



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



P.O. DRAWER Q
INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526
PHONE: (760) 878-0201
FAX: (760) 878-2001

Michael Errante, Executive Director

MINUTES

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

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

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

9:07 a.m. Open Meeting

Commissioner Stephen Muchovej participated virtually from his residence.

Commissioner Scott Marcellin participated virtually from his residence.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Present

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

Others Present

Nora Gamino: City of Bishop Public Works Director
Justine Kokx: LTC Transportation Planner
Kristina Amaya: Inyo County
Walt & Kathleen Hoffman: Benton Residents and avid cyclist
Erin Gilpin: Bishop Resident
Phil Moores: ESTA
Gary Milici

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

Ana, City of Bishop
Cindy Duriscoe: Big Pine Tribe
Ashley Helms: Deputy Director of Airports
Karen Kong City of Bishop
Sustainable Recreation Design: Zoom Meeting
Deston Dishion: Bishop City Administrator
Robert Strub; Lone Pine Resident
Sabine Elia: Lone Pine Resident
Maggie Ritter: Caltrans
Jill Tognazzini: Caltrans
Annelise Quintanar: Caltrans
Andrew Besold: Caltrans
L. Hart: Caltrans

2. Public Comment

Robert Strub requested a correction to the September 27, 2023, minutes to reflect his statements about the RTP more accurately, specifically, to include an evaluation of the viewshed along Hwy 395 of areas not visible from 6' above the roadway. He would like this evaluation shown in the RTP. He provided copies with the corrected verbiage.

Walt Hoffman of Benton expressed appreciation for the bike racks that were installed on ESTA's new vehicles. Maybe sturdier racks would be good, but these racks work. Walt is concerned about bike lanes in Bishop. There is a conflict between vehicles and bicyclists near the Presbyterian church. Not able to use sidewalk here because it's illegal on a bike, so you end up in the lane due to the gutter in the bike path. He suggested that better signage and painted green arrows (sharrows) would alert drivers that bicyclists share the road. He recommended adding sharrows heading south from Elm Street to South St. and heading north from South St. to the City Park.

Erin Gilpin of Bishop added to Walt's comment and agreed with the sharrow suggestion. She bikes around Bishop daily with her children. She expressed concern about the bike lane along the northern portion of 395 that turns into a gutter. She would like improvements there.

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 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.)*

**** Approval of Remote Meeting Participation for Commissioner Marcellin and Muchovej motioned by Commissioner Jennifer Roeser and Seconded by Vice Chair Jeffery Ray. All in Favor.**

2. Consent Agenda

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

****Approval of the minutes (with the corrections requested by Mr. Strub) and the consent agenda motioned by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Muchovej. All in favor.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Draft 2023 Update to the Inyo County Active Transportation Plan

Justine presented information about the ATP (active transportation plan) and requested feedback from the Commission and the public.

Commissioner Roeser would like to see a project in Big Pine, commonly known as Veterans Path, highlighted more in the ATP. Justine concurred that this project should be better highlighted and responded will follow up with this request. The Fish Springs Pavement Project is coming in 2025 and it could align well if we applied the next cycle for that potential project. The Big Pine community needs to provide input and support for this project.

Commissioner Marcellin requested that the Pathways to Schools Project continue to be included in the ATP for the Bishop Tribe.

Commissioner Muchovej agreed with this and commented that he would like to see more highlighted in the ATP about safe walkways and paths to help kids walk to and from school in the Bishop area.

Justine commented that she is still going over the plan and will note these projects.

Andy Besold of Caltrans suggested referencing the Association of Bicycle Professionals' (APBP) guidelines for bike parking; they set the gold standard for these designs.

Andy also added the idea of altering the US Bicycle Route 85 to include County roads that are off the highway. Justine will make sure the USBR will be added to the ATP.

Vice Chair Ray asked if there was money available to fund improvements to the USBR? No. More to come, Commissioner Muchovej requested a future discussion or workshop to revisit the USBR 85 route.

Commissioner Roeser also added to make sure the Towns to Trails project is referenced in the ATP. It is.

4. Potential County Projects for Cycle 7 Active Transportation Grant Program

Justine addressed the Commissioners about narrowing the project list down. The program is highly geared towards disadvantaged communities, such as Tecopa, or on a Tribe. Tribes get the points automatically. Justine is interested in working with the Bishop Paiute Tribe to help

improve the safety of routes to school. If that is not possible, would like to shift focus to the Tecopa area. Justine and Kristina participated at an event in Tecopa to conduct outreach and received an enthusiastic response.

Commissioner Roeser and Chair Berg both agreed that advocating for these disadvantaged areas would greatly improve the community. Commissioner Marcellin offered to help facilitate a discussion with the Tribe.

