

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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MINUTES

December 11, 2017
(Adopted March 12, 2018)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: John Peters, Fred Stump. **ABSENT:** Larry Johnston

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: John Wentworth, Sandy Hogan. **ABSENT:** Shields Richardson

COUNTY STAFF: Gerry Le Francois, Megan Mahaffey, Michael Draper, Garrett Higerd, CD Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Grady Dutton, Haislip Hayes

CALTRANS: Brent Green, Austin West, Bryan Winzenread, Haissam Yahya

ESTA: John Helm

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair John Peters called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance to flag.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
3. **MINUTES:** Approve minutes of Oct. 23, 2017 (*no November meeting*) as amended: 1) item 5A, fifth graph from end: Inyo does not have climatic conditions of Mono, ~~no~~ **although it does have several communities** with state highways as main streets; 2) item 7B: YARTS ~~founder~~ **founding manager** Dick Whittington. (*Hogan/Stump. Ayes: 5. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)
4. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Hogan:** Caltrans highways north look good. **Wentworth:** Town appreciated Caltrans assistance with grant, Town staff worked weekends. Town also got ~~fire~~ **CPAF (Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire)** grant out of Montana, only CA grant. SB 1 ties into national resources that Town has leveraged. Town announced acquisition of Shady Rest parcel for housing, work with Caltrans. Housing action plan support, work with federal partners as well. Town wants Mono update on Mono/Madera county line issue. **Stump:** County line issue also at Upper Rock Creek and Fish Lake Valley. Different Brown Act involving irrigation may impact moving county lines for species such as sage grouse. Prefers legislative bundle. AGENDIZE. **Wentworth:** Potential federal infrastructure program. If Congress approves tax, exhaust federal money. Would need matching funds from local sources, rural focus. **Holler:** None. **Stump:** Caltrans cleaned June Lake culverts. Requests for US 6: 1) Chalfant project; 2) Chalfant no-passing lane where lots of passing occurs; and 3) truckers idling next to residences while people sleep. Lack of truck stops is being studied. Tribe considering one in Benton area. RACE Communications nearly finished in Crowley area. New skatepark, but no plant means no pavement. **Peters:** Spent week at CSAC, saw Supervisor Wheeler from Madera County, who indicated no opposition [to county line change]. Personnel change at sheriff's office: Moriarty moved on, Phil West promoted to undersheriff. Thanks to Caltrans for Bodie road opening. New branch of Bodie Foundation opening in Bridgeport, with Bodie merchandise, interpretive tours. Lots talk about monumental effort to pass SB 1, legislative highlight. Encouraging counties to use money expeditiously. Deer crossing issue at Fisheries/Wildlife Commission. AGENDIZE. Supervisor Johnston attended entire week, participated in executive committee meetings. Hopeful he'll start attending BOS meetings, but Stump cited significant setback on weekend.
5. **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION**
 - A. **Yosemite pass opening policy:** Supervisor Gardner will set meeting in 2018 and provide update. Jeremy Marshall, Bridgeport district ranger, has moved on. Peters noted closure for season. Has reopened during prolonged dry periods. Possibility?
 - B. **Winter debrief:** Gerry Le Francois has completed interviews except for couple of FPDs. Good reports. Hope to wrap up first of year. Idea of mutual aid arose. Utilize resources. Thom Heller thought a good idea. Heller's move to Idaho in spring means loss of huge institutional memory from USFS, MMSA, and FPD. CALOES has model agreement. Analytics come back? Le Francois will provide analysis of what happened by February. Stump mentioned hazard mitigation team here this week.

COMMISSIONERS

Sandy Hogan Larry Johnston John Peters, chair Shields Richardson Fred Stump John Wentworth, vice-chair

Caltrans meeting with Mono? Le Francois: Yes. Green noted mutual aid agreements in effect. Different models for different situations. Hogan suggested school district for housing.

6. TRANSIT

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)

Gray Line report: John Helm announced Old Mammoth area west of Snowcreek Athletic Club will get limited service starting this Wednesday. Similar, but revised times. Issue occurred when Gray Line discontinued due to expansion of Town Trolley. Used smaller bus, but then transitioned to larger buses on main line routes that cannot turn around on Old Mammoth Road. Community vigorously opposed buses on Red Fir Road. Only compromise was smaller bus that could turn around by taking DAR (Dial-A-Ride) out of service for few hours/day for limited runs. Three morning runs from 7:15, three afternoon return runs when school lets out, employees. Negative impact on DAR, but seen as best solution to provide some level of service. Long-term solution in works for turnaround farther out Old Mammoth Road. Submitted proposal to commenters, all but one had positive responses. Hope for better long-term solution.

Need for bigger buses? Change time schedule? Helm cited zero-cost solution.

Discussion at Town Council meeting Wednesday. Received by ESTA board. Corless acknowledged Town/ESTA efforts. Not complete solution, but reasonable compromise. Bill Sauser was disappointed in residents who didn't want buses even it meant no transit service.

Hogan heard same issue at Mobility Commission years ago. Turnaround at bottom of residential Red Fir Road had real concerns **that never materialized.**

Helm recalled Sauser mentioned transit to recreation nodes down road, different from frequent main line service.

Trolleys up road in wintertime on snow? *Not say "can't," but steepness a concern.*

Transfer point at Snowcreek? Morning runs transfer by Carl's Jr so all three routes transfer there. By hospital first, schools second, up Main Street to Village. 7:20 Red Line gets employees to work on time. Could supplement to Village.

Helm acknowledged challenges in getting kids from Chalfant/Benton to schools in Bishop. Follow up with transportation at Bishop school district. Dialog occurring.

ESUSD? Stump disappointed in benign neglect or deferring responsibility to Bishop district. Kids pay price. Superintendent/board abdicates responsibility.

Helm's plans? Retire in May 2018. Thoroughly enjoyed time with ESTA, proud of services it provides. Personal challenges to pursue involve sailboat.

B. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS): Danna Stroud leaving for San Luis Obispo marketing organization. Served as AAC (Authority Advisory Committee) chair for several years. YARTS started as Mono/Madera/Merced counties, added Fresno and Tuolumne. Main supporter is NPS, but no sustained funding. Fresno and Tuolumne still on pilot programs. Merced picked up administrative costs.

7. ADMINISTRATION

A. OWP Amendment 01 - budget adjustment: Megan Mahaffey didn't have total numbers when adopted in June. Have rollover funds to add to trails and regional project study reports.

Staff has capacity to use money? *Documentation goes to contract, not inside staff.* Garrett Higerd indicated all new projects need preliminary development.

MOTION: Adopt Amendment 01 to OWP 2017-18 to incorporate additional \$77,087 into PPM work element budgets and additional \$43,722 into RPA work element budgets, and authorize LTC executive director to sign adjusted OWPA. (*Hogan/Stump. Ayes: 5. Absent: Johnston, Richardson*)

REVISED MOTION: Include minute order M17-04. (*Stump/Holler. Ayes: 5. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)

--- Break: 9:45-9:50 ---

B. OPEN BOTH PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1) Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) adoption: Gerry Le Francois noted lots of District 9 staff involved. Good news: able to move O/C (Olancha/Cartago) funding through construction, move FG (Freeman Gulch) segment 2. Cost increase on Airport Road rehabilitation. Add \$150,000 to 2018 total. Public transit cannot use STIP dollars to buy vehicles except with match. Be careful on funding sources. Assume local match, but could be other sources.

Helm stated ESTA has begun budgeting capital replacement funds, maybe matching local funds. Wentworth cited drift from non-state, non-federal to local matches. Get ahead of it so not miss out.

