

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, 932.5431 fax
www.monocounty.ca.gov

MINUTES

June 8, 2015
(Adopted July 13, 2015)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Larry Johnston, Fred Stump, Tim Fesko (videoconference)

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Jo Bacon, Sandy Hogan, Shields Richardson

COUNTY STAFF: Scott Burns, Garrett Higerd, Gerry Le Francois, Megan Mahaffey, Jeff Walters (videoconference), C.D. Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Grady Dutton

CALTRANS: Ryan Dermody, Brent Green

ESTA: John Helm, Jill Batchelder

GUEST: Deborah Hess, Edison

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

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

3. **MINUTES:**

MOTION: Approve minutes of May 11, 2015, as amended: 1) Item 6, line 6: ~~Special passes for officials?~~ 2) Item 8A1, second graph: ~~When USFS backed out, ceded ownership to ESTA.~~ 3) Item 8B, third graph: ~~Whittington heard comment,~~ "Cars are private enterprise; bus is socialism." 4) Item 9A, fourth graph: ~~Resounding no!~~ Install and monitor maintenance, ~~seeking partnership.~~

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Transportation Development Act (TDA) allocation**

1. **Local Transportation Funds (LTF):** Megan Mahaffey noted allocation of additional \$10,000, total \$786,741. Roberta Reed provided data.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R15-05 apportioning and allocating LTF for 2015-16.
(*Johnston/Bacon. Ayes: 6-0.*)

2. **State Transit Assistance (STA):** (*Megan Mahaffey*)

Megan Mahaffey described this as the second part of funding. Bacon: Rationale for low assessments? Helm: LTF is quarter cent of sales tax. STA from fuel tax (varies on usage) and revenues generated by transit operator. Strong summers at Reds led to increases.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R15-06 apportioning \$178,860 of STA funds for fiscal year 2015-16 to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) (*Johnston/Richardson. Ayes: 6-0.*)

B. **Title VI Compliance Plan:** Title VI adoption is required. Audit done by Federal Transit Administration of Caltrans; Caltrans is OK if adopted in next month or two. Hogan: New guidelines in doc?

Mahaffey: No plan on file, so this is new. Pieces from different plans were pulled together. Guidelines the same. Richardson: Prior complaints? Mahaffey: Unknown. Should stand three years.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R15-07 adopting the Title VI compliance plan for LTC.
(Hogan/Bacon. Ayes: 6-0.)

C. Senate Bills 16 & 321: (requested by Commissioner Johnston)

1) **SB 16:** No change since last discussed. Did not expire Friday. BOS packet noted more-recent changes. Issues arose on how changes occurred. Carved out objection to tax on fuel vendors due to how arrived at; not open, unclear.

Fesko: Increased gas tax \$.10 to \$.12. Burns: No further changes. Fuel storage was new twist at BOS. Fesko: Up to \$.18 and \$.20 on diesel? Clarify.

Burns: \$.10 increase in gas tax, \$.12 diesel tax, \$.10 on storage. All into special maintenance/rehabilitation account. Fesko: Brought back down? Johnston: \$.18 is original. Fesko: Bill still in flux, continuing to amend. Giving carte blanche support to something not final – could increase 2x or 3x and have LTC's letter of support. Stump: Current proposal is \$.10. Diesel broken out, total of \$.12. Further tweaking of amendment. Burns: Added 2 cents, bill tax revenues. Trade Corridors Improvement Fund gets extra 2 cents.

Johnston: Passage by 2/3 majority seems unlikely. BOS thought something needed to happen due to deterioration; indicated in support letter. Concurrently, advancement of alternative transportation funding: mileage (privacy intrusion?). Task force set up. Mono requested no tax on fuel vendors. SB 16 consistent with what other counties have done, so submit.

Bacon: Two amendments? No, second one already in there. Johnston: Only one amendment to CSAC letter. Bacon: Support only on additional amendment. Johnston: Set up to focus on local issues.

Fesko: Five amendments since original bill. Burns: Last two May 13 and June 1, others in April or March.

Green: CTC has support letter.

Stump: Copy RCTF letter, consistent with regional planning areas recommendations. Solves issues, still expresses support. ~~Keep insertion from Mono.~~ Disingenuous to double tax, pass along to customer. Be honest about raising fuel taxes that much. Didn't have RCTF letter last month. Bacon: Add second sentence, refer to June 1 version.

Fesko: Too many amendments, still goes through Assembly after Senate. Agree need more funding, but can't support bill till know final text. Assembly could completely change it. Need to know what it is.

Hogan: Let's move on something to get money into those funds, talked about since before 1990s.

MOTION: Authorize support letter for SB 16 as amended: Support bill as written 06.01.15, object to tax on fuel vendors. Add Mono to graph 3 counties. Send to both legislators: Berryhill, Beall and cc Bigelow. (Hogan/Johnston. Ayes: 5. No: Fesko.)

2) **SB 321:** Passed Senate 40-0, met criteria to move to Assembly. Changed from urgent to non-urgent, so not require 2/3 majority. But wouldn't have hoped-for immediate impact. Deferred to Jan. 1.

Burns: BOS had consensus. No tax increase associated. Bacon: Combine first two redundant graphs of letter.

Stump: If wait till 01.01.16, apply only to 2016-17 or half of this fiscal? Walters: Half of this fiscal.

MOTION: Authorize support letter for SB 321 as amended to combine redundant paragraphs.
(Bacon/Johnston. Ayes: 6-0.)

D. US 395 interregional bus route: Jill Batchelder stated FTA funds rural-to-urban routes operating on 5311 since inception. Matching grant 55% federal, historically divided between Inyo and Mono. No dollar figure needed. Richardson: How long? Batchelder: Since 1998, year-to-year when Greyhound left. Competitive portion exists. Stump: Certification? Batchelder: Same as last year due to relatively lower fuel and maintenance costs.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R15-08 requesting approval of FTA Section 5311(f) for funding Eastern Sierra Transit Authority's 395 interregional bus route (Hogan/Richardson. Ayes: 6-0.)

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Bacon: None. Johnston: Mule Days Parade, Caltrans did good job of rerouting traffic. County and City officials were hauled in a wagon. Hogan: None. Richardson: Positive comments on Canyon and Meridian sidewalks. Fesko: With unsettled weather lately, hats off to Caltrans on keeping passes open more so than not. Huge economic impact when closed. Stump: Hears gratitude for flashing speed signs on US 6. Discussed a few issues with Terry Erlwein. Visited Benton Hot Springs with Scott Burns. Bill Bramlette is ready to collaborate. Acceleration occurs through straightaway prior to curves. Requested Caltrans please consider area.

6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

A. **Rural Counties Task Force (RCTF) performance measure project:** Le Francois: Referred to letters of support. Twenty-six counties sometimes lack expertise and/or staff. Emphasize fixing worst roads first. Three funding scenarios appear on pavement condition index. Mono in 60s of 100. Upshot is snapshot in time. Least populous counties usually below 50.

Walters: Senate bills will have impact on what can do small scale. Higerd has projects, but other roads need improvements as well.

Le Francois: Nevada County coordinated, pushed others forward. Hogan: Very well done.

Johnston: How many of 26 support SB 16? Tendency is not to raise taxes, yet can't do good public service by fixing roads.

B. **Southern California Edison project status for Rock Creek Road:** Deborah Hess indicated Edison has taken \$15 million off books, so no project in 2016 or 2017, but maybe way off in future.

Johnston: Aware of LTC's concern? Hess: Yes, additional funding existed, dropped into Edison's lap.

Johnston: Existing cable can operate? Hess: If it fails in future, would do pot-holing to replace as needed.

Johnston: Money could buy solar generators. Hess: California Public Utilities Commission does not allow infrastructure money for solar. Johnston: State required SCE to have portfolio of renewable resources. Hess: Has some solar on large warehouse, but SCE does not own any large solar. Johnston: Illogical to cut up brand new road when could solve problem. Generate power from power plants.

Johnston: Offer support for something more logical that wouldn't have to come back later. Hess: Gov. Brown gave executive order to move up to 50%.

Stump: What happens if SCE comes back in few years, and Mono denies permit unless pave whole road? Hess: Make road as it appeared. Don't think that project will come back. If repairs were needed, obligated to fix. Stump: Repairs create bulging. Interrupting cohesive pavement is a problem. Complaints about power in Paradise, a lot is [due to] roads. Underground system, frequent power outages for excessive lengths of time, lose food in freezers, people on medical devices, no cell service. Hess: Know of only one customer. Stump: Multiple times, even FPD expressed concern to SCE. Prepare letter to PUC. Hess: Infrastructure replacements. Stump: Much worse since fire.

Hogan: Closer coordination with Mono, USFS, and Caltrans with project list.

Hess listed proposed projects in Eastern Sierra: replace 84 power poles; Mammoth View project; upgrade substation near Zack ranch; underground cable replacement in BP area; several freeway crossings; dam upgrades; and new substation at June Lake (development-driven). Biggest is Lee Vining substation: completely redo, move farther from creek but not across road.

Stump: Coordinate with Alpers to take to Mono Basin RPAC. Hess: Going this week. Find "bad actors," work on 2016. Will check on Paradise (Stump contact). Working in Ridgecrest, trying to coordinate.

Hogan: Convict area? Hess: No.

Higerd: Coordinated with SCE, all overhead power at Lake George. FHWA involved. Hogan: Copy USFS because someday Reds Meadow will need help.

C. **State Route 108 truck restriction report:** Burns: Discussed earlier, with video. Trying to correct problems, reduce impact on travelers. Public hearing at BOS tomorrow. Dermody: Appreciate work with staff, willingness to take it on.

Richardson: Who opposes besides trucking industry? Dermody: Trucking industry didn't have an issue. Higerd: Expensive when truck gets stuck. Fesko: How soon? Dermody: Erlwein ready to order signs after BOS meeting and approval from Caltrans headquarters. Six months, but winter closure of 108, so likely next spring.

Johnston: Should never have been allowed in first place, trucks coming down steep grade.

MOTION: Adopt Minute Order M15-03 supporting prohibition of trucks exceeding 38 feet kingpin-to-rear axle (KPRA) on SR 108 from Mono/Tuolumne line, post mile (PM) 0.0, to the winter closure gate at PM 9.8. (Fesko/Hogan. Ayes: 6-0.)

7. TRANSIT

A. **Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA):** Helm: Reds Meadow ridership down due to weather, daily service till Labor Day. Discussion with Town staff on later trolley hours from last weekend in June through Labor Day. Whitmore Pool service June 22 for seven weeks. Frequent trips from Mammoth 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Service to Mammoth half-marathon at Horseshoe Lake.

Johnston: Update on early bus. Bishop to Mammoth? Helm: Hoping funding would have come through, looks like July. Stump: Will bus stop at Crowley? Helm: Yes.

Johnston: Sprinter vehicles in Bishop. Tested for inter-city use? Helm: Tried few runs. Fuel-efficient, but not overly powerful on grade. Opt for more powerful.

B. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System:** Schedule of meetings in packet. Fresno ridership started slow, but interest was shown by former resisters. Mariposa increased funding by \$50,000.

Stump: Primary route still 140? Burns: Yes. Dialogue on rock shed along SR 140, rocks into river, cars drive under in tunnel.

8. CALTRANS

A. **Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information:** Ryan Dermody indicated adoption of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in April 2016. MOU in sharing resources for 14/395 Freeman Gulch: three segments, northern part first. Middle segment funded through right-of-way purchase, but can't proceed till have construction component. Issues in Kern County. Maybe involve Eastern California Transportation Planning Partnership.

Stump: Length of Freeman? Incorporate SR 178 junction. Dermody: Move money elsewhere if no plan.

Le Francois: MOU projects: 40% state, 40% project county, 10% other counties. Freeman Gulch-2 money is there. Richardson: How much? Le Francois: \$3.2 million. Hess: Talk to China Lake? Use corridor, maybe Ridgecrest. Dermody: Talked optional funding.

Stump: Pull 20% share back if remains stuck? Pick arbitrary other use, such as maintenance money out of STIP funding. Le Francois: Reprogrammed by LTC. Dermody: Could be North County passing lanes.

Green: Caltrans hasn't changed position on criteria. No unilateral change in direction. Until fund estimate comes out, not know criteria until guidance comes from California Transportation Commission (CTC).

Johnston: Things take a long time. Upping ante to 20% is windfall to Kern, so work harder on Freeman Gulch-1. Richardson: How keep moving? Dermody: Strategize and talk about who can free up money. Green: If it does not happen in seven years, give money back.

Dermody: Due for another meeting in June. Hogan: Keep moving. Green: History of MOU projects is great partnership. No individual county can pull out unilaterally without agreement. If projects don't meet certain milestone by 2022... Not automatic. Draft new or amend proposal.

Dermody: Various programs out there, shopping for funding. Johnston: Congressman Cook is running for reelection, so maybe get him involved. Hess: Pull Navy in for China Lake (Congressman McCarthy).

Hogan: Adelanto? Dermody: Caltrans District 8 is working on SR 58.

Le Francois: Mono spent \$2 million on environmental from Purple Sage to north of Kramer Junction. District 8 has safety-type projects.

Johnston: Hwy 99 high-speed rail project? Green: Far behind. Dermody: Part of District 6, but we will bring back information at the next LTC meeting.

9. INFORMATIONAL

A. **Caltrans Sustainability Program:** Green: Main driving force on three goals. Also increased non-auto, multi-modal, renewables, conservation, etc. Not just a word, but a team working on each of elements.

B. **YARTS meeting schedule**

10. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Quarterly reports; 2) RTP in concert with STIP; 3) Freeman Gulch information; 4) high-speed rail; 5) SB 16 status

11. **ADJOURN** at 11:02 a.m. to July 13, 2015.

Prepared by C.D. Ritter, LTC secretary