



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



P.O. DRAWER Q
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Michael Errante, Executive Director

REVISION #2

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION Inyo County Board Chambers, 224 N. Edwards St., Independence

Justine Kokx is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Inyo County Local Transportation Commission Regular Meeting
Time: Oct 18, 2023, 09:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89358805064?pwd=TVFvcXVqY0tZeEVFNbWxzdS9JUT09>

Meeting ID: 893 5880 5064

Passcode: 080102

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kejnk2sY2c>

All members of the public are encouraged to participate in the discussion of any items on the Agenda. Questions and comments will be accepted via e-mail to: jkokx@inyocounty.us. Any member of the public may also make comments during the scheduled "Public Comment" period on this agenda concerning any subject related to the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission. PUBLIC NOTICE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Transportation Commission Secretary at (760) 878-0201. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28CFR 35. 102-35. ADA Title II).

October 18, 2023

9:00 a.m. Open Meeting

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Urgency Action Item** pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2): Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present (less than 4), a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted.

- a. Approval of Remote Meeting Participation for Commissioners Marcellin and Muchovej – Recommended Action Find good cause for Commissioners Marcellin and Muchovej to attend the

Chair Celeste Berg, Vice-Chair Jeffery Ray, Commissioners: Jennifer Roeser, Stephen Muchovej, Jose Garcia, Scott Marcellin

meeting remotely due to a contagious illness and approve their remote meeting participation. *They must announce the presence of anyone over the age of 18 years old at the meeting location with them and the nature of the relationship (spouse, caregiver etc.)*

2. Consent Agenda
- b. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 27, 2023.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Draft 2023 Update to the Inyo County Active Transportation Plan
4. Potential County Projects for Cycle 7 Active Transportation Grant Program
5. Draft 2024 Inyo County Regional Transportation Improvement Plan
6. Change the start time for LTC meetings to 8:00 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. Presentation by Jill Tognazzini of Caltrans, Bishop Pavement Project
8. Ashley Helms, Airports Presentation
9. City of Bishop Report
10. ESTA Executive Director's Report
11. Caltrans Report
 - Presentation by L. Hart, Building Climate Resiliency
 - Caltrans Monthly Report
12. Tribal Report
13. DVNP Report
14. USFS Report
15. Executive Director's Report
 - Reminder to provide comments for the Final 2023 Regional Transportation Plan to jkokx@inyocounty.us
16. Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned until Wednesday November 29, 2023, Bishop City Hall (November and December combined meeting)

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- Final RTP public hearing & adoption (November 29th)
- Final 2024 RTIP and 2024 STIP (November 29th)
- Adopt Final ATP
- FY23-24 OWP Amendment (FY22-23 RPA Rollover & STPG)



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MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Bishop City Council Chambers 301 W. Line St., Bishop, CA 93514

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September 27, 2023

9:00 a.m. Open Meeting

Chairperson Celeste Berg to participate virtually from 382 Miramonte Pl, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Chair: Celeste Berg
Vice Chair: Jeffery Ray
Commissioner: Jose Garcia
Commissioner: Stephen Muchovej
Commissioner: Jennifer Roeser
Commissioner: Scott Marcellin

Others Present:

John Pinckney: Inyo County Public Works Assistant Director
Nora Gamino: City of Bishop Public Works Director
Anna Budnyk: City of Bishop Planner
Justine Kokx: Inyo County Public Works/LTC
Kristina Amaya: Inyo County Public Works
Genevieve Evans: LSC
Acadia Davis: LSC
Phili Moore: ESTA
Jenny Park: IMAH
Andrew Besold: Caltrans

Chair Celeste Berg, Vice-Chair Jeffery Ray, Commissioners: Jennifer Roeser, Stephen Muchovej, Jose Garcia, Scott Marcellin

Neil Peacock: Caltrans
Karl Seiberling: Caltrans
Maggie Ritter: Caltrans
Bob Strub: Lone Pine Resident
Sabine Elia: Lone Pine Resident

