

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2018
(Adopted December 10, 2018)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Stacy Corless, John Peters, Fred Stump

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Sandy Hogan, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth

COUNTY STAFF: Wendy Sugimura, Gerry Le Francois, Michael Draper, Megan Mahaffey, Garrett Higerd, Tony Dublino (teleconference), CD Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Grady Dutton

CALTRANS: Brent Green, Terry Erlwein, Ryan Dermody, Austin West

ESTA: Joe Rye

GUESTS: Don Condon, Electric Auto Association; Lynn Boulton, Sierra Club Range of Light

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair John Wentworth 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.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

3. **MINUTES**

MOTION: Approve minutes of Sept. 10, 2018, as amended: 1) Item 7B: Jeff Simpson, ~~Stacy Corless~~, Sandy Hogan and Matt McLean on AAC; 2) 7B2: ~~Not looking at Lakes Basin.~~ (Hogan/Salcido. Ayes: 6.)

--- Corless arrived at 9:15 a.m. ---

4. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Stump:** Thanked Caltrans for work on US 6. Reflective stickers still there, could come loose with snow plowing, PW working on fix. Caltrans uses lawn mower, picks up pieces. **Hogan:** *Taxing Times* newspaper had headline on Prop 6 (Wentworth cited more funding for yes on repeal). Wrote letters local and Tahoe. **Peters:** CSAC held special meeting last week, asked approval to free up funds for Prop 6. Tracking shows even chance to fail. No way to backfill if repealed. Informational Town Hall topic last week. BOS attendee concerned about dirt road 029, USFS road, not County-maintained, when fire resources there during Boot fire, offered to repair road, Mono declined. **Salcido:** None. **Wentworth:** Attended climate change on adaptation planning grant update. Significant piece of SB 1 goes to climate change. About \$15 million allotted. Clear that yes on 6 initiative was to go to congressional races. **Corless:** Attended with Mayor Hoff meeting with Bobby Tanner on Reds Meadow Road concerns, urged Town staff to communicate with him. Grady Dutton spoke with him earlier.

5. **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION**

A. **Digital-395 5G implementation:** Wentworth noted people beyond Mono. 5G uses different towers, closer together. Invasive from infrastructure perspective. Capacity necessary for autonomous vehicles to work. Unclear when/how 5G start making progress into our lives, likely next two to three years. Verizon would own. Tested in larger cities, significant lift.

Tested in mountainous regions? *Wentworth: 395 pretty straight. 5G towers close together.*

COMMISSIONERS

Stacy Corless Sandy Hogan John Peters Lynda Salcido Fred Stump John Wentworth

Stump noted Verizon refuses to use D-395. Need to cover highways not covered. Important to recognize obstacles by corporate mentality.

Infrastructure investment? *Wentworth: Get some sense of Caltrans involvement.*

Green talked to Tesla about autonomous vehicles. *Wentworth: More efficient transition from combustion vehicles.*

Salcido thought it's going to happen, so be on top, move forward.

Corless cited organizations tracking, advocating for local control of infrastructure.

Stump noted Mono policies of height restrictions, scenic highway. *Wentworth: Trumps Town and Mono jurisdiction. Gives providers ability to control.*

Combined IT tracking? *Wentworth: Level of curiosity and interest. Not know what looks like.*

Green suggested getting more details from Caltrans. Peters wanted to address shortcomings of existing towers before adding new towers.

B. Interagency snow removal opportunities on passes: Tony Dublino was involved earlier, distributed drafts. Wants to quickly respond to emerging issues. Waiting to review draft.

Erlwein will release draft this week. Caltrans does not enter agreements with nongovernmental agencies; e.g., MMSA.

One of Dublino's goals was for Mono to get separate agreement with MMSA. Caltrans involved directly with Mono. Could bring resources onto table as needed.

Wentworth encouraged communication with recreational audience when passes open/close. Integrate all this.

NPS (National Park Service) too? *Dublino: Agreement specific to Caltrans and Mono. A way to bring park into it, but not part of it. On Mono to coordinate with NPS and MMSA.*

C. Electric vehicle charging stations: Don Condon showed proposed charging station sites on map. Lynn Boulton went to Bridgeport Valley RPAC: site near museum. Lee Vining at solar pavilion, demonstration project. Get quick-charge stations at 120/395 junction. Quick-charge in Mammoth at Park-and-Ride. Moving forward for non-Tesla vehicles. Subject to Prop 6, Caltrans will install three along US 395. Benton: Pathway to Tonopah, so get site there. Electric vehicles are transportation of future. One million by 2030, 5 million by 2040. Picking up momentum. Present at CofC tomorrow.

Boulton noted L3 sites in Nevada. Level 2 = 4-8 hours. Quick-charge less than hour. On west side have L2, only Tesla L3. Slowly upgrading as more cars come through. Plan for 100-mile charging.

Who pays for electricity used for charging? SCE sets up. Depends on time of day, built into model. Green stated Caltrans stations are free.

Stump cited no funding source except Prop 6, additional surcharge on EV (Electric Vehicles). Cheaper than gasoline, using roads free. EVs need to pay additional for wear/tear on roads. Town and Mono could push legislators to fund creation and maintenance of charging stations.

Boulton noted Carbon Solutions put in charge to pay Edison, collect fee to cover costs to public. Could put in for phase II (non-Tesla).

Wait till after Prop 6 vote? *Hogan: Give staff time to research. Talk to USFS? Boulton: Propose on Mono land (community centers, library).*

Hogan mentioned YARTS' talk of eliminating stops. *Boulton: USFS visitor center is longer walk to town, so closer to community center to get to trail. With SB 1 funds, maybe in L3 in Lee Vining area.*

Dermody noted first phase on southern rest areas, no power at Crestview rest area. Lee Vining came up as phase II, look at Northern Mono.

Wentworth want to direct staff to pull together needs assessment, come back with information.

Peters mentioned scope of each station not single point of charging, users frustrated with wait. Look at scaling up. Leverage other transport methods to/from YARTS. Occupying spot, off elsewhere. Not re-create '70s gas lines.

Preparing for current technology, how to plan for upgrades?

Condon noted could wait and wait and wait, never do anything. If do something now, addresses immediate need. Cars just coming on market, standard charging, upgrading technology all time. Charge up to \$10/hr for car left when not charging. Encourages drivers to return to car. Have modules to add more as need arises.

Salcido noted people stuck with phone chargers. Stay in tune with technology. Pick locations with access to activities while charging.

Stump did not favor Mono yards with heavy equipment due to liability. Favored legislation to require standardization of plugs on vehicles.

Boulton cited technology evolving, new plug that Tesla could use with adapter. With charge-point, replace head, keep pedestal. Caltrans yard in Lee Vining a possibility.

Stump can't endorse specific vendor as County representative.

Next meeting: ESTA requested Nov. 5 if items come up. Otherwise, Dec. 10.

Wentworth directed staff to work with EV and Caltrans, return with recommendation of charge points that build on today's presentation.

Gerry Le Francois commended Rayjean Fellows, Don Condon and Lynn Boulton for a lot of work staff did not have time to do.

--- Break: 10:10-10:15 ---

D. Benton Crossing Road Maintenance – Phase 1: Garrett Higerd described site out past recreational facilities on Green Church Road.

E. Follow-up on Resolution R18-10 to oppose Prop 6: Gerry Le Francois noted less favorable to pass Prop. 6. Not everyone equates Prop 6 to SB 1.

Corless indicated most local government opposes Prop 6 but can't campaign with government resources.

Stump wanted to collectively state not spending government resources on this, using public funds to oppose something.

Peters cited money solely from corporate partners of CSAC (California State Association of Counties). Target specifically to make people aware of what SB 1 money is used for: guaranteed to go into roads, protected by State Constitution. About 100 people at Antelope Valley RPAC. Digested all information, understood issue.

Wentworth indicated Corless and others will meet on Prop 6 Oct. 22 at Mammoth Brewing.

6. **ADMINISTRATION:** None

7. **TRANSIT**

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA): Joe Rye reported new executive director, Phil Moores, from San Luis Obispo County, starting Nov. 5 has house transit operations experience. Also lost John Robertson at Mammoth, found local person to start within weeks who has never done public transit. Ordered larger bus for Reno/Lancaster based on strong ridership.

