

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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MINUTES

September 10, 2018
(Adopted October 15, 2018)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Stacy Corless, John Peters, Fred Stump
TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Sandy Hogan, Dan Holler for Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth
COUNTY STAFF: Gerry Le Francois, Michael Draper, Megan Mahaffey, Garrett Higerd, CD Ritter
CALTRANS: Brent Green, Terry Erlwein
ESTA: Karie Bentley
GUESTS: Raejean Fellows & Don Condon, Electric Auto Association

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Raejean Fellows and Don Condon of Electric Auto Association reported Electric Vehicle (ev) Day featured Mayor Cleland Hoff, three council members, and pace car for Gran Fondo. About 100 people at tent, 140 rides. Town's commitment. Drivers from San Diego and Sacramento had positive remarks. Goals are public awareness and education. Do all can to help Mammoth citizens drive electric, visitors not drive diesel trucks. No non-Tesla chargers in town. Petition online got 200+ signatures. Gran Fondo cyclists signed. How to make it happen. Petition to MMSA, Town, Mono on how to proceed. Charge vehicle when skiing. Other resorts already have chargers. Town, Mono jump in. Point person for each entity. Where want chargers to happen? Get road map of best-case scenario, minimal desire. Come in and bid. Help find grant money.

Wentworth wanted to bring back as regular agenda item. Condon gets complaints about no charging in Mammoth. Working on regional list south from Coleville. Vendors looking at it. Need point person with Town and County.

Peters reported private business owner signed contract with VW program, charging stations soon in Bridgeport. Green noted Gran Fondo booth cyclists and dinner table folks were ecstatic.

3. MINUTES

MOTION: Approve minutes of August 13, 2018, as amended: 1) Item 5, Stump: Thanks to Caltrans for bulletins on highway closures; 2) Item 6A line 5: Chevy ~~Volt~~ Bolt; 3) Item 6A next to last line: Wentworth wanted to bring back items related to ev; 4) Item 6B line 4: Educate on value of the legislation even though ~~hardship gas tax and vehicle registration fee increases cause hardship~~; 5) Item 9A: Terry ~~Erlwein~~ Erlwein. (Hogan/Peters. Ayes: 6.)

4. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Corless:** Brought chocolates from trip to Switzerland. **Hogan:** Passed through Boot Fire area. **Peters:** Boot Fire started alongside road, not lightning strike. It's 52% contained, 6,900 acres, air support, seven helicopters, super tankers. Evacuated Marine base, shelter for 150 troops, mules. Local fire departments at initial attack, task force, agencies, 597 personnel. **Stump:** Yielded to Peters. **Holler:** None. **Wentworth:** Over Labor Day, Lakes Basin overwhelmed, parking lots created in woods. Standing on Lake George Road saw 10-15 trucks driving in woods. No USFS or Town staff present. Walk/Bike/Ride and agencies should start thinking about this. Thanked Caltrans for bike ride today.

5. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

A. **SB 1 transportation benefits & negative impact of Proposition 6:** Background info from CSAC (California State Association of Counties) on Prop. 6. New draft resolution has details on lost revenue if Prop 6 succeeds.

Wentworth: Regressive language above/beyond what SB 1 was.

Higerd: Impeded State to have future taxes for infrastructure for services other than transportation, affect State Constitution.

Wentworth cited funds lost going back to January 2017.

COMMISSIONERS

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Higerd noted still collect gas tax through November. Planning on checks through end of calendar year. Mono overspent a bit to get maintenance work.

Hogan recalled South Lake Tahoe proposed pothole fix, didn't pass. Every county would have to go it alone. Visitors create potholes here.

Higerd indicated \$1.7 million includes fog seal, striping, etc. that will not move forward if repealed. Mono and Town projected to receive almost \$30 million in 10 years (\$2.5 million to Town). State allocates half to Caltrans, half to local agencies. Important for continuing maintenance.

Peters noted CSAC dedicated up to half million dollars to oppose Prop 6. Green cited \$790 million loss to Caltrans.

Stump stated Prop 6 would not just raid but eliminate funding to Mono and Town.

Wentworth wanted to insert \$790 million into a whereas. Town got two grants from SB 1 for climate change. Further identify loss of access to critical State funding resource to be productive partner with State.

Green noted charging stations along corridor funded by SB 1.

Peters noted funds are guaranteed for transportation, can't divert money.

Corless noted no Mono or Town resources against Prop 6. Will discuss with constituents at town hall meetings.

Stump didn't want to shy away from prior realignment. Many road complaints, no authority to un-realign. Method to fix that. State diverted transportation funds to other programs. In 2016 CTC (California Transportation Commission) had no money.

Peters saw CSAC emphasizing 100% gas tax toward highway, bridge safety. Need ways to appropriately get word out. Gas tax for roads, bridges only. No high-speed rail funds for roads.

Stump noted no indexing for inflation and \$130 billion deficit prior to SB 1.

Wentworth perceived [Prop 6] as repealing thinking as well as tax.

MOTION: Replace raid with eliminate and add three whereas sections: 1) **WHEREAS**, Prop 6 would eliminate approximately \$1.7 million dedicated to Mono County in fiscal year 2018-19 that would fund the following projects; 2) **WHEREAS**, Prop 6 would eliminate approximately \$27.5 million dedicated to Mono County and \$2.5 million dedicated to the Town of Mammoth Lakes over the next 10 years and halt critical investments in future transportation improvement projects in our community; and 3) **WHEREAS**, Prop 6 would eliminate valuable local funding to Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County to implement the State's climate change policies, electric-vehicle charging stations, and additional transit revenue. (Stump/Hogan. Ayes: 6.)

6. **ADMINISTRATION:** The regular LTC meeting Oct. 8 is a County holiday, so commissioners agreed on a special meeting Monday, Oct. 15, as a combined October/November meeting. If necessary, a Nov. 5 special meeting could be held due to public holiday Nov. 12.

--- Break till 10:15 a.m. ---

7. TRANSIT

A. **Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA):** Ten director applications, meeting this week, interviews end of month. Reds shuttle ended Sept. 5, intervalley shuttle weekends till Oct. 7. Reds road closes Tues, Oct. 9. Town trolley and Purple Line running. A \$500 sign-on bonus is offered to new drivers. Mammoth Operations supervisor relocating end of September. Part-time drivers also drive for MMSA.

Wentworth: Data collection in Mammoth over summer on ridership, fares. Connection between transient rental, housing, resources.

B. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** Gerry Le Francois spoke with consultant on management alternatives, expansion during peak season. Notice of fare increase. Jeff Simpson, ~~Stacy Corless~~, Sandy Hogan and Matt McLean on AAC (Authority Advisory Committee).

Corless thanked Hogan for Eastern Sierra Working Group to ensure Eastern Sierra needs are being met with West Side organization out of Merced. Oct. 17: joint meeting of JPA (Joint Powers Authority)/AAC in Valley to review recommendations.

1. **YARTS Short-Range Transit update:** None.

2. **Support letter on expanded Mono County YARTS service:** Gerry Le Francois spoke with Cindy Kelly, who indicated daily service not just weekends in June and September.

Hogan cited rising ridership even with fire that closed Valley.

Analysis on effects to Mammoth Lakes? Stops? Hogan noted Juniper Springs stop is low, June Lake has problems. ~~Not looking at Lakes Basin~~. Still only at 2% of all visitors to park.

Corless thought increasing public transit to public lands has positive impact, not negative. NPS needs to increase funding, so urging that. Maybe BOS (Board of Supervisors) and Town Council would endorse as well. Other Town entities also could support.

MOTION: Approve support letter for expanded Mono County YARTS service (*Corless/Hogan. Ayes: 6.*)

8. CALTRANS

A. **Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information:** Brent Green noted outcome of Prop 6 would not remove infrastructure requirements (unfunded mandates). By federal/State law asset management, including pavement. Funding would go away but try to meet measures sans funding. Climate change: Grants opening in October, also sustainable communities. Grant closure dates from Caltrans? Help achieve GHG (Greenhouse Gas) targets.

Holler noted Prop 6 would take effect back to date of SB 1 adoption.

Green indicated three projects affected: 1) Lee Vining rehab reduced to sidewalks; 2) Bridgeport rehab down-scoped; and 3) Olancho/Cartago (O/C) funding tied to SB 1 (project delayed, but not gone).

Stump recalled Inyo overspent for O/C. STIP shares would change.

BOS take a position? *Already did.* Holler noted Town supported.

Higerd will compile staff report on capital improvement projects for consideration in October.

Terry Erlwein reported actions since recent Bridgeport area fatalities: 1) Removed three underutilized short passing zones; 2) checked all passing zones for sight distance; 3) introduced daylight headlight zone; 4) installed pennant signs in passing areas; 5) striped Mt. Patterson Road; 6) added rumble strip in design from SR 270 north through canyon; and 7) created new turn pockets at Virginia Lakes.

Caltrans-led Mammoth Lakes bike tour today at 2 pm, four stops. E-bikes OK.

9. QUARTERLY REPORTS

A. **Town of Mammoth Lakes:** Sidewalk repairs along Meridian done. Curb and gutter work farther up Meridian. Paving at airport next year. Five to eight helicopters operating out of airport.

Stump was unaware of meeting last week. Add fire smoke concern.

Wentworth noted constituents have needs, concerns. Permanent infrastructure. Emphasize importance of Lake Basin path connection.

Karie Bentley indicated Lakes Basin trolley rarely filled. Demand is bike racks. Hogan saw room for passengers, but bike rack's full. Biggest safe bike rack already installed.

Maybe not want lot more bikes on paths? People out of cars onto bus, not necessarily onto bikes on bus.

B. **Mono County:** Garrett Higerd noted fog seal project on 46 miles of roads throughout Mono. Both airports fog sealed and striped. Moving into environmental study on Eastside Lane. Balancing resources with civic center and jail. Paul Roten transitioning to civic center, so short-handed on transportation projects. Associate engineer starts Oct. 9, project manager starts today. Retired person helped in summer, trying to retain for encroachment/ grading work. OWP-related items: asset management. Licensed drone for photogrammetry to process into topo mapping. Stump mentioned another drone operator not with County.

C. **Caltrans:** Discussed earlier.

10. INFORMATION: No items

11. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) electric vehicle contact info; 2) D-395 5G implementation; 3) YARTS short-range transit plan; 4) ESTA; 5) interagency snow removal opportunities on passes; and 6) Nov. 5 placeholder if needed.

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary