



INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Michael Errante, Executive Director

MINUTES

INYO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION Bishop City Council Chambers 301 W. Line St., Bishop, CA 93514

August 20, 2025

8:32 a.m. Open Meeting

1. Roll Call

Commissioner's Present

Vice-Chair-Jeffery Ray
Commissioner Jennifer Roeser
Commissioner Jose Garcia
Commissioner Scott Marcellin
Commissioner Stephen Muchovej

Other's Present

Justine Kokx: LTC Transportation Planner
Amy Cutright: LTC Secretary
Phil Moores: ESTA
Nora Gamino: City of Bishop
Neil Peacock: Caltrans
Gordon : Inyo County Roads
Shannon Platt : Inyo County Roads
Lauren Prehoda, Caltrans- presenter for road tax
Stephanie Ross
Rick Franz: Caltrans
John Patzer- Resident

2. Public Comment - None

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Request approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 16, 2025

*Motion made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Marcellin to approve minutes with changes; all in favor.

b. Approve Resolution No 2025-08, approving the State of Good Repair program Project List submitted by Eastern Sierra Transit Authority for FY2025-26.

*Motion made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Marcellin to approve minutes with changes; all in favor.

c. Approve Resolution No 2025-09 Authorizing Use of Carbon Reduction Program Funds for the South Barlow Multi-Use Path Rehabilitation Project.

*Motion made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Marcellin to approve minutes with changes; all in favor.

d. Approve Resolution No 2025-10 Accepting Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award for Evacuation Route Resilience Plan.

*Motion made by Commissioner Roeser and seconded by Commissioner Marcellin to approve minutes with changes; all in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2026 Final Fund Estimate and Inyo County 2025 Draft RTIP

Justine reported that Inyo County's 2026 STIP target share dropped from \$6.2 million to \$5.4 million, creating a \$964,000 RTIP shortfall. With no funding capacity for new projects in 2026–27 or 2027–28, projects such as the East Line Street Bridge and Tacopa ATP Match may be delayed until 2028–29. This reduction mirrors a statewide decline in available funds due to lower gas tax revenues.

Staff stressed the importance of building a strong RTIP narrative emphasizing equity, climate resilience, and emergency preparedness to strengthen Inyo's case for funding. A draft will be reviewed in October with adoption in November. Coordination with the CTC continues, and staff plan to advocate for Inyo at February and March STIP hearings, exploring possible flexibility and programming negotiations despite limited options this cycle.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Lauren Prehoda from Caltrans reported on efforts to replace the per-gallon gas tax with a road use charge based on miles driven. Several pilot programs have been completed, focusing on rural and tribal participation, though tribal governments expressed concerns about sovereignty, impacts on tribally owned gas stations, and reliance on federal funding. Public feedback highlighted privacy concerns, particularly around GPS tracking.

GPS technology was found to be accurate, but the cost of tracking private roads may outweigh benefits. Equity issues were discussed, noting rural residents pay more under the gas tax, and some suggested starting the program with electric vehicles. Caltrans proposes that passenger vehicles report through DMV and commercial vehicles through the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration using the IFTA process, though tiered rates for heavier trucks may be considered.

A fourth pilot program concluded this spring, with results under review and a final report expected next year. The Assembly Transportation Committee will hold a hearing next week to review how other states are approaching similar programs, and policy development is ongoing at state and federal levels.

2. City of Bishop Report

Nora announced that the City of Bishop Council will review an agreement to join Southern California Edison's LS1 streetlight conversion program, which replaces fixtures with energy-efficient, night-sky friendly LED lights. The public was encouraged to participate before the October 1 program deadline and attend the Council's first discussion on the water and sewer rate study. Commissioners expressed concerns about brightness from past LADWP conversions, and staff assured that SCE's fixtures offer warmer light tones and better community compatibility.

3. ESTA Executive Director's Report

ESTA reported that eight new vehicles have arrived and will soon be in service. Ridership is strong, with many longer trips selling out, prompting consideration of acquiring a larger vehicle. Four new bus shelters are being installed, a pilot system test is underway, and Sunday service expansion is under review. A grant application for a new building is pending. Commissioners discussed the increase in weekend flights and the need for coordination, acknowledged the new fleet, and noted ESTA's transition to updated branding.

4. Caltrans Report

Neil congratulated the Commission on its grant award and said the Overall Work Program will be amended to include the funds and begin the project. He reported that the Bishop Paiute Tribe also received a transportation planning grant with technical assistance to ensure compliance. Caltrans is introducing the California Integrated Travel Project to bring real-time transit technology to ESTA's Mammoth fleet and will launch a district-wide transit plan to improve operations and facilities.

Project updates included pavement work in Fish Springs and Bishop scheduled for completion next spring, the \$13 million Meadow Farms ADA project wrapping up after Labor Day, and the Lone Pine pedestrian safety and sidewalk projects moving forward. The Olancha–Cartago project is nearly complete and will have an October ribbon-cutting. Crews are also replacing poles along Highway 168.

Caltrans announced the "Pull Over, Don't Blow Over" safety campaign for Highway 395 and reminded participants of the September 3 Section 5310 transit funding deadline. Work will begin on the evacuation route resilience plan with an RFP and outreach to stakeholders and affected communities. Commissioners stressed the need for prioritization and community engagement.

Concerns were raised about noise and highway closures from a rock plant in the south county, and Caltrans committed to further investigation.

5. Tribal Report

none

6. DVNP Report

none

7. USFS Report

none

8. Executive Director's Report

Deputy Director Shannon Platt reported that slurry seal work in Independence is complete, with additional work ongoing in Bishop and scheduled for next week. County crews will perform striping in-house to save costs. He provided updates on 2023 storm damage repair reimbursements, upcoming work on Mountain View and Substation Roads in Lone Pine, and other small repairs countywide. Platt acknowledged community concerns but emphasized that crews are addressing needs across the county and noted appreciation for work on Rocking K Road. The September LTC meeting will be canceled as staff will attend a national planning conference in Rhode Island.

9. Reports from all members of the Inyo County LTC

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADMINISTRATIVE

FY2022-2023 ICLTC Financial Statements

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 10:14 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. Wednesday October 16, 2025, Independence Board Chambers.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Inyo County CIP (October)

2025 RTIP adoption (November)

Title VI Draft Plan