Andy Besold of Caltrans agreed with these priorities for this Cycle.

5. Draft 2024 Inyo County Regional Transportation Improvement Plan

6. Change the start time for LTC meetings to 8:00 a.m.

The Commission and LTC staff are all in favor of the 8:00 a.m. start time. Justine and the Commission will go over the details and then include this motion as the first action item in the November/ Dec meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. Ashley Helms, Airports Presentation: Ashley recapped the summer season and explained what she is looking forward to this winter season. This summer there were daily flights to SF. The summer service load factor (percentage of seats that are occupied) was down for the season, but they are hoping to see improvements and see more flights added. For the winter season flights to San Francisco will start on Dec 14th and flights to Dever will start on the Dec 21st. United is showing 7 days a week to both destinations, but United hinted that they may drop selected mid-week San Francisco flights. Last year in November United looked forward at booking numbers and removed flights that were particularly low; then added those flights back in April to extend the Spring season. There is a pilot shortage and United is trying to conserve hours. Both flights will end on the 30th of March with the hope that San Francisco flights continue onto April. Regarding revenue, the airport is doing well. Ground transportation to take people to and from Bishop and Mammoth will be similar to the last two years.

Commissioner Roeser requested an update on the transition to the new aircraft. The County hired a consultation to create new approach procedures to allow United/SkyWest to operate the Embraer 175 at the Bishop Airport. The FAA approved the procedures in Aug, and they took effect Oct 5. Unfortunately, this did not give SkyWest time to complete staff training prior to the Dec14th start date, so the transition will occur later in the season. Commissioner Roeser commented to the public that the Northern Inyo Airport Advisory committee meets every quarter and Ashley, and her staff organize it. The date is November 5th at 5pm and located at the Bishop Airport.

8. City of Bishop Report: Nora presented updates on the Whitney Alley Project and unfortunately the project was not awarded the Clean California Grant. They are looking for other funds and are still moving forward with the design. They removed the pocket park for now to keep focus. East Line Bridge is moving forward and is expected to have a design completed in about a year. Looking at refining the drainage issues in the area. Commissioner Roeser asked Nora to ensure the DWP lessee will be included in the drainage design/outreach. Finally, the South Warren

Street Improvement Project is moving along. The design was started in 2014 and the goal was to make Warren Street an alternative to Main Street.

9. ESTA Executive Director's Report: Phil referred to the Director's report and asked if there were any questions. Chair Berg and Commissioner Roeser loved the employee appreciation in the ESTA report. Vice Chair Ray expressed appreciation to Phil for the routes and drivers in the South. Commissioner Muchovej appreciated the shift from seasonal to full time employees. Chair Berg asked about TIRCP funding. Phil explained to the Board how CALACT represents rural transit agencies and watches the state senate bills. He is a part of their Legislative committee. TIRCP will allocate to Mono and Inyo LTC's 300K in formula funding. Will bring to the January meeting.

Commissioner Marcellin asked Phil if he was aware of the hydrogen plants being built on the East coast, and now CA has funding/ Governor has interest in funding hydrogen plants. \$1.2 B in funding for SoCal. In Lancaster? Phil is interested in getting more info, he's a fan of hydrogen.

10. Caltrans Report:

- Presentation by Jill Tognazzini of Caltrans, Bishop Pavement Project

Jill provided an overview of the upcoming project, the schedule, design to be complete in April 2024, construction to begin anticipated in the fall of 2024. Jay street along 395, around fairgrounds to N. Barlow Lane. Laos Mian street to Pioneer Lane on Line Street. Rehab roadway is primary goal, will include drainage improvements, adding pedestrian bicycle facilities, etc. \$25 M.

Commissioner Muchovej asked about the flashing beacons, are they the same as the flashing red beacons near the City Park and on Line Street? No, they will flash a yellow warning sign. Jill explained that no warrants (or conditions) were required at the time the red flashing beacons (RRFB's) were installed, which allowed Caltrans to place the red flashing beacons. Since then, policies have changed which means that the red flashing beacons are no longer a possibility at the new beacon sites. Commissioner Muchovej stated that sometimes yellow flashing beacons are interpreted as a signal to speed up, not to slow down. Jill explained that there are studies documenting that yellow flashing beacons do indeed slow traffic down. Regardless of flashing beacon, a driver is required to stop when pedestrian in a crosswalk. Commissioner Muchovej asked about bike lanes at the detriment of parking. Jill will verify how many spaces will be removed. He also asked if there be improvements such as sharrows included on Main Street? Yes, there are plans to include sharrows on Main Street. Vice Chair asked if the flashing beacons are similar to the School Ahead crossings in Big Pine and Lone Pine? No, they are different, the pedestrians will activate the light, and it's a very vibrant light, not standard yellow. Erin Gilpin asked if the speed limit could be slowed down on N. Sierra Highway? Jill explained that the process to change speed limits involves a speed study. The traffic engineers are required to set speeds at the 80th percentile. Be cautious with speed studies, they can actually raise the speed limits.

- Presentation by L. Hart, Building Climate Resiliency

L. Hart is the Climate Resilience guide for District 9. She has spent most of her time with Caltrans in various locations throughout the state. She appreciates the unique challenges that rural counties face due to climate change, the mecca of climate impacts.

SR 190 is a prime example (experienced three 1000-year events in 13 months), provided updates on tools and guidance on how to work together on climate resilience issues. Looking at new guidance on adaptation strategies (using existing tools that are proven to work), gabion baskets, improving drainage, roadway stabilization opportunities. Where is the funding? We are missing out on funding because we don't have projects ready to go. She is looking at federal grant opportunities. Launching a District Adaptation Strategy, to develop a portfolio of projects to become better positioned for funding. New PID guidance includes climate assessments, identifying vulnerabilities in the system. Offered to work with the LTC to really build resilience in the region. Tell a story, Sacramento is not hearing the rural regions' stories.

Vice Chair Ray brought up the lack of funding for Transportation. We need to maintain our roads, just like our homes, our cars, etc. He has firsthand seen the decline in the condition of the roads due to lack of funding. Would like that aspect included as part of the story.

- Caltrans Monthly Report: Maggie gave an update for Caltrans about Emergency Road closures and potential openings. Provided date range updates on Fish Springs Pavement Project (2025), and two-way left turn lane at the Golf Course (2024). Schober lane two-way left turn lane (2024-2025). Two PIDS open for public comment, Furnace Creek pavement project, Coso CapM. Get the word out for public comments. Fort Independence and Inyo County both won STPG grants. Inyo won a Clean CA grant for Diaz Lake. Always go to District 9 Facebook and QuickMaps, Twitter, and website. She introduced Annelise Qunitanar as new Regional Planning Representative. Welcome Annelise! Dump days for Clean CA, see District 9 Facebook.

11. Tribal Report

Cindy Duriscoe reported on behalf of the Bishop & Big Pine Paiute Tribes. The Big Pine Paiute Tribe and the Bishop Paiute Tribe both won a Clean Mobility Options grant. Congratulations!

12. DVNP Report

13. USFS Report

14. Executive Director's Report

- Reminder to provide comments for the Final 2023 Regional Transportation Plan to jkokx@inyocounty.us

15. Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

Commissioner Roeser enjoyed the tour provided by Phil Moores of ESTA's facility. Appreciated the County staff's work on the Clean Ca grant. Diaz Lake was possible due to the long-term lease with DWP there. The other park leases such as Millpond and Mendenhall are expired, in holdover; hopefully these leases can be renewed ahead of future funding opportunities.

Commissioner Muchovej appreciated the work that was done on Buttermilk Road. Will the maintenance plan include the future maintenance, or was that a one-off? Commissioner Roeser clarified that the maintenance had been stalled for a long time due to a lack of a permit, or mechanism for maintenance of county roads on USFS land. For Buttermilk, we now have a permit, but the process continues for other roads.

Commissioner Marcellin thanked the County and special interest groups that are getting Coyote and Buttermilk open.

Chair Berg appreciated the work by staff to put the agenda together under a short timeline.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned until Wednesday November 29, 2023, 8:00 a.m. 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)

Zoom Chat

00:34:35 iPhone: Signed in as 805-235-5807. Phil

00:44:36 Erin Gilpin: I have an add on to this, could I make a quick comment?

00:56:08 iPhone: I have a hard stop at 10. —Phil

01:57:20 Cindy Duriscoe, Big Pine Paiute Tribe: I have to leave in 5 min. and not sure if Brian is on from Bishop Paiute? Both Big Pine and Bishop were awarded Clean Mobility funding for our shuttle services, bus stops.

02:27:22 Karen Kong: Can you please put up the timeline slide again?

02:29:35 Erin Gilpin: Could the speed limit be brought down in the area of these flashing beacon?

02:30:21 Karen Kong: Thanks Jenn!

02:35:25 Erin Gilpin: Yea, specifically near north 395

02:35:28 Nora Gamino: If anyone is interested, I can share two papers that describe what RRFBs (proposed) and PHB (existing) are.

02:35:36 stephen: Reacted to "If anyone is interes..." with 👍

02:35:51 Erin Gilpin: Thank you Stephen!

02:36:00 stephen: Reacted to "Thank you Stephen!" with 👍

02:36:55 Erin Gilpin: Thank you for explaining that!