B. Reprogram CalOES Transit Security Funds: Joe Rye noted demonstration security camera on bus records first 20 minutes. Good for investigating accidents, interactions with drivers. When hard drive is full, incidents disappear. Hired five new drivers, lost one. Looking to hire five more before winter. Huge challenge nationwide, particularly here. Without new funding source challenge to replace fleet.

Per/mile or per/hour charge into capital replacement account? Cut into service provided. Go to LTCs for more money.

Rye indicated it as challenge for new director. Set aside MMSA each year. Federal sources diminished but not just federal issue. State sources like PTMISEA (Public Transportation Modernization Improvement & Service enhancement Account) expired. Mammoth buses 12 years, trolleys 10 years. Depends on vehicle type.

Depending on 80% federal match? *Rye: Set aside 20%, need more*

Rye noted informational item on Prop 6 at ESTA Board. Loss of \$250,000/year if SB 1 repealed.

Dutton noted Mammoth busier midweeks, looking toward future to react to whatever happens.

Who's responsible for fleet replacement? *Rye: ESTA. Fleet grew rapidly through former moneys.*

Wentworth: Start talk funding sources, needs. Hogan: MMSA has contract, also USFS for summer, Town. (\$1 million/year).

Dutton noted Town uses older buses for summer recreation.

Rye stated CalOES grant funding remains, projects partially delivered. Install bus security cameras.

MOTION: Direct staff to modify budget (*Stump/Corless. Ayes: 6.*)

C. **YARTS Short-Range Transit Plan:** Cindy Kelly at YARTS was not available. Gerry Le Francois spoke with Selena McKinney on Short-Range Transit Plan. Looking at revenues, vehicle replacement, appreciative of LTC letter last month to expand service.

Hogan scanned working paper 3. Good meeting several weeks ago. Extend season weekdays into June and September due to demand. Or add third bus during busy season, ups cost a lot. Better expand to weekends into October. Dropping June Lake loop with two people/day, drop one of three in Lee Vining. Showing express if drop those pickups. MMSA no longer contribute \$25,000/year. Crippled by needed replacements. Owns only 10 buses, rest contracted through VIA.

Corless noted meeting Wednesday on working paper 3, look at various alternatives. Hogan: Expand JPA to collect \$68,400 from Tuolumne (has transit staff, not LTC).

Does YARTS know per mile or per hour charge? *Corless: Work with contractor, as buses are contracted. Hogan: Started tapping reserves.*

8. **CALTRANS**

A. **Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information:** Green noted Walker Canyon **natina** finish guard rail (Conway was poster child). Terry Erlwein to host pre-winter briefing. MMSA annual meeting Nov. 6, interagency representatives. Walker Canyon and Sheep Ranch done by Nov. 2: guard rails, striping. Green will include in packet next meeting.

Dermody cited mitigation on Little Walker shoulder widening.

Other two completed this year? Yes.

Green mentioned two other large projects: Aspen/Fales, Little Walker. Combine contract, unsure about funding. Town sidewalks look good, several under way.

Wentworth noted Edison cutting up brand new piece of Lake Mary Road. Peters suggested cold patch to cover. Hogan mentioned it would create lots of erosion. Wentworth will coordinate with Edison.

9. **INFORMATIONAL**

A. **Liberty Utilities increases electric vehicle rate:** Fred Stump suggested charging every rate payer. Low-income persons are affected, no protection. EVs should pay for infrastructure.

B. **Pre-winter briefing with National Weather Service:** John Peters cited very high October fire risk even after Humboldt-Toiyabe and Inyo Fire lifted restrictions. Big concern of flooding and mud slides in burn areas, especially Walker Canyon.

C. **Comment letter on SR 14/US 395:** None

10. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) 5G; 2) EV charging needs assessment; 3) new ESTA exec director; 4) JPA report from YARTS; 5) Cert for retiring Courtney Smith.

11. **ADJOURN** at 11:14 a.m. to December 10

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary