

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

PO Box 347
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760.924.1800 phone, 924.1801 fax
commdev@mono.ca.gov

PO Box 8
Bridgeport, CA 93517
760.932.5420 phone, 932.54
www.monocounty.ca.gov

MINUTES

June 10, 2013
(Adopted July 8, 2013)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Tim Fesko, Larry Johnston, Fred Stump

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Jo Bacon, Sandy Hogan, Matthew Lehman

COUNTY STAFF: Scott Burns, Gerry Le Francois, Garrett Higerd, Mary Booher, Wendy Sugimura, Jeff Walters, C.D. Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Peter Bernasconi, Jessica Morriss, Carson Quam

CALTRANS: Forest Becket

ESTA: John Helm

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Larry Johnston called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** John Armstrong represented agencies and businesses on Kamikaze Bike Games, Sept. 4-9, 2013. The multi-faceted games will feature mountain and road bikes attempting to recapture Mammoth's past bike-glory events such as the kamikaze, pro-downhill and dual-salom races, and concerts. The goal is to create a cycling destination and to attract thousands of cyclists to a world-class event (organizers want 2,200 cyclists). The Fall Century event brings 800 to 1,200 riders. Being a cycling destination involves bike-friendly amenities such as bike paths, lanes, racks, and good materials on bike lanes. Commuting and exercising are encouraged, with cyclists riding as part of traffic and stopping at stop signs. LTC could consider setting aside 1% of highway funding for cycling. .

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** May 13, 2013

MOTION: Adopt minutes of May 13, 2013, as amended: Vote on item 5C motion was 6-0, not 5-0.
(Fesko/Bacon. Ayes: 6-0.)

4. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Fesko: High Point construction has been 15 months, but paving is occurring now and progress is evident. Hogan: Drove over the roadway. Stump: Thanks to Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) and Mono staff for installing a bus stop at Chalfant. Johnston: Discussed deer-crossing sites with California Fish and Wildlife biologist Tim Taylor. Two of six existing sites need fencing and brush clearing. Next agenda: Chip-sealing northbound shoulder along US 395, including how project went through review process and dislike by cyclists. Set up process for input by cyclists.

5. **ADMINISTRATION**

A. **Local Transit Funds (LTF):** Mary Booher noted LTFs are monthly allocations.

MOTION: Approve Resolution R13-06: allocating & apportioning Local Transit Funds (LTF) funds. (Bacon/Lehman. Ayes: 6-0.)

B. **State Transit Assistance (STA) funds:** John Helm described STA as a function of fuels excise tax. ESTA has some reserve funds. Mary Booher noted STA comes in quarterly.

MOTION: Approve Resolution R13-07 allocating & apportioning State Transit Assistance (STA) funds. (Stump/Hogan. Ayes: 6-0.)

C. **Audit response:** Mary Booher commended Town staff, whose temporary assistant completed the third-quarter invoice. Responses were included in the staff report.

6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Electric car-charging stations: Commissioner Lehman indicated electric cars can exceed 300 mi/tank of gas. He suggested a public/private partnership with auto maker Tesla, which could take the lead. Its stock rose 300% in past six months. Stations cost \$100,000 apiece. The Village at Mammoth has considered it, as has the visitor center. He described California as always cutting edge.

Charging time? *Currently, about 40 minutes, but technology is changing. Cost? Unknown. Stations would be for convenience more than anything else, encouraging people to bring electric cars here. Installation by Tesla? Lehman would ask. Tesla's in a growth spurt, maybe Mono could take advantage of its expansion desires.*

Commissioner Bacon inquired whether Caltrans could include stations in the Olancho-Cartago design. Forest Becket responded that public/private partnerships are new at rest areas. Maybe obtain a federal subsidy? Bacon asked about adding as an enhancement to existing road shops.

Commissioner Stump thought high-end vehicles were unlikely for Mono's "worker bees." He expressed suspicion of battery systems due to fire.

Scott Burns cited California policy to establish a network of charging stations.

7. TRANSIT

A. **Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA):** John Helm reported Reds Meadow shuttle opened over Memorial Weekend and will resume June 22. A new inter-valley shuttle should alleviate parking at Devils Postpile, as people could park at Reds Meadow and ride free shuttle. Tour buses >37' are prohibited on narrow road with tight turns. Drivers can directly contact ESTA, which is coordinating with US Forest Service (USFS) and National Park Service (NPS).

Helm noted a challenge in Mammoth, with only one Dial-A-Ride (DAR) bus. Three new buses included a mini-van for DAR, with greater fuel economy and lower chassis for kids with special needs, but no capacity for bikes.

A Mammoth Half-Marathon June 23 starting at Horseshoe Lake expects 1,000 runners. ESTA will provide transit.

B. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** Scott Burns announced a YARTS meeting today at 1 p.m. Commissioner Hogan asked about the hiker bus. Burns replied that \$72,000 from the Town provides funding for it. YARTS bus will originate in Mammoth at end of July.

8. **CALTRANS:** Forest Becket predicted 20-minute delays during paving on High Point Curve. New target for completion with guard rails, etc. is August, Olancho-Cartago Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was discussed by Eastern California Transportation Planning Partnership (ECTPP). Agencies discussed programming two years early. Now, the plan is to over-program everything, see what sticks.

Sandhouse chip-seal: There seems to be no good chip-seal for cyclists, so try new things. A Caltrans engineer cycled the surface and said it depends on tire size. It's a hot topic along Coastal District (San Luis Obispo to Santa Cruz). A study with test strips is being conducted. Options would be a finer grade of chip or rolling it. More fog seal still needs to be applied. Commissioner Johnston, however, thought shoulders do not need chips, ever. No one drives on the shoulder. Contact groups along the way to coordinate. Commissioner Fesko noted that snowplows destroy chips. Becket explained that among strategies on pavement preservation, chip-seal is still the best.

Johnston met with Assemblyman Bigelow about keeping Crestview rest area open year round.

9. **COMMISSION WORKSHOP:** Wendy Sugimura facilitated a workshop on LTC priorities, setting the framework, time frames, sorting projects and matching different funding sources. But first, everyone needed to get on the same page. The priorities were initiated by Commissioner Johnston in February 2013, and then others added items. What does LTC do, and how? The Overall Work Program (OWP) could set basis for development of short-term transportation projects. Longer time frames would be needed for road projects and aesthetics. Commissioner Fesko's suggestions were distributed.

Gerry Le Francois stated that MAP-21 filters through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which is under LTC purview. Local agencies do not have State Highway Operation & Protection Program (SHOPP). Other funding sources include American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). He recalled Brad Mettam's advice, "If money falls from the sky, be ready to go." The new State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle fund estimate comes out in August, and submittal of Mono's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is due in December. It's usually \$6 million to \$8 million, sometimes less. A time lag exists for projects; e.g., Owens Gorge was approved in 2006, completed in 2013, and Lee Vining Streets were approved in 2008, completed in 2013. Commissioner Hogan stated the Lakes Basin project was approved in the early 1990s, but then the State froze funds. Sugimura recalled the Lake Mary Bike Bath took even longer.

Commissioner Johnston asked what staff wanted, which might differ from LTC priorities. Sugimura noted the degree of complexity and integration with external proposals such as the Bodie Road two-mile paving. She suggested looking at LTC priorities first. Commissioner Stump asked if State Parks gets approval, how does LTC factor in? Le Francois stated State Parks would have a portion and ask Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for assistance. The policy gets people out of cars and onto feet, bikes, etc. Scott Burns indicated the staff list comes from Mono Supervisors, RPACs, CPT, LTC, etc.

Policy umbrella: Johnston wanted to add staff ideas (environmental health, social services, solid waste, etc.) to the master list. Forest Becket reminded that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is due June 30, 2013, including constrained as well as unconstrained projects. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) will look at the RTP when allocating funds. Sugimura noted that the Mono Supervisors approved a list very close to the LTC's. Bacon indicated that goals in RTP are broad.

When Commissioner Fesko thought the discussion was going in circles, Sugimura summarized that a staff input column would be added; categories would be matched to funding sources; and staff would refine sorting to get priorities.

Johnston indicated Mono is owed an STP project (maybe Conway four-lane, get Caltrans input). Johnston wanted to get some ideas going, but Bacon wanted to establish priorities first. Johnston cautioned against over study and losing \$130,000 – he wanted to get something done.

10. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS : 1) MAP-21 update; 2) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) update from Eastern California Transportation Planning Partnership (ECTPP); 3) STIP fund estimates; 4) chip-seal strategies

11. ADJOURN to July 8, 2013

Prepared by C.D. Ritter, LTC secretary