caltrans provide updates to the Commission regarding the moving target of the Olanca Cartago project. Neil offered a separate line item from Caltrans. Commissioners all agreed that would be helpful.

Mike Errante shared Inyo County's LTC Project Maps with updates on each project. The two storms have caused the department to spend taxpayer funds, staff are working on reimbursement from Cal OES/FEMA & FHWA & Caltrans. North Round Valley Bridge reimbursement coming in now. State Line Road FLAP grant under design. Construction in 2028. 15 million dollars, county match 1.8 million. Looking to use STIP funding for that match. Lone Pine ADA sidewalks, out to bid, and construction in the fall. Lone Pine town streets, under design, construction around 2027. HSIP grants work is ongoing for Old Spanish Trail at Emigrant Pass, and Onion Valley guardrail replacement. Commissioner Ray expressed concerns about possible flooding due to the aging water lines and meters in Lone Pine. Wants to replace old water lines prior to laying fresh asphalt. He aware of a few lines that are going to fail. Mike explained that Inyo County is working on replacements and upgrade plans, he appreciates these types of concerns from residents being brought forward.

### **13. Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC**

Commissioner Roeser will be heading out to the National Association of Counties Legislative conference where updates on IJA and local funding mechanisms will be shared.

Commissioner Ray brought up that there are a lot of "Old Timers" around who can be helpful to provide historical information to inform public works and roads projects. For example, Brewery St., and alleyways in Lone Pine. Please reach out to the residents. Looking forward to this.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 10:50 a.m. until 9 a.m., Wednesday August 16, 2023

#### **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

- RTP and ATP project prioritization
- MOU and negotiations Inyo County LTC, Mono County LTC, and Kern Cog
- Appoint Vice Chair the LTC