2. Public Comment: No Public Comment

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the virtual participation by Chair Berg in accordance with AB 2449
 - b. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 16, 2023.
 - c. State of Good Repair ESTA
 - d. Ratify Letter of Support for the Caltrans Reconnecting Communities Highways to Boulevards Grant Program application, and Resolution No. 2023-06 authorizing ICLTC to be Co-Applicant.
- **Motion to approve “Consent Agenda” was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Muchovej. All in favor.**
-
- #### 2. Approve Resolution No. 2023-07 to accept Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds in the amount of \$201,500, with a local cash match (staff time) of \$26,111, totaling \$227,611.
- **Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-07 to accept Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds. Motioned by Commissioner Jen Roeser and Seconded by Commissioner Jose Garcia.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Genevieve Evans of LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. presented information about the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). She explained why the RTP is important and included 5 points. First, state law requires the RTP to be updated every 4-5 years. Second, implementing an RTP provides accountability for taxpayer money. Third, the RTP is a good reference document for ICLTC staff and Commissioners. The reader should be able to accurately identify what ICLTC goals are for the long term. When someone updates the RTP or when a new grant funding source comes through the RTP acts as a reference. The RTP is a reference by providing a project list page that explains why the project is important as well as a section that explains what the public input is for this project. Fourth, RTP addresses many different types of transportation related plans all in one document. This includes trucking, roads, bridges, maintenance for ESTA and

aviation. RTP does not address non-motorized transportation which is why ATP will be updated as well. Lastly, the capital transportation improvement projects funded with state or federal money must be identified in the RTP. For some grant and funding sources they may ask for the LTC to identify what page number the project is on and where it is in the RTP. The process to get the RTP implemented is lengthy. Some portions of the planning process include the following: follow a RTP checklist provided by Caltrans, considering BLM and Forest service plans to make sure we are not conflicting with them, participating in public comment, and then finally ICLTC will adopt the document (expected in November 2023).

- Acadia Davis presented and explained the demographics and economics of Inyo County in the context of the regional transportation needs/issues in Inyo County. The high priority for state highways is completion of US 395 Olancha-Cartago 4-Lane Project. The use of a pavement condition index is used to evaluate the conditions of roads in the County and City. The average pavement condition index for Inyo County is categorized as “fair” and for the City the average PCI is categorized as poor. The RTP is also going to include information about projects for the 12% of roads in Inyo County that are categorized as “poor” or “failed”. As ESTA transportation ages it is important to consider replacement of transit vehicles. The focus is going to be on fleet electrification and implementing the infrastructure necessary for these goals.
- Trucking is the primary movement of goods to Inyo County. Some concerns that will be addressed in the RTP will be potential conflict between trucks and multiple user groups, lack of acceleration lanes, designated truck parking and truck/ bypass routes. The City of Bishop does not have a designated truck route and it negatively effects city roadways.
- Aviation transportation is another important transportation need in the county. The City of Bishop Airport has a new commercial passenger service. This will include maintaining county operated airports at accessible standards this includes the Bishop airports now that there is commercial services.
- The different elements of the RTP are as follows, the policy element, action element, and the financial element. Acadia goes into detail about each element and how LTC can use these as a reference.
- As a part of the RTP process it is mandatory that the RTP is evaluated under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The environmental impact of these projects are going to be discussed and addressed on an individual basis.
- Acadia discussed the ATP (Active Transportation Plan) update. Non- motorized Facilities would include expanding bike lanes, bike paths, and sidewalks.
- Acadia and Genevieve answered questions.
 - Public Comment from Bob Strub, do you have the expertise of GIS? They have a graphics technician who assists with GIS.
- Commissioner Roeser is concerned with the policy element and flexibility. Some of the state guidelines for EVs may not be feasibly accommodatable in Inyo County. EV vehicles are now going down in sales and the concern is being locked into something that might not be relevant in 10 years. Genevieve expressed that there is some room for flexibility.

- Commissioner Muchovej appreciated the great presentation. Commissioner Muchovej asked if E-Bikes would be considered motorized or active transportation.
 - Genevieve replied that E-bikes would fall under active transportation.
- Commissioner Muchovej also wants to know what public comments would be the most useful to the RTP process? Genevieve replied that we would benefit from questions that pertain to issues that are not addressed in the RTP.
- Commissioner Marcellin wanted to know if there is an alternative to the fog seal because after this last winter the seal did not hold up. He is specifically referring to Carol Lane in Bishop. He continues that after one bad winter it looks like nothing has been done.
- Commissioner Ray commented on the safety concern with implementing more bike lanes and pedestrian pathways. He wants to make sure that with the development of active transportation there is also a plan for public safety as well. Karl from Caltrans replied to Commissioner Ray and explained that Caltrans has a project and development plan for Lone Pine.
- Commissioner Roeser commented and explained that she wants to see more in the RTP about safety and communities. She wants Safety to be above the other issues especially on the 395 corridors because safety features in the document are underwhelming and we need to emphasize that the priorities in the document are pedestrian and vehicle safety. Genevieve says that they prioritize safety over some of the other categories. Neil Peacock from Caltrans reiterated the increasingly important role that discretionary program funding is going to hold for the reasonable future in terms of funding these priorities. Caltrans is putting together the top 5 projects that are most competitive for funding and will be meeting with LTC staff about their recommendations. To be strategic with funding other projects may take priority.
 - *Final adoption is November 29th.
- Commissioner Marcellin had a suggestion about the ATP, there is a multiuse pathway that parallels S. Barlow Lane that needs rehab. People are starting to use Barlow Lane instead of that pathway.
- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Public Draft available on the Inyo County LTC website: [Public Draft 2023 RTP Update](#) [2023 RTP Initial Study & Negative Declaration](#)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. City of Bishop Report