Airport Road rehab so vehicles not beat up brand new road? Stump suggested combining project construction times and using same entity to perform similar activities. Higerd is coordinating with Town. Options to collaborate; e.g., Town environmental process for terminal building not yet approved. Higerd indicated project was programmed

in past, but cost increases give alternatives for more-direct entrance to airport. Hogan wanted flexibility to move into future if talks continue with Bishop. Wildlife fence, all connected. Move forward without losing it.

Peters clarified request for increase, not reprogram. Town/Mono working together.

Higerd cited many moving parts: fence, road on USFS land. More money in there for Eastside Lane treatment. Not enough money to do all at once. Best now would be \$150,000 added. Long Valley Streets is new project based on pavement management system that includes entire Long Valley area.

Le Francois wanted to retain flexibility to program future Town project. Key: Keep MOUs, money for local projects, avoid negative balance. Inyo \$21 million in red for O/C. CTC will loan out positive balance, put it to work. Loan to Inyo LTC for O/C? Could do later. No fiscal year attached, could amend RTIP.

Hogan thought CTC saw that Mono was still committed. Stump stated already committed to O/C, but this would be additional.

Maybe hear from Inyo LTC? Winzenread stated Inyo adopted RTIP taking full brunt of \$2.19 million. Hope to adjust.

Effort to recall SB 1 under way? Higerd noted signature collection phase for November 2018 ballot.

Does R17-13 include loan to Inyo LTC? Le Francois indicated not; would show up later. Direct staff to show submittal.

Winzenread got funding for Town. Holler mentioned additional work on Main Street. Two pots of money into sidewalk project.

Stump indicated incorporating loan would not put us in red, but diminishes reserve to respond to other things. Leave all projects intact with increase for Airport Road.

Le Francois mentioned pulling out \$3 million for Town. Dermody cited Main Street projects, multi-use off Lake Mary trail.

Winzenread suggested freeing up some RTIP money by backfilling void through other means.

MOTION: Adopt R17-13 on RTIP as amended: 1) add \$150,000 for Eastside Lane overlay; 2) approve \$1.25 million loan to Inyo County LTC for O/C; and 3) remainder of RTIP shares for future Town project. (*Stump/Wentworth. Ayes: 5. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)

Who would notify Inyo LTC? *Caltrans.*

MOTION: Authorize staff to sign document and make any technical changes as required (*Holler/Hogan. Ayes: 5. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)

Le Francois indicated South State section is scheduled Jan. 25, elected official should attend.

2) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update/amendment: Gerry Le Francois noted highly involved Housing Element has longer window to adopt.

CIP (Capital Improvement Program) at \$1.4 million; how much spent? Higerd will present full update at midyear budget in February. Expenditures fairly light, more in last six months. Get projects going at beginning of fiscal year. SB 1 will release local installments monthly. **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

MOTION: Adopt resolution R17-14 amending Appendix D of the RTP to incorporate County's five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) (*Wentworth/Peters. Ayes: 5. Absent: Johnston, Richardson.*)

NOTE: Delete repeated "the" in header

8. CALTRANS

A. Senate Bill 1: Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017: Ryan Dermody and Austin West presented a PowerPoint. Title is important, as it includes performance measures. Simple maintenance strategy of crack sealing helps repel water and ice. Wheel rutting means wear course or things happening below pavement. Longitudinal cracking, base failure dig-out repairs: cut out and replace pavement. Base failure occurs on US 6. Band-aids for many years, not full in-depth rehab. Now can add rehab projects to address base failures with SB 1. West spoke of SB 1 gas tax, plus diesel tax (hit Nov. 1), vehicle registration fees that hit Jan. 1, 2018, depend on value of car. \$54 million in decade. ZEVs will pay fees in 2020.

Brent Green stated excise tax that hovered around 18 cents is down to 10 cents. Rebalance back to 18, and then start indexing with inflation.

Stump noted increase was not stated up front, so add to 30 cents. Restoration of something that degraded over time, prior to SB 1 passage.

Peters mentioned five-year road plan in his area. Sustainable for public at large if on ballot?

West spoke of programs. Revenue split 50/50 State and locals, heavy on maintenance.

Trade corridor enhancement US 6 and US 395? *Looking specifically for MOU projects.* Dermody indicated Mono not competitive with bigger areas.

West stated SB 1 focuses heavily on highway maintenance: pavement, culverts, electronic systems, and bridges. Make these performance targets. 17,000 miles of pavement. Other programs: trade corridors.

Match requirements? *Sometimes find workarounds.* Higerd noted SB 1 wants money used for matches.

West cited lots of money coming in. Focus on SHOPP (State Highway Operation & Protection Program) in District 9. \$727 million. Bridge rail, roadside safety, bridge health, pavement preservation.

Higerd noted Town/Mono have not incorporated color guard rails. AGENDIZE.

West explained thin overlay prolongs life span. For great level of stress remove several inches of pavement, recycle and repave. Base failure needs full rehab. Treatment depends on condition of roadway.

Dermody indicated not enough money for rehab throughout state prior to SB 1. Door now open for rehabs.

Stump questioned rationale for \$1 million/mile to rehab. Winzenread cited addressing side slopes, etc. not to current standards, extensive project. Address all ADA features in Lee Vining and Bridgeport.

Shoulders all way up US 6? *In works to get to 6'.* Culverts, drainage? Yes.

B. Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information: Discussed earlier.

9. QUARTERLY REPORTS

A. Town of Mammoth Lakes: Haislip Hayes. Lighting on Main Street? *Yes. Wait till spring to complete sidewalk project.* Wentworth noted Town Council will work with Caltrans

B. Mono County: Garrett Higerd spoke earlier of CIP (Capital Improvement Program). Now with SB 1 funding, analyzing how using funding sources for which projects. Tracking all together through road CIP. Working on bridge replacement project at Summers Valley, weathered steel. Caltrans has other standards for guardrail. Design to bring onto national bridge inventory, low maintenance long term.

Wentworth cited opportunities tied to recreation.

C. Caltrans: Bryan Winzenread. Stump requested separate email that carves out Mono County pieces: two US 6 projects, US 395 south of Tom's Place, Conway. Finished projects not needed. Separate out for each district.

Chalfant turn lane? *West Minaret shown, not so much for Chalfant.*

Walker project? *Contractor charged for delays. Liquidated damages of several hundred thousands of dollars. Wrapping up last-minute tasks for full requirement of contract. Caltrans can't direct operation, but encouraged timely completion. Damages assessed daily now.* Peters stated Antelope Valley would like recap of what happened.

Brine de-icing treatment? *Reduces amount of brine salts, cinders. During storm reduces amount of chemicals. Storms kept coming, Caltrans tried to clean up for next storm, and brine fell to wayside.*

10. INFORMATIONAL

A. Freight corridor letter: Le Francois indicated Inyo already got designation, so letter is moot. Maybe North Conway passing lanes, but still MOU projects as well.

B. SB 1 grants awarded: Around \$200,000 Town planning grant for General Plan update along with climate change adaptation. No general time frame for entire General Plan.

Wentworth noted new guidelines from State on general plan updates.

Dermody cited sustainable communities grant to Inyo. Multi-modal options, connectivity, etc.

Stump indicated Mammoth has San Francisco FAA, Bishop has Los Angeles FAA. Watched Inyo; wanted somebody else to do everything for them. Saw benign neglect for years. Need to provide contribution, not bounce it back to Mono. Wentworth noted [City of] Bishop is now taking a look.

Holler cited \$158,000 grant, in-kind match.

11. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) county line adjustments, lane miles for Caltrans and Mono; 2) federal transportation bill with rural focus; 3) deer/wildlife crossing/airport fence; 4) patina guardrail standards; 5) election? check bylaws; 5) State projects???

12. **ADJOURN** at 11:58 am to January 8, 2018

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary