



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



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Michael Errante, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

On-line Only

August 17, 2022

9:02 a.m. Open Meeting

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Stephen Muchovej

Jennifer Roeser

Celeste Berg

Rick Pucci

Doug Thompson

Jose Garcia

Others Present:

Deston Dishion City of Bishop

Neil Peacock Caltrans

Adam Weitzmann Caltrans

Matt Lamar Death Valley National Park

Jenny Parks IMAH

Phil Moores ESTA

John Pinckney Inyo County Public Works

Michael Errante Inyo County Public Works

2. Public Comment

No Comment

ACTION ITEMS

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission - Request your Commission authorize future meetings during a state of emergency to be conducted virtually, in accordance with AB 361.

- b. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of June 15, 2022.
- c. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission - Request approval of the minutes of the Special AB361 meeting of July 20, 2022.
- d. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission – Request your Commission authorize the Executive Director to sign the Biennial ICLTC conflict of interest report.
- e. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission – Request your Commission approve via Resolution No. 2022-07 that 1) approves ESTA’s State of Good Repair project list, and 2) authorize the LTC Executive Director to sign related documents related to the State of Good Repair program for FY 2022-2023.

***Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Muchovej and seconded by Commissioner Garcia. All in favor.**

4. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission - Request your Commission approve via Minute Order Amendment No. 3 to the contract with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc.

LTC staff, Justine Kokx summarized the existing contract in place between Inyo County and LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., and the deliverables that have been completed and are in progress; 2019 RTP, ATP grant for Lone Pine sidewalks, LRSP and 2023 RTP. Requesting additional scope and time to funds three grant proposals, HSIP, Sustainable Transportation Planning grant for EV feasibility, And ATP Cycle 7 in 2023-2024.

Commissioner Roeser asked about the procedure for deciding upon a project for the ATP grant program. Justine said the project must be cited in the current RTP, and in the Active Transportation Plan. Inyo County’s Active Transportation Plan is from 2015 and is becoming dated. It would be ideal to update prior to the next ATP grant cycle. John Pinckney clarified that the projects need to be competitive and would need to score highly (>90%). also mentioned that the current ATP project in Lone Pine is now underfunded. Commission may see a request form staff to apply for a second ATP grant proposal for that project. Any ATP project would be brought by staff to the Commission for approval to move forward. Several projects have already been identified as having potential, City of Bishop has recently applied, Big Pine and Tecopa bike lanes.

Commissioner Roeser brought up the potential to bring projects forward that are connected to existing enhancements, such as the Fish Springs project, and sidewalks safety enhancement on 395 to 168.

***Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Garcia. All in favor.**

5. Staff of the Local Transportation Commission – Request your Commission rescind Resolution No. 2022-04, and approve Resolution No. 2022-08, accepting ESAAA’s declination of two years’ worth of LTF funds, re-allocating ESAAA’s allocation of FY 2022-2023 Local Transportation Funds of \$37,050 to ESTA, and re-allocating the FY 2021-2022 distribution of \$38,022 to ESTA.

Justine explained the complications ESAAA would have to overcome to be able to conduct an expanded fiscal audit per the TDA and per the latest triennial performance audit, and that ESAAA staff have concluded it is not worth the expense for such a small amount of money (<\$40,000). ESAAA will decline FY 2022-2023 allocation and will return the FY2021-2022 distribution.

***Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Muchovej. All in favor.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Local Road Safety Plan Memo