Anastasiia Budnyk provided an update about *Whitney Alley Project*. For updates click the following link [City of Bishop, California](#). Chair Berg asked for clarification on the funding. Would Clean California Grant plug into phase 1? Anastasiia clarified that if they are not awarded the Clean California Grant, they will have to find more funding to complete the project. The Commissioners elaborated more on the City of Bishop parking study and what they would like to see regarding improved parking for the community and awareness.

4. ESTA Report

- Executive Director's Report

Phil provided and updated ESTA Report. Ridership was a little low this month, but Phil remained optimistic that pre-COVID numbers will be reached. For the winter season there was a steady flow of skilled applicants, and the city of Bishop is fully staffed. He continued that they are waiting for a lease agreement to go through for admin building and they were working on design. Commissioner Marcellin asked if propane rather than electric was on the alternative fuel list for buses. Phil said that propane was being phased out due to not being 0 emissions. Phil welcomed any of the commissioners to reach out to him with any further questions.

5. Caltrans Report

Karl and Maggie provided a monthly update. Commissioner Roeser had a question about closures on HWY 178 because peak season for tourism is soon. John recommended Caltrans Quick Maps Website. Commissioner Garcia had a question regarding the Bishop Pavement Project. He wanted to know if the crosswalk on Main and Church Street will be repainted. He was concerned about public safety because vehicles that drive North don't stop for pedestrians. Maggie was going to take this to the design team. Commissioner Roeser asked where the Bishop Pavement Project is in the design phase. Maggie expressed that the design was completed, and they went to public comment recently. Completion is expected in Fall 2024.

Neil provided an update for Lindsay Hart who is the temporary climate planning manager for Caltrans. It is expected that emergency work is going to become more common therefore techniques such as an Arizona Crossings would be beneficial for preventative measures. Caltrans planning department proposed a trends analysis that demonstrated damage on the roads vs where there might be future damages. The goal is to see if the plan and the reality are correct. Commissioner Roeser requested to see the different methods Inyo County could implement in prevent damages on Inyo County roads. Neil would follow up.

6. Tribal Report: N/A

7. DVNP Report: N/A

8. USFS Report: N/A

9. Executive Director's Report : John Pickney filled in for Mike Errante. He presented an LTC map that lists a description of each project as well as the location. Commissioner Ray asked if there are any updates on Whitney Portal Road. John explained that there are 2 projects, one with Matt Clair that is almost finished and one that is still in progress. The Public Works department is working on getting funding for the portion of Whitney Portal Road that has failed. Commissioner Ray wanted to make sure that when the road work is completed it is good quality work. John explained Public Works is working hard to get the appropriate tools and funding together.

10. Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC:

Commissioner Roeser had a request to put something on the agenda for next month. The Lone Pine Paiute Tribe sent a letter to the board requesting that a bypass be built, and she asked if this could be discussed. The other part of her report was on the Buttermilk Road, and she updated

everyone on the progress. The last thing she wanted to discuss was the GIS Layer. She wanted John Pickney to share this with the commission, and she thought it would be helpful to them. Commissioner Garcia cannot attend the next meeting. John suggested that usually the Commission likes to combine the November and December meetings. Justine will follow up. Commissioner Ray wanted to attend the next Kern COG meeting and help this move forward. Commissioner Ray also wanted to work on community involvement. He suggested Lone Pine Town Hall might be a good place to get the community together.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned until 9 a.m., Wednesday October 18, 2023, Independence Board Chambers

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- Final RTP public hearing & adoption
- Airport presentation
- Final 2024 RTIP and 2024 STIP
- FY23-24 OWP Amendment (FY22-23 RPA Rollover & STPG)

Discussion Items

- 2023 Draft Update Inyo County Active Transportation Plan
- Cycle 7 Active Transportation Grant program
- Draft 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program
- 8:00 meeting start time discussion



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Michael Errante
Executive Director

