

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

DRAFT MINUTES

December 9, 2019

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Jennifer Kreitz, John Peters, Fred Stump
TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Sandy Hogan, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth
COUNTY STAFF: Gerry Le Francois, Garrett Higerd, Wendy Sugimura, CD Ritter
TOWN STAFF: Haislip Hayes
CALTRANS: Brent Green
ESTA: Phil Moores
PUBLIC: John Urdi, Rhonda Duggan, Diane Foster,

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. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance to the flag.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** John Urdi spoke of Bishop airport. No rental cars in plan now. Shuttle service to central site in Mammoth Lakes considered. *Wentworth: Committee looking at Walk/Bike/Ride.* Kreitz: Interaction with ESTA? *Stump: Request agenda item at upcoming meeting.*

3. **MINUTES**

MOTION: Approve minutes of November 18, 2019, as submitted. *(Kreitz/Salcido. Ayes: 6-0.)*

4. **PUBLIC HEARING: 9:10 A.M. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ADOPTION:** Gerry Le Francois distributed 11 x 17 printouts for clarity. Town wants \$2.7 mil for streets and roads, Mono Eastside Lane phase 2 rehab needs \$3.7 mil. New programming = \$6.5 million. Reserve \$18,000. Not need allocations from CTC. LTC funding construction components. Hoping SB1 would make it more robust but no headway on Freeman Gulch projects. Olancho/Cartago fully funded, under construction in two years.

Peters: Eastside Lane phase 2? *Higerd: Northern and southern portions, Pine Nut Road also. Try to implement current five-year plan Looked at Airport Road project, in environmental phase, looking at construction, Long Valley roads as far south as Swall Meadows, not want changes to projects as could get pushed out. Maybe supplemental funds, strategy is use SB1 rather than rocking boat in programming. Better to keep on schedule, deliver on that. Forecasted more work in Antelope Valley area. Separate SB1 address chip seals like Topaz Lane. Efficient to go to CTC once. Things change over time; maybe financial situation looks different. Better value for larger projects than smaller ones.* Kreitz: Get detail on Town's project as well.

Stump: Years of deferred maintenance. *Higerd: Agreed. Dual prong = pavement preservation and reconstruction. SB1 flexible, fewer strings attached. Pick one good project, make big enough to count, keep using SB1 funds so nimbler and more efficient, do design work in-house. Use STIP funds for major rehab, other funds for environmental, design, preventive maintenance (fog seal, chip seal). Fits in with five-year capital improvement. SB1 project list due to State in April.*

Hayes: Significant cracking on older multi-use paths. Revise roads after winter.

Wentworth: Staff report advises RTIP be consistent with RTP. *Le Francois: If LTC adopts today, projects incorporated into RTP. If ask for funding, show projects consistent with RTP.*

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: No comments. **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Le Francois: Fund balance never zero or negative. Kern and Inyo have no money.

COMMISSIONERS

Jennifer Kreitz Sandy Hogan John Peters Lynda Salcido Fred Stump John Wentworth

Eastside Lane \$3.7 million in 2023? *Le Francois: All new programming in last two years of five-year cycle. Town asking early, that's OK. Projects may move in or out.*

Stump: STIP Airport Road approved 2014, deferred 2016. Supports good use of funds. Larger is cheaper. Peters: None possible without SB1, so beware of effort to repeal.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R19-10 approving the 2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The RTIP is a multi-modal listing of capital improvement projects of the Local Transportation Commission. (*Wentworth/Peters. Ayes: 6-0.*)

5. **PUBLIC HEARING: 9:30 A.M. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE:** Approving and adopting the 2019 RTP.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Le Francois cited technical changes and minor amendment. Impetus is to coincide with Housing Element update. Changes in State requirement, public section in Ch. 2 bolstered. Population figures updated. Ch. 6 has financial tables. Added quantitative performance measures; e.g., pavement management. Modified Ch 4 for Antelope Valley. June Lake CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee) concerned about Crawford connector off SR 158, looked at community parking lots for village. CAC may want additional policy work. Long time on June Lake policies.

General sections, Mono, Town. How to proceed? *Le Francois: Kreitz's comments included. Wentworth comments on Walk/Bike/Ride. Language related to Bishop airport. Potential regional service. Reach out to Inyo County on broader airport issues.*

Numerous examples of outdated, incomplete or inconsistent information were cited on regional air service, walk/bike/ride, mobility hub, wayfinding, housing, transit, jobs, Inyo Forest Plan, duplicate titles, and identify vice-chair. An update was requested.

Wentworth: Appreciate need to adopt today but need editable, approved document that parties can propose changes to bring back to LTC. *Kreitz: Updating in best way possible is a start but encourage to do better holistic job into 21st century. Can't change now due to CEQA but do it later.*

Le Francois: Proposing addendum to prior environmental. Can't go too far to identify major policy changes. Go forward, come back, work through. Limited on what can do today.

Peters: Next opportunity for revision? *Le Francois; Any time. Entertain additions.*

Urdu: FAA meeting Wednesday in LA. Requested Inyo, Mono, Town consider regional. Willing to put out grant, worked with ESCOG (Eastern Sierra Council of Governments). Formalized plan a year out.

Wentworth: ESCOG meeting in Bishop Friday-13. Show up to get on agenda. Inyo chair fired up about Bishop airport, no divergence in vision. *Salcido: Utilize ESCOG.* Peters: ESCOG comes back in bigger scope. Bishop excited for commercial air service. Take in context for today's update to accompany.

Realistic time? *Le Francois: Late winter, early spring. Town looking at whole traffic model, updating mobility element. Document does not re-create Housing Element, feeds in broader view.*

Stump: Additional points of what to do today? Bring back with section-by-section details.

Wentworth: Go to BOS? *Le Francois: No. Clear everything up with current comments. 2019 document going forward.* **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING.**

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R19-11 making findings in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), approving and adopting the 2019 RTP. An addendum to the 2015 General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) has been prepared. (*Peters/Hogan. Ayes: 6-0.*)

--- BREAK: 10:15-10:30 am ---

6. **CALTRANS:** Brent Green noted full winter season. Quick Maps has layers. *Kreitz: No Eastern Sierra listing.* Wentworth: Ongoing discussion about regions. Advised State struggling with regions and how to align with Caltrans districts. No region for "Sierra."

Stump: Corless has worked on it, Mammoth Lakes lumped in with San Bernardino and San Diego. Mono is part of Southern California even though air district includes Alpine. Problem crosses many State lines. Needs are quite different.

Salcido: Not only region with issue. Ongoing governmental issue, unsure how to resolve.

Green: CHP Captain Terry Lowther coming Jan. 1, invite to LTC. All passes closed except SR 120E. Westgard has short-term closures. Even though statewide specifications, reputation of being stricter so contractors get away with stuff elsewhere. ITIP (Interregional Transportation Improvement Program) hearing Dec. 15. Project prioritization starting to change. Impact on SB1 funding? Executive order does not override law. Debate now on funding sources. Eastern Sierra investment strategy should not change. MOU projects: Have Olancho/Cartago (O/C) ready next springtime, get money advanced a year.

Inyo concerns addressed? *Green: Confusion about where we are in project. Getting construction permits acquiring ROW, certain segment of folks disbelieves it's happening. Outreach for many years so a continuum.*

Interagency meeting tomorrow on wildfire vulnerability. Working with USFS (Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe) on assessment. Will bring to future meeting. SB127 = Complete Streets did not pass but expectations of Caltrans being more active on projects. Several years ago, District 9 looked at it. Trying to see what current projects to amend, already done going to bid, proposed projects. Wish list of additional Complete Streets elements well over \$1 billion. Now, if not meaningful to community, not addressing elements. Throwing Mono projects into mix: Intersection Main/Minaret has no sidewalk. Another is sidewalks from Lee Vining south to SR 120. Also, wider shoulders along lake north of Lee Vining not included. Sidewalks along fairgrounds in Bishop have gap. Bicycle coalition does not want elements added unless meaningful.

Big topics at Caltrans: Manage lanes, racial equity, FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) increases to small businesses, tribes, unsheltered. Only one pot of money so District 9 got less.

Statewide way of looking at Caltrans districts? Green: SB1 money looks at pavement condition, so OK there.

Stump: Population element does not include visitor impact. Town of 8,000 balloons to 30,000. How to get that message across. 160,000-acre business development in Reno.

Green: O/C funding not based on population but safety, traffic counts. Part of way to compete.

Hayes: Traffic study in town. Wentworth: Make sure connects with what Caltrans is doing. Get data to be reflective of needs.

7. TRANSIT

A. **Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA):** Phil Moores noted strong ridership last year. 4.4% increase annually. Six runs missed in October due to driver shortage. Sig wage increase for lower end. MMSA contract signed, increased wages. Tahoe Transit District got congressional approval for funding usually only for urban based on visitation. Sometimes area-specific verbiage. Precedence for such a thing.

Wentworth: Tahoe has MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization). Hogan: Water clarity an issue for years.

Moores: Hogan and he attended meeting of mobility hub group. As YARTS develops electric use, where will charger be in Mammoth Lakes?

B. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** FTA (Federal Transportation Administration) awards YARTS \$4.3 million grant. Hogan: West slope first. Bus parking an issue in Yosemite. No reason here till get chargers.

8. ADMINISTRATION: No items

9. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Kreitz:** Attended CSAC, Exec Order 1919 to implement Complete Streets model. CTC working on SB1 outreach and marketing to counter complaints. Positive impacts of SB1 funding. Educate legislators on what's happening in their districts. Mobility Assessment on agenda. With RTP integrate State climate change policy. Better articulate expectations of staff so complementary in actions. **Wentworth:** Looking for editable document. Aware of State's effort Regions Rise Together. Anticipate policy framework to show how we fit. Technical Advisory Council in Sacramento. Mobility Hub group. Transportation in cities is changing; e.g., Uber, ebikes. Get people out of cars. Get reports of Mobility Hub to LTC. **Hogan:** Mobility Hub met last week, dozen attendees, good diversity. Town applied for grant and appointed members. **Hayes:** Mobility Hub has study grant from Caltrans. *Clear-cut action items: citizens working group in quantitative study, clear actionable items in vein of Walk/Bike/Ride. Town worked with consultant to get wide spectrum of various groups. Left out TC and LTC eventually, adoption/approval later. Closed meetings, run by Town staff, not Brown Act.* Stump: Pubic meetings would be agendized. Hogan: Heard from Town staff they are public meetings. Stump: Entity is news to him, intentionally created. Clarify to LTC mechanism to move forward. Kreitz: All well-heeled, well-connected people, no minorities. Hayes: If Town Council weighs in on minutiae, expect LTC to approve actionable items. Some meetings public, some private. Hogan: Not only institutional type there, attended for her own interest. Four working group meetings before summer. Also: Signage looks good. **Peters:** CSAC too. Opportunity to participate with state colleagues at all different levels. To LA re lawsuit with LADWP. Caltrans good job on early season road conditions. Public Works installed radar speed sign on Emigrant Street. Partnership with CSA. Curve south of SR 108 with construction still no speed reduction. Slow to 45-50 mph. Not much room for error. Chunky pavement grabs wheels. **Salcido:** Illuminated snowflakes on light posts in town look good. **Stump:** None.

10. INFORMATIONAL: No items

11. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** YARTS request for additional funding; mobility item; update on RTP; airport transportation; District 9 climate vulnerability assessment.

12. **ADJOURN** at 11:40 a.m. to January 13, 2020

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC clerk

ADDITIONS TO MINUTES OF 12.09.19

1. RTP information about Mammoth Yosemite Airport and potential future air service in Bishop is incorrect and outdated and will require a thorough review and update.
2. RTP information about TOML's Walk/Bike/Ride program and other plans is incorrect and outdated.
3. TOML has completed significant work on a municipal Wayfinding program (remove or list as completed)
4. Opportunities for electric bike integration into the RTP should be reviewed and considered.
5. RTP information about current status of information/coordination on affordable housing and transportation specifically in regard to The Parcel in Mammoth Lakes is lacking and may compromise funding opportunities for this project. RTP information about current status of The Parcel and transportation opportunities will require a thorough review and update.
5. RTP information about TOML transportation systems appears to be dated and references older documents. The RTP will require a thorough review and update on these topics.
6. The Plan needs to reflect our goals and vision for The Parcel as it relates to housing, jobs and transit so that when we look for funding for the various components of this development, the visions and desired outcomes are clearly understood.