



# 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

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).

### August 16, 2023

#### 9:04 a.m. Open Meeting

#### 1. Roll Call

##### Commissioners Present:

Chair Celeste Berg  
Commissioner Jose Garcia  
Commissioner Stephen Muchovej  
Commissioner Jennifer Roeser  
Commissioner Scott Marcellin  
Vice Chair Jeffery Ray (now Vice Chair)

##### Others Present:

Mike Errante: Inyo County Public Works Director  
John Pinckney: Inyo County Public Works Assistant Director  
Nora Gamino: City of Bishop Public Works Director  
Justine Kokx: Inyo County Public Works/LTC  
Kristina Amaya: Inyo County Public Works  
Catherine Carr: Caltrans  
Maggie Ritter: Caltrans  
Juven Alvarez: Caltrans  
Ashley Helms: Inyo County Airport Deputy Director  
Adam Weitzmann: Caltrans  
Brandon Fitt: Caltrans

L. Hart: Caltrans  
Elaine Kabala: ESCOG  
Cindy Duriscoe: Big Pine Paiute Tribe Representative  
Abby Wines: Death Valley NP  
Rebeka Riesen  
Bob Strub  
Sabine Elia  
Wald Hoffman  
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## 2. Public Comment

Wald Hoffman expressed the need for installation of bike racks on local bus systems. He suggested that the bike rack be installed on the back of the bus.

Hoffman commented on the new median installed on Main Street in Bishop. He is thankful for the median because it acts as a refuge for bicyclist. Hoffman's concern is that the bike lane on Main Street starts off safe, but the lane becomes very narrow and dangerous. Near the Presbyterian Church there is no clear bike lane. When there is a large truck bicyclist have a small amount of space between the bikes and the trucks. Hoffman had a solution that included better signage on the road. For example, a green sign that alerts drivers that bicyclist share the road with motor vehicles.

Phil from ESTA commented that bike racks are coming soon!

Commissioner Muchovej asked for comments from Caltrans about bike lane improvements. Caltrans commented that they will check into implementing better signage and he will investigate more options.

Overall, signage would be the best solution.

## ACTION ITEMS

### 1. Consent Agenda

a. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 19, 2023.

**\*Motion to approve the July 19, 2023, minutes with minor adjustment was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Muchovej. All in favor.**

2. Request Commission vote and appoint a Vice Chair to the Local Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Roeser nominated Jeffery Ray.

**\*Motion to nominate Commissioner Jeffery Ray as Vice Chair was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Commissioner Muchovej moved to close the nomination. All in favor.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Draft Update to the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan – Commissioners and members of the public provide input, prioritization, and comments prior to 30-day public review period.

Every 4 year the state requires the Regional Transportation Plan to be updated. This draft will be going through Public Review. LSC consultant This is linked to the RTIP there are several tables that the tables need to align with realistic priorities.

Summary of the discussion and recommendations by Commissioners:

- Need a greater emphasis on truck traffic and mitigation measures (noise, traffic, safety, Truck Bypass), perhaps this would work in Chapter 5, goals 6 & 8 (doc page 83). Trucks also cause damage to roads (Sierra Street to Fairgrounds in the City of Bishop for example).
- The PCI/condition of the streets in the City of Bishop is poor (43%), need to address it; perhaps look at STIP as a funding source, along the lines of the Lone Pine Town Streets Rehab project. The majority of the County's population lives in the City and greater Bishop area; community support for this would be likely high.
- Add discussion about the recent work on developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), perhaps incorporate with goal 7 and Transportation security/emergency preparedness (doc pages 95 & 107). The CWPP will incorporate various transportation elements in the context of wildfire. Table 17 talks about East Bishop Creek Road. Mutual Aid agencies have written in their preparation documents that they will not appear to fight a fire in that canyon because of the condition of that road.
- Talk about the safety issues for the large community of agricultural and livestock haulers entering Hwy 395 from side roads, especially on roads such as Warms Springs, with steep grades. Difficult for livestock haulers to get out of a stopped position and up to speed with heavy loads. Add to a safety discussion/goals and possible rehabilitation project for specific road(s). Or find someplace in the RTP to take that issue into account.
- Emphasize the extent to which the community input placed on prioritizing street and road maintenance, complete streets/ sidewalks/ crosswalks & pedestrian facilities, and unsafe intersections on State Highways (See Table C3 & page 247). Public comments reveal the two most concerning things are unsafe crossings on state highways, & local streets and road conditions.
- The discussion(s) about the importance to the region of tourism, but also the increasing access by tourists to recreation destinations (and the impacts of this) could use more development. The region depends on the tourism to these recreational places, yet some contradictory uses with residents who also use the roads to access their residences. "Roads to where residents live and where visitors recreate." speed concerns. Safety, and economy.
- Concerns from constituents about high traffic speeds, talk about conducting traffic studies in the RTP. Safety section
- Lone Pine has been addressing speed concerns for a long time, for example, has talked with Caltrans about changing the look and feel of Main Street, to make it look like less of a highway. The CHP and Sheriffs have been doing the best they can. Have placed law enforcement vehicles at the edge of town to encourage slowing down (one was torched recently). High school right on

south end of town, grammar school crossing at north end of town. One student was actually hit with other near misses of students. The So Cal mindset is that most of their main community thoroughfares are 40-50 MPH, so that is natural for them in Inyo County. Would like to explore having the recently installed electronic billboard display crash data (in Lone Pine). Big Pine has same concerns as Lone Pine.

- Enforcement of traffic speeds - Sheriff has informed Supervisors that “pacing” practice is not safe, and she doesn’t allow her deputies to do it, but has been pursuing grant funding for radar to help with speed reduction. AB 550 tried to make cameras legal for tickets. Not feasible in urban areas due to civil rights concerns. Maybe ok on state highways. Has been proven in some other areas.
- Need to add the Big Pine Tribe’s ATP project page doc page 117.
- Also add the Veteran’s Path to the ATP list in Big Pine – need for ADA friendly infrastructure - ability to walk to town and to veteran’s memorial from Baker Creek & campground. Coppertop BBQ is very popular right in the middle of that area.
- Discuss the impacts of increased traffic volume on safety that the new County building and other new buildings (new vet hospital where Ford building was) on Highway 6 are having on the Wye Road and Hwy 6 intersection. There has been an increase in accidents there with the County building and Grocery Outlet. 15-20 years ago, Caltrans had proposed improvements there, to straighten the curve at Wye Road, and remove the hump at the Shell station (lowboys used to get stuck here). Look at feasibility of removing the sweeping corner and straighten the intersection, move to Highway 6. Would need to talk to Caltrans, something to be put on the radar in the RTP as a future project. Unconstrained?
- Hwy 168 should be listed as an evacuation route doc page 110.
- Also include more discussion about the general lack of capacity (and funding) in the region to meet the fast-approaching dependency on electric vehicles.
- Safety concerns related to the fire hazards associated with EV’s and charging.
- There is a need for training of local fire departments to deal with EV related accidents that will occur along highways and at charging stations. Electric vehicle fires are very different from other fires.
- We are in a hydrogen desert, and we need to promote it. It is coming up as a need in the freight industry.
- Public comment from Bob Strub: Quiet Communities – Traffic noise - expressed support for the RTP to reflect the need for EV infrastructure, desire to transition to EV trucks over time to reduce noise. The switch to EV truck traffic will eventually reduce the noise pollution in the small towns along 395, especially Lone Pine, Independence, and Big Pine. Truck noise impacts a greater % of the population in the smaller communities. “Support electric support system in the RTP.”

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- Q4 OWP/RPA Report & Invoice - Final Q4 invoice submitted.

3. City of Bishop Report - Commissioner Muchovej provided the report. Reminded everyone about the August 28<sup>th</sup> Whitney Alley presentation and workshop.

4. ESTA Report - Phil Moores provided report on latest June ridership statistics, marketing strategy and the draft Zero Emissions Transition Plan. Invited all to the ESTA BBQ to be held at 1:00 pm on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. Caltrans Report - Maggie Ritter, Catherine Carr, Brandon Fitt, Juven Alvarez & Adam Weitzmann provided updates on various topics, including Olancho Cartago construction progress, Highways to Boulevards grant program and intent to partner with ESCOG (as lead agency), Inyo and Mono Counties, upcoming PIDS & outreach efforts.
6. Tribal Report - Cindy Duriscoe of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe provided the report. Clean Mobility Option grant application due today, will involve purchase of two EV shuttle vehicles, charging stations and bus shelters. Actively working on ATP grant project.
7. DVNP Report
8. USFS Report
9. Executive Director's Report - Mike Errante updated the Commission on the latest projects that the LTC has been instrumental in moving forward. Lone Pine ADA sidewalk ATP project will go out to bid on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Onion Valley HSIP guardrail project will be out to bid on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pine Creek Rd damage currently out to bid. Whitney Portal Rd is closed due to recent flash flood damage. Plan is to bypass creek, remove culverts, install new culverts. Pursuing FHWA/FEMA funds. RMRA is covering until reimbursement occurs. Some unclear deadlines with FEMA that need to be ironed out.
10. Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter from Caltrans accepting Unmet Transit Needs process.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned until 9 a.m., Wednesday September 20, 2023, City of Bishop Chambers

### **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

- Final RTP public hearing & approval
- Final 2024 RTIP and 2024 STIP
- Negotiations - Inyo County LTC, Mono County LTC, and Kern Cog
- FY22-23 RPA Rollover & OWP Amendment