STAFF REPORT

MEETING: October 18, 2023

PREPARED BY: Justine Kokx, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: **Discussion Item** Draft 2023 Update to the Inyo County Active Transportation Plan

Discussion

The Inyo County Active Transportation Plan (Plan) was last updated in 2015. Since that time, changes have occurred in the active transportation realm that have prompted the need for an updated Plan. Funding structures have evolved to place a greater emphasis on active transportation modes; the Active Transportation grant program administered by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans has grown highly competitive and has grown significantly; recent public comment on regional plans has overwhelmingly revealed strong support for active transportation and safety improvements in Inyo County, such as, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and crossing infrastructure. Furthermore, state and federal funding structures have been increasingly prioritizing funding for greenhouse gas reducing projects. A primary purpose of the Active Transportation Plan is to put the City and County in a better place to apply for bicycle and pedestrian grants.

The Plan is designed to be consistent with the Goals and Policies of A) the Inyo County General Plan, B) the City of Bishop General Plan, C) the Downtown Bishop Specific Plan and Mixed-Use Overlay and D) the Inyo County LTC Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and prioritizes active transportation projects in the City of Bishop and throughout the County.

Recommended Action

The draft Active Transportation Plan is linked [here](#) and is located on the Inyo County LTC website under “Planning Documents and Studies.” <https://www.inyocounty.us/services/public-works/inyo-county-local-transportation-commission> Staff is seeking Commissioner and public input to ensure the Plan addresses the active transportation needs and goals of individual communities and Inyo County residents. Please provide any comments to jkokx@inyocounty.us prior to November 29th.



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STAFF REPORT

MEETING: October 18, 2023

PREPARED BY: Justine Kokx, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: **Discussion Item** Update to the Cycle 7 Active Transportation Grant Program

Discussion

Active Transportation Program grant update:

California Transportation Commission (CTC) has kicked off the Cycle 7 guidelines workshops and will release a call for ATP grant applications in March 2024 with a deadline of June 30, 2024. The purpose of the program is to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. The ATP grant program has evolved to benefit DAC's, with 96% of Cycle 6 funding awarded in those communities. The program anticipates \$555.5M in ATP funding. Project components need to be programmed in 2025/2026, 26/27, 27/28 and 28/29 funding years. Your Commission has already approved an amendment to the contract with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. to assist with an ATP grant application.

The CTC offers the opportunity to consult with applicants via "virtual site visits." The site visits are intended to offer guidance and expertise in how to develop a competitive project and grant application. Staff will request a virtual site visit as soon as possible, after the development of a preliminary scoping of the chosen project.

Recommended Action

Commissioners are being asked to provide their support for staff to pursue ATP grant funds on the projects that have a likelihood of strong community support and competitiveness. In April 2023, your Commission provided feedback and priorities for several possible project ideas that had been carried forward for several years. Staff have further narrowed that list down to projects that are most likely to have the potential to win grant funding, based on need, potential for increasing walking and biking, and disadvantaged status. Staff is asking your Commission to approve these projects as the focus for this next Cycle 7, and to allow staff to rearrange should the feasibility of one project take precedence over another.

The projects are listed below.

Inyo County ATP Project List Focus for Cycle 7

Project Name and Location	Discussion
Old Spanish Trail Highway, Furnace Creek, Tecopa Hot Springs, Downey Rd	Links to important community destinations in a highly disadvantaged community. There is a strong interest by the community in adding bike lanes based on initial community outreach.
Barlow Lane sidewalk and bicycle lanes between SR 168 & US 395	The proposed project is on a County road right of way across the Bishop Reservation. Large transverse cracks make it that bicycles now avoid the use of the Class I bicycle facility. The bicycle lane would link bike lanes of North Sierra Highway and South of West Line Street. The Bishop Tribe would need to agree to this project.
See Vee Lane, add a sidewalk to the bus stop on 395, Diaz Ln add sidewalks, Indian Path from See Vee Lane to Schools	The proposed project is on a County road right of way within the Bishop Reservation. The Bishop Tribe would need to agree to this project. SRTS.
Big Pine Tribe's Bartell to Blake project	Continue to provide County support and resources as needed. The proposed project is on a County road right of way across the Big Pine Reservation. SRTS.



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Executive Director

S T A F F R E P O R T

MEETING: October 18, 2023

PREPARED BY: Justine Kokx, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Discussion Item 2024 Draft RTIP

Discussion

Every two years, the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission is required to develop a Regional Transportation Improvement Program, a five-year program for planned transportation projects. The RTIP specifies project cost amounts by project components and the fiscal year in which funds are available for a project. The RTIP is due to be submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by December 15, 2023. The CTC is scheduled to approve each county’s RTIP on March 21-22, 2024, at which point the Inyo RTIP becomes part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is updated every two years and covers a five-year funding period. The 2024 STIP will cover the five years between FY 2023-2024 through FY 2027-2028. Here is the timeline for the consideration of the 2024 STIP.

Timeline for 2024 STIP	
CTC adopts Fund Estimate	August 16-17, 2023
Caltrans District 9 identifies state highway needs	September 15, 2023
Caltrans submits Draft ITIP	October 15, 2023
Inyo County LTC adopts Final RTIP & Public Hearing	November 29, 2023
Inyo County LTC submits adopted RTIP	December 15, 2023
Caltrans submits final Interregional Program (ITIP)	December 15, 2023
CTC South State hearing	February 1, 2024
CTC publishes staff recommendations	March 1, 2024
CTC adopts STIP	March 21-22, 2024

Background

For several STIP cycles (two decades), Inyo County has been prioritizing the construction of the MOU formula funded Olancha Cartage four-lane project, as well as Freeman Gulch Phase 1 in Kern County.

As a result, Inyo has been “in the negative,” using advanced STIP shares to inch a few projects along. This negative balance has generally prevented Inyo from developing new projects.

During the 2022 STIP cycle, Covid relief funding was made available to program projects in the STIP. Inyo opted to use the Covid funds to fully fund the East Line Street Bridge project. The remaining Covid relief funds were programmed to supplement the Lone Pine ADA sidewalk ATP project. Staff is recommending the continued programming of those projects in the 2024 RTIP using those Covid relief funds, which must be obligated by September 2024. In 2022, your Commission also intended to program the construction phase of the Lone Pine Town Streets rehabilitation project, which was later rejected by the CTC due to exceeding the allowable number (or percentage) of advanced shares. There is still not enough capacity in Inyo’s 2024 STIP shares to fully fund the projected cost of this project.

Kern Cog owes Inyo County \$6.5 million due to Inyo and Mono Counties’ fully funding the construction of Freeman Gulch phase 1 in 2016. This year staff have been engaged in conversations with Kern Cog to request that their RTIP fund the construction phase of Lone Pine Town Streets rehabilitation project of \$3.4 million. If approved by Kern Cog’s Board, this would significantly reduce the amount owed to Inyo by Kern and would greatly assist Inyo to achieve completion of a much-needed project in south County.

For the 2024 RTIP, staff recommends that your Commission program \$2.5 million as state match for the FLAP grant to reconstruct Stateline Road in southeast Inyo County. The total cost of this FLAP grant-funded project is projected to be over \$20 million. Planning, Programming and Monitoring funds (PPM) are calculated at \$611 thousand and are spread throughout the five years. As currently proposed, the 2024 RTIP programming exceeds the amount of available STIP shares by \$402 thousand. If the advancement is again denied by the CTC, the remaining FLAP match would need to be funded in the next 2026 STIP /RTIP cycle, or by a different funding source, such as RMRA.

Looking Forward

Inyo County will likely be in the position of having some capacity in future STIP cycles. While STIP funding has fallen significantly in the last decade, it remains a significant source of funding for regions to accomplish important projects. The ICLTC will need to identify projects to prioritize for the 2026 and 2028 STIP cycles. In order to be eligible to be programmed in the RTIP, a capital project must have been evaluated through the Project Study Report (PSR) or an equivalent analysis.

It remains unknown whether Inyo County will be responsible for a portion of cost overruns of the Olancho Cartago four-lane project, or if state and federal funds will be successfully leveraged to cover those additional costs. Construction is scheduled to continue through 2024, and Caltrans has been proactive in keeping staff and Commissioners informed of the progress.

See the 2024 Inyo County DRAFT RTIP table below

(\$1,000)

Inyo

Agency	Rte	PPNO	Project	Ext	Del	Voted	Total	Project Totals by Fiscal Year						Project Totals by Component						
								Prior	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	R/W	Const	E & P	PS&E	R/W Sup	Con Sup
PROPOSED 2024 PROGRAMMING																				
Inyo LTC		1010	Planning, programming, and monitoring				611	0	157	155	100	100	100	0	0	611	0	0	0	0
			State Line Road FLAP 11.47% match				2,535						2,535		2,535					
							0													
							0													
			Subtotal, Highway Proposals				3,146													
			Total Proposed 2024 STIP Programming \$2,742,000				3,146													
COVID Projects																				
Bishop	loc	2658	East Line Street Bridge, replacement				1,531	0	128	1,403	0	0	0	0	0	1,403	0	128	0	0
Inyo LTC	loc	5948	Lone Pine sidewalk ADA project -ATP				226	226	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Subtotal, Highway Proposals				1,757													
			Total STIP COVID Programming				1,757													
Balance of STIP COVID County Share, Inyo																				
			Total County Share, June 30, 2023				1,757													
			Total Now Programmed				0													
			Unprogrammed Share Balance				1,757													
			Share Balance Advanced or Overdrawn																	
			Proposed New Programming				1,757													
			Target				0													
			Under (Over) Target				0													

STAFF REPORT

Subject: Executive Director's Report
Presented by: Phil Moores, Executive Director

Employee of the Quarter


A few years back, we started a recognition program based on coworker feedback. ESTA's Employee of the Quarter is not selected by me or a single manager, but instead a committee of past winners and coworkers review nominations and passenger compliments.

Larry Clark is the winner for the last quarter, and a more deserved winner we have never had. He is dependable, hardworking, and a gentleman of rare compassion and steady demeanor. For over 21 years (he is #2 in the company behind Carla Whistler at 24 years) Larry has served our communities carrying folks safely through their lives to work, play, treatment, shopping, school, and everything else. We all sincerely thank you Larry for the years of kind service.

Finance News

ESTA continues to maintain a solid financial position after the closing of the books for FY22-23. Since my arrival, I have endeavored to create more regular full and part-time employees. Our reliance on seasonal and non-benefitted employees was ballooning our training and unemployment costs, not to mention the detrimental effects on safety that new workers bring. Here is a table describing our efforts:

Year	Unemployment Costs
FY18-19	\$32,035
FY19-20	\$56,213
FY20-21	\$24,239
FY21-22	\$2,065
FY22-23	\$1,474



Legislative Update

As a member of the California Association for Coordinated Transportation Legislative Committee, I reviewed a draft Notice of Funding Opportunity from the California State Transportation Agency. The Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program was created by Senate Bill 862 in 2014. \$300,000 in base formula funding will come through both Mono and Inyo Local Transportation Committees (LTC) with a call for projects around December 1st this year. ESTA

plans to work with the LTC's on eligible projects such as an onboard payment system and new buses.

Passenger Report

Pam Mitchell was telling an ESTA driver about the difficulty she had in traveling south for medical appointments. The cost and logistics were a real challenge for her. The driver told her about the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program (NEMT) designed to reimburse travelers for trips relating to medical treatment. The program requires a driver other than the patient and delivers a check in the mail to the participant. You should have heard her voice when describing the value of the NEMT program. "Every dollar counts!", says Ms. Mitchell, "It was a such a great surprise to find that check in the mail, THANK YOU".

Ms. Mitchell's story is a good example of what ESTA employees do every day. This next story demonstrates the depth of ESTA's compassion and community involvement. On Saturday, September 9th, Ronnie was in distress. The day before, she packed up all her belongings and was prepared to travel to Washington State to get some support from family there. Trouble began when her car was towed, and she ended up in jail for the night (reasons are irrelevant). The car was impounded, with her cell phone charger, and nothing was open till Monday. She called Mammoth dispatcher, Steve Irwin, throwing a Hail Mary for a bus. Steve and Ronnie determined Lancaster was her best bet for support amongst friends.

Gary Schmidt was driving the new Saturday North 395 Reno route down to Bishop. As he travelled with Ronnie, he realized she was not familiar with public transit and had no resources to secure a room till the South 395 Lancaster departed Monday morning. Naturally, he called Bishop dispatcher Bonnie Burmeister and her husband, Paster Andy. In short order, Ronnie was traveling to the Burmeister home for lodging and love till Monday. Bonnie made sure Ronnie caught the bus Monday.

Steve, Gary, and Bonnie showed true community spirit in keeping Ronnie safe, hopeful, and helped. I am proud to work with such outstanding men and women here at ESTA.

Service

On October 18th at the Mammoth Lakes Town Council meeting, there will be a public meeting regarding several system changes in town. Several projects are affecting the existing system:

1. Community Recreation Center

2. The Parcel housing
3. The Woodman Turnaround

As a result of these projects realignment of several routes is being proposed.

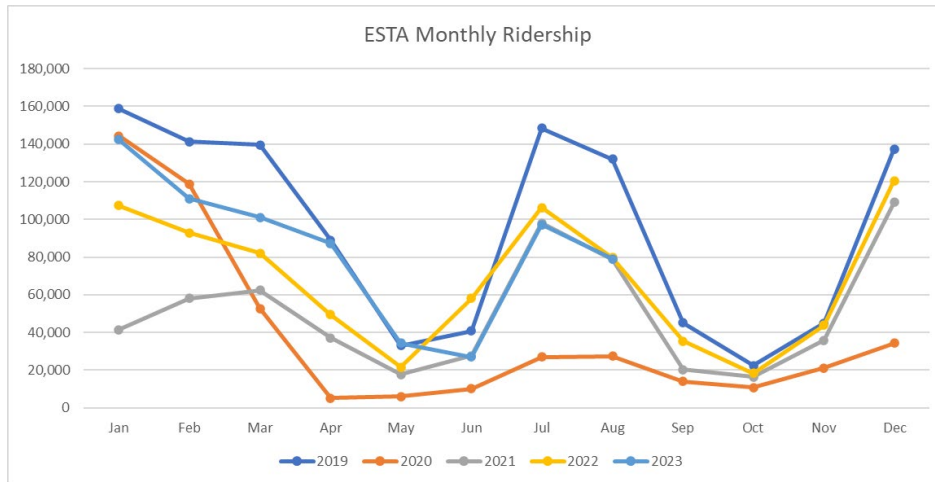
November 10th marks the official start of Mountain Ski Area operations and the ESTA winter service schedule.

Ridership

ESTA’s ridership is slowing down and leveling off since Covid 2020. There were no significant service cancellations affecting ridership.

August Ridership Report							
Route	Pre-Covid 2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change Current vs. Last year	% Change Current vs Pre-Covid
BEN	37	7	4	11	11	0	-70%
BISDAR	3,910	2,158	3,161	3,634	4,037	403	3%
BPTCAR	6	12	2	14	15	1	150%
LANC	754	290	605	634	810	176	7%
LP/BIS	390	165	287	399	424	25	9%
LPDAR	360	312	374	502	412	-90	14%
MAMFR	60,117	23,164	36,067	37,704	36,403	-1,301	-39%
MDAR	352	79	134	164	258	94	-27%
MXP	514	274	258	369	581	212	13%
NRIDER	387	78	223	280	321	41	-17%
REDS	63,221	0	36,346	34,681	34,537	-144	-45%
RENO	1,246	560	1,001	1,246	1,094	-152	0%
WLK	132	20	10	5	28	23	0%
Total	131,426	27,119	78,472	79,643	78,931	-712	-40%

The chart below shows the ridership by month since pre-Covid. The blue line is 2019, and the light blue line is 2023. The ridership comeback to pre-Covid is slowing down.



Grant News

We were awarded four new buses this month through the Federal 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities grant program. Dawn Vidal wrote and submitted this successful grant application. The buses will be used for fixed route and dial a ride in both Mammoth and Bishop. A purchase order will be issued soon.

Staffing

ESTA continues to attract solid applicants and administratively we are fully staffed. We can always use more drivers, but we have enough to execute the winter schedule.