Justine summarized the LRSP initial memo. Commissioner Muchovej asked about the confusing ranking in the LRSP comparing overall safety rankings. Higher is better, but it intuitively reads that higher should be lower ranking. He asked that we ask LSC to clarify the confusing ranking system in the narrative. Commissioner Thompson also mentioned the Caltrans traffic counts are static from year to year. Justine will follow up with LSC about this as well. John Pinckney mentioned that the LTC purchased an additional traffic counter that has been used this summer to count traffic on three mountain roads (Horseshoe Meadows, Onion Valley, and Glacier Roads). Commission can direct staff to use it elsewhere if desired. ICLTC is using OWP funding to bring pavement management system in house, to better understand the safety needs on local roads. Commissioners might want to consider picking up another traffic counter. Whitney Portal has not been looked at since previous FLAP grant. It could be used to collect more data for other grants or transit projects. John Pinckney recapped that the counters are positioned to capture the most desirable information and to maximize ADT to win a grant. Commissioner Roeser expressed appreciation for the work that was done by the FLAP grant and the emergency work done by the County on South Lake Road. Commissioner Muchovej conversely mentioned the poor condition of Upper Rock Creek where it becomes Inyo County. Commissioner Thompson brought up the other FLAP grants that have been awarded for Whitney Portal and State Line Road. Commissioner Roeser thought it was smart to choose State Line Road and then hook it up with the Nevada side that is also receiving funding. Commissioner Muchovej asked who maintains the North Lake Road before the creek crossing. He would like day-use only signs placed at that part of the parking area; it looks like it is being used for overnight parking. Road superintendent Shannon Platt joined briefly and said he will have someone take care of placing signage there. Commissioner Thompson brought up the Inyo National Forest Alternative Transportation Study from 2013. Need a copy of this, it could be useful for future grants. There is just so much traffic, and many are parking 3-4 weeks at a time.

7. Letter of Support for Reconnecting Communities Grant Program

Neil Peacock talked about the challenges communities face along the Highway 395 corridor regarding pedestrian crossing, parking, bicycle safety, etc. The letter was supposed to be ratified by the Commission this meeting, but it turns out we did not get the grant. The planning study was going to look at design features for consistency and continuity, safety treatments, along the communities, while at the same time allowing the communities to put their own community-level “brand” on it. Unfortunately, there was a limit of only three state-led applications for funding, and our district were not chosen. Does not want to put the burden of this scale of a project on any single county r city. Informational, will continue efforts in house. Commissioner Muchovej asked why we were not chosen? We were not chosen basically because there is a lot of need. Only three were allowed to be State led. One on the North coast, another in a port community, another in Central Valley. Will there be available in the future? Yes. Perhaps this is one that the “SCOG” could deliver on. Commissioner Roeser agreed. Asked if we need to obtain more political support, more partnerships, the two counties? Our role is to garner political support. Neil thanked her for the offer and support, wants to continue the momentum, and working angles. Headquarters clearly “gets it”. It was too much to ask one our locals to take on the fiduciary pass-through role for the Reconnecting Communities grant. Chair Berg echoed Commissioner Roeser’s appreciation for the efforts Neil and Caltrans have made and looks forward to updates.

8. ESTA Report - Chair Berg loved the bus naming program in honor of retired employees and congratulated Phil on the risk management award.

- Executive Director’s Report

Phil reported that Inyo County services have now exceed pre-Covid numbers. Recent short range transit plan has suggested that we buy larger vehicles for Lancaster, Reno services due to reaching max capacity during the summer. Will look at over the road coach with undercarriage luggage storage. It’s time to ensure we provide all the services we can during the summer. Phil shared a video of the new electric van that will do dial-a-ride services in Bishop. This is the first of 13 vehicles awarded for replacement. Recruitment has been improving. Maybe inflation is having an impact. Getting referrals from employees. Sign of a good culture and good place to work.

9. Tribal Report

10. DVNP Report – Matt Lamar of the National Park service expressed gratitude to the County for passing the resolution acknowledging the existence of a local emergency, and requesting the governor proclaim a state of emergency as a result of the flooding in Death Valley National Park. The recovery process is ongoing, working closely with Caltrans on the reopening of 190 through the Park. Highest priority is getting the famous landmarks open and accessible, Zabriskie point, Mesquite Sand Dunes, Visitor’s Center. Working to get the first 17 miles of Bad Water open to allow access to Bad Water Basin. There are lots of other areas of the Park that have seen extensive damage that will be closed a lot longer. They are pleased that this has been acknowledged at the federal level; the FHWA has released 11.7 million in emergency funding to the Park to take the first steps towards the long process of recovery. Really excited to open up what we can as soon as we can. But there is a lot still being assessed. >1000 miles of roadways,

Titus Canyon was severely damaged. Commissioner Roeser asked matt what 190 looks like south of Bad Water. He said it's definitely the worst part. Under 4-6 feet of mud currently.

11. Caltrans Report

Neil reported on staff changes. He reintroduced himself in a new capacity. Denee Alcala has been re-assigned as District-wide program manager of the Broadband Middle Mile project. Big project with lots of moving pieces. Neil has stepped in to serve as interim Acting Planning and Modal Programming manager over local programs and planning assistance. District 9 is also recruiting for a couple of positions to use for boots on the ground level assistance to help cities and counties deliver their state federally funded projects. It's part and parcel of their regional funding strategy effort. Neil has met with most of the partners and elected leaders. He'll be meeting with staff to mature the relationships and develop a focused process on how to provide that assistance via those two positions. Highway 190 will re-open on Friday. Contact public information officer to get on distribution list for traffic conditions (Christine Knadler christine.knadler@dot.ca.gov). See website for quarterly status of all projects.

12. City of Bishop Report

Deston reported hired a new Public Works director Nora Gamino from the USFS. Horace Allbright sidewalk project started this week, will be completed in two weeks. Another park project, working with SCE with their EV charger program, they will build all the infrastructure at no cost. E. Line St Bridge experienced a setback, the desing contractor finally completed their paperwork with Caltrans – a statewide issue – Caltrans has approved the consultant. Will be ready to get going in a month or so.

13. Executive Director's Report

Mike Errante updated the Commission on the North Round Valley Bridge progress. It is finally "out of the ground". Finished pouring the southern abutment, now forming the northern abutment. Girders were precast down south. Will be ready to install after abutments. Next is rock slope protection next to the structure, then pull the culverts that are currently diverting water, and finally restore the creek. On target for November for completion. Updated Commission about Lone Pine ATP project. Scope has had to shrink to meet the grant amount since 2018. Staff has put together a justification and spoken with Caltrans. The fear was that the scope has changed so much that we would lose the grant, but they say we can phase in the remaining portions of the grant. We may use RMRA funds to supplement. FAA inspected the airport. Plan to have a debriefing. Looks like compliant, just a few tweaks. Look forward to expanded service and a new terminal. Horseshoe Meadows Road – looking at a FLAP grant, but there's an immediate need on the narrow section, it's a little scary. Revisiting the original plans for retaining wall with a less expensive concrete cantilevered "bridge" to span the area. Will carry the load across that span. Have a new engineer, Nolan Ferguson. He is excited and he is helping us to get caught up with workload. Mike is optimistic we are better positioned now to go after grants in the future. We want to be prudent to make sure we take on grants that we can deliver. Commissioner Roeser asked Mike when in November he thinks the N. Round Valley bridge will be opened. He wants to say early, but don't hold him to it. Would like to have a ribbon cutting before Thanksgiving. Jen also brought up that the concrete bridge on Horseshoe Meadows Road needs to carry a 30,000 lb. load for pack animals. Mike says looking at bridge deck. It will be designed to carry the heavy loads.

14. Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Commissioner Thompson wanted to thank the County engineer (road crews) for all the great work he's done. A couple weeks ago we had a rockslide that trapped 50-75 people at the Whitney Portal area. Within in an hour they had road crews moving rocks off the road. Law enforcement was able to escort people down Hogback Rd. At the same time Lone Pine campground was flooded. The next 4-5 days it was closed, but there was support letting people know there was access. Really appreciates the County and Caltrans for all the work they do. Mike thanks Doug for the acknowledgement. *Mike was interrupted by Commissioner Muchovej's new puppy.*

Commissioner Roeser echoed gratitude to the County road crews. Also, expressed thanks to Caltrans, Neil and Denee for their expertise. Constituents at Bishop Creek are wanting to install EV stations. An organization connected her with Rivian. Really interesting to see how Rivian is operating and looking to install universal EV stations. Also, RCRC is putting together a strategic plan that will assist rural counties in identifying assets, opportunities, viable locations, and resources for installing EV charging infrastructure. Neil of Caltrans asked that EV charging be put on the next month's agenda. District 9 is putting a lot of effort into positioning themselves proactively. Would like to discuss alternative fueling corridors, and the issue of engaging multiple vendors, and how to allow Locals to go directly after that funding for spot stations. A lot of details to discuss, including requesting 2-mile exemptions off the corridor, etc. More to come.

Commissioner Roeser asked about September 21st, she has a conflict with the grand jury. Can we change the date to the 28th? All concurred that the 28th would work best.

CORRESPONDENCE

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 10:18 until 9 a.m., Wednesday September 28, 2022

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- MOU and negotiations Inyo County LTC, Mono County LTC, and Kern Cog
- HSIP grant
- Final RPA invoice for FY 2022-23
- LTF Reserve Distribution
- Revised TDA claim forms
- EV readiness