Training

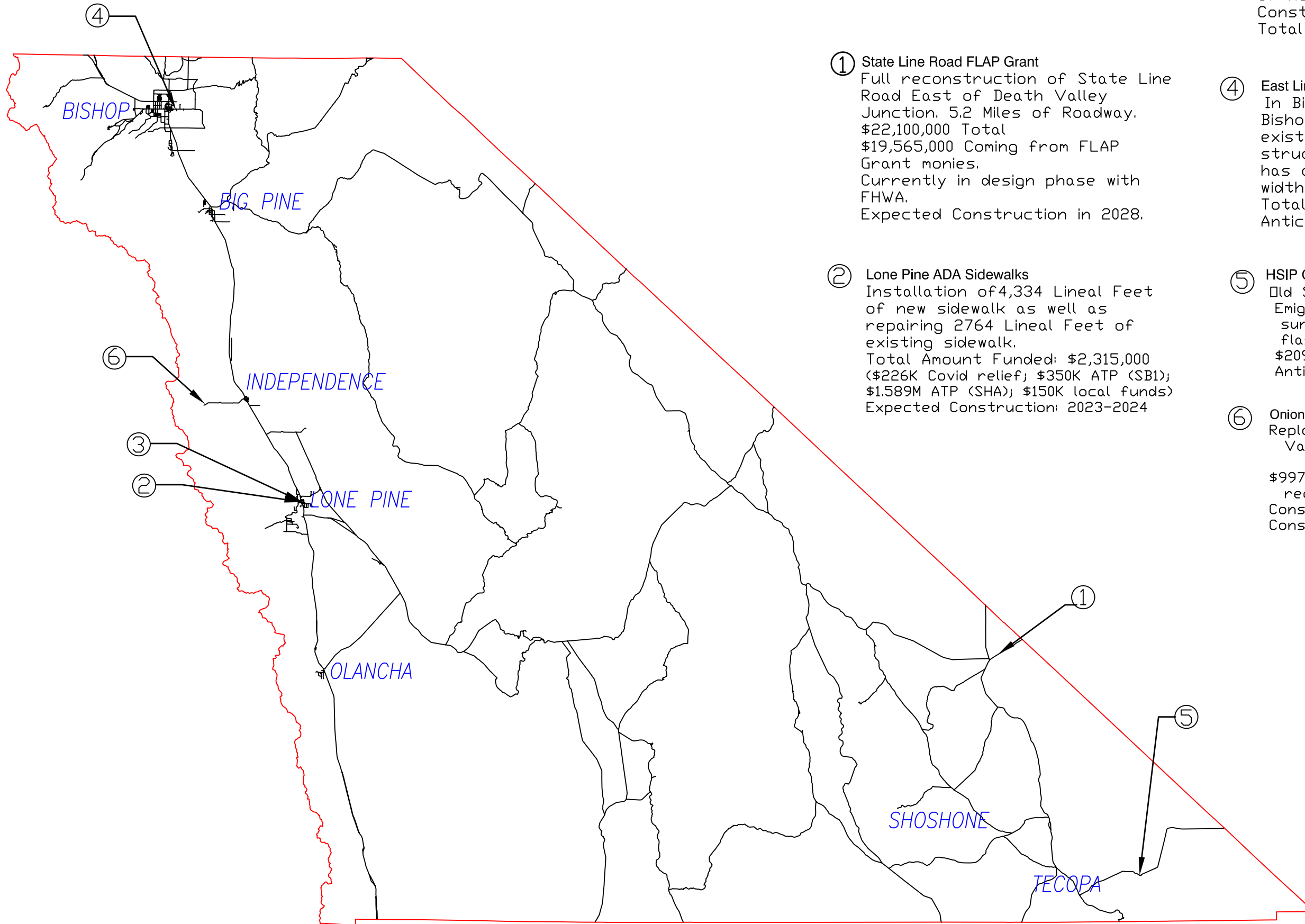
On November 7 & 8, ESTA will hold a companywide training designed to improve interpersonal communication. Agreement Dynamics has been training on communication for many years and understands transit. Staff has worked very hard for many years to make ESTA a premier employer in the region that attracts employees from all walks of life. However, along with a diverse workforce comes challenges in communication, and Agreement Dynamics will help us with that.

Marketing & Information Technology

The children's outreach program All Aboard will be launched on November 8th at the Mammoth Library children's book reading. This program has been over a year in the making and involved many ESTA staff including Karina Morales, Dawn Vidal, Phil Therien, Linda Robinson, and myself. The next page is the flyer created for the program.

Inyo County LTC Projects

10/18/2023



① State Line Road FLAP Grant
 Full reconstruction of State Line Road East of Death Valley Junction. 5.2 Miles of Roadway. \$22,100,000 Total \$19,565,000 Coming from FLAP Grant monies. Currently in design phase with FHWA. Expected Construction in 2028.

② Lone Pine ADA Sidewalks
 Installation of 4,334 Lineal Feet of new sidewalk as well as repairing 2764 Lineal Feet of existing sidewalk. Total Amount Funded: \$2,315,000 (\$226K Covid relief; \$350K ATP (SB1); \$1.589M ATP (SHA); \$150K local funds) Expected Construction: 2023-2024

③ Lone Pine Town Streets Rehabilitation
 Repaving of 18 Road Miles within the town of Lone Pine with 2.5" of Hot Mix Asphalt. Construction expected in 2025. Total Amount Funded: \$3,400,000

④ East Line Street Bridge
 In Bishop on East Line Street at Bishop Creek Canal. Replace the existing 18.5 foot span wide structure with a new bridge that has a 30 foot span and 60 foot width. Total Proposed cost \$1,531,000. Anticipated Construction: 2027.

⑤ HSIP Grant (Emigrant Pass)
 Old Spanish Trail Hwy (1.2 miles) Emigrant Pass - High friction surface treatment, chevron signs, flashing beacon \$209,600 (\$188,640 HSIP funds) Anticipated Construction: Sept 2025

⑥ Onion Valley Guardrail Project
 Replacement of Guardrails along Onion Valley Road in various locations. \$997,000 Grant with no match required. Construction Contract Awarded. Construction starts within the month.