

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

MINUTES

March 9, 2015
(Adopted April 13, 2015)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Larry Johnston, Fred Stump, Tim Fesko

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Jo Bacon, Sandy Hogan, Shields Richardson

COUNTY STAFF: Scott Burns, Gerry Le Francois, Garrett Higerd, Megan Mahaffey, Wendy Sugimura, C.D. Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Haislip Hayes, Grady Dutton

CALTRANS: Ryan Dermody, Forest Becket, Brandon Fitt, David Bloom

ESTA: John Helm, Jill Batchelder

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Fred Stump called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes, and attendees recited the pledge of allegiance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

3. **MINUTES:**

MOTION: Adopt minutes of Jan. 12, 2015, as amended: 1) Item 3: YARTS uses conventional ~~propane~~ diesel; and 2) Item 5: ~~\$2-million~~ \$10 million project to mitigate. (Fesko/Hogan. Ayes: 5. Abstain due to absence: Bacon.)

MOTION: Adopt minutes of Feb. 9, 2015, as submitted. (Johnston/Richardson. Ayes: 4. Abstain due to absence: Hogan, Fesko.)

4. **ADMINISTRATION**

A. **Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC):** Wendy Sugimura explained that terms are staggered, and renewals occur annually. Four appointments were extended to 2018.

MOTION: Appoint Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. (Fesko/Bacon. Ayes: 6-0.)

B. **Overall Work Program (OWP):** Megan Mahaffey noted new Elements 501, 612, 614, 615, 616, and 617. Continue working on OWP till end of May. Still at five-year renewal, but will shorten to four later in conjunction with Housing Element. Commissioner Stump: Inyo County's authorized way-finding for Adventure Trails is tied up in lawsuit.

Commissioner Johnston: Board was unable to authorize intern for CDD, as paid a lot of money to paramedics. Concerned that CDD does not have capacity for \$460,000 worth of work. Ongoing projects need five year-round staffers. Suggested milestone reports on each element when OWP is adopted, maybe quarterly. Some verbiage has "planner-ese." \$25,000 reflects elevated level of involvement from finance. Mahaffey prepares quarterly reports, sends to Caltrans.

Mahaffey: Total budget doesn't go to CDD. Work elements are divided between Mono and Town. Also have Mono Public Works. Updating annually is work effort to talk about, look at, and strategize on.

Burns: California Transportation Commission draft supports rural and main street issues. Strategy is to link transportation money to local needs, to different expertises, other staff. Milestone reports would help.

Johnston: 900-12-0: Read purpose aloud. Cost = \$25,000. Clear path, spend wisely.

Commissioner Hogan: Mono has fabulous track record. Projects ongoing, some completed. Using grant money, parceling out to various employees results in better project. Grants are lifeblood, not general fund. Tracking carefully. Town and County staff "charge as worked." Management of funds is very efficient.

Burns: Town/Mono staffers serve LTC, whereas some counties have separate staff. Implementers report directly to LTC, staffs meet monthly. Setup promotes efficient use of transportation planning dollars.

Grady Dutton noted Town contract employee is handling GIS, and Town has traffic counting equipment. Hogan: Backups, not just one person. Cross-training. Very good system, a model.

Johnston: \$530,000 still a lot in addition to regular jobs. Haislip Hayes: That is paying salary, large component of day-to-day function so prepared for whatever comes our way. Built-in allocations for LTC.

Johnston: Check-in keeps on track. Mahaffey: Have quarterly check-ins with all staff, will share with LTC. Johnston didn't want whole list of LTC projects and ideas to get lost in OWP. Commissioner Bacon: List resides in RTP until funded. Johnston: If always planning, never get anything done. Commissioner Stump: Saw Johnston as concerned for staff's ability to do all, regret not getting intern. Clearly state if fall behind. Only so many hours in day, not want to overstress staff coming in early/staying late.

Mahaffey: Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM) comes through State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), has time frame; Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) is separate funding.

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Richardson:** Bad accident near Olancho. Project to include widening. {Ryan Dermody: Section to be upgraded, EIR soon, final in summer. Construction slated 2018-19. Shared concern. Mitigated Negative Declaration was filed, but BLM found archeological concerns. Need state and federal concurrence, and they disagreed with document. EIR could override concerns. Shouldn't change construction date unless lawsuit is filed.} **Johnston:** Noted 70-mph speed limits in NV and AZ. Change US 395? {Dermody: 395 is not all freeway, so 65 mph.} South of Bishop is narrow four-lane section, no barrier between. {Dermody: Need accident rate, average daily traffic volume. Good to have barrier [for traffic], but bad for wildlife trying to get through.} **Stump:** Thanks to Caltrans for mowing operation between Mammoth Lakes and Sherwin Summit (effective in fire control) and for reducing speed in Chalfant, although Sacramento did not support. Chalfant RPAC requested community-ahead sign, reduced speed, left-turn lane. Push CHP to enforce truck speed limits. Disappointed in no legislation this year. {Dermody: Internal team will do something.}

6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

A. **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):** Haislip Hayes, back from India, indicated RTP rolls up all Town/County policies to be reviewed and updated by April. Mobility Element is the only one accepted so far. RTP will acknowledge new, but rest on current document. Commissioner Bacon cited corrections: 1) Mobility: More regional, not more than. 2) Airport: Not discouraging rental cars at airport.

Grady Dutton: Town is trying to be flexible. Cleaned up airport parking area. Airport Land Use Commission meets soon. Request removal of Benton Crossing Road till other improvements occur. Once terminal and apron are done, look at other needs.

Stump: Existing gate at mid-runway is used for fire. Retain gate till alternate route exists.

7. TRANSIT

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)

1. **FTA Section 5311:** Jill Batchelder noted these funds, allocated to rural counties by formula, are used for operation of transit services in Mono County.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution R15-02 requesting approval of FTA Section 5311 Regional Program of Projects and Certifications and Assurances. (*Johnston/Hogan. Ayes: 6-0.*)

2. **ESTA activities:** Helm noted town routes depend on visitation. Ridership big on weekends, continued strong this year. When service is reduced slightly, efficiency increases significantly (passengers/hour). Johnston: Early start to Reds Meadow? Helm: Met with USFS, anticipate start by Memorial Day. Last two years it was big weekend. Early start, strong summer. Richardson: Mammoth Express grant not awarded, maybe by June 1. Stump: One of supervisors on ESTA board resigned. BOS requested appoint at-large public member, not a supervisor. Allow to attend both bodies. Corless resigned due to conflict of interest.

B. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** Scott Burns deferred to Hogan on YARTS Authority Advisory Committee prior week, YARTS last week. Hogan: Fresno definitely moving forward. Dick Whittington has analyst from Trailways on staff. Authority Advisory Committee has five new members, three from Fresno plus Tuolumne and Madera. Bus goes through Madera, might benefit if it stopped. Voting members on Authority Advisory Committee. Tuolumne still on pilot program. Two Mono, two Merced, two Mariposa. Merced handles administrative duties. Inyo-Mono Transit took over from Greyhound in 2001. With ESTA professional service, cost increased. Admission price for Fresno unknown.

8. CALTRANS

A. **New District 9 director:** Ryan Dermody announced Brent Green assumed new role March 2, and then provided a brief biography.

B. **Active Transportation Program (ATP):** Forest Becket reviewed history of ATP that rolled together several programs intended to increase active modes of transportation, driven by goals with quantitative analysis. Infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure projects. Bike, pedestrian, safe routes to school. Recreation trails administered by State Parks. Funding ~\$130 million, mostly federal.

Cycle 1: 771 applications, 265 projects. Rough timing to deliver in two years. District 9 got 16 applications, Tehachapi was big winner. Delivery challenges on rights of way. Cycle 2: Three years of funding: 50% statewide, 10% small urbans and rurals. Can apply for both. \$180 million has set-asides for disadvantaged communities. Stump: Are Mono communities punished for Bishop zip code? *Based on Census block. No regional targets for minimums. Regional bikeways in North Coast area.*

Cycle 2: District 9 projects by April 7. Changes: No match. Benefit/cost tool available. Need data.

Transportation Injury Mapping System: Bikes, schools, motorcycles to see hot spots. Resources on CTC website. Hope for applications from district. Focus on built areas, not treatments all over. Fesko: No data on Twin Lakes Road. Johnston: Resubmit apps not funded? *Town will be back with four or five, Mono submitted one.* Stump: SWITRS has skewed database. Sheriff is not involved. Dermody: Why not entered by CHP? *Cannot validate if not on scene.*

Garrett Higerd: ATP combined Bridgeport/Lee Vining safe routes to school. Evaluate if competitive on resubmittal. Maybe project would shift depending on cost/benefit. Someone scored better by scaling down project before Mono did. Stump: Shotgun approach with Bridgeport/Lee Vining? Higerd: Better to focus on each. Grady Dutton: Process will be clearer with more time available. Dermody reminded that this is competitive, so look at State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to fund bike/pedestrian projects.

C. **Wildlife collision on Mono's state highways** (*continued from Feb. 9*): Brandon Fitt, GIS expert, focused on Bridgeport/Sonora and Mammoth Lakes, which are much greater than elsewhere in Mono. District 10 report, FHWA treatment study. Feasibility study report to analyze data using District 10. Under State Highway Operation & Protection Program (SHOPP) program, need data to demonstrate need. Problem with solution; want to fund it? Did California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) see it? *No return call from Tim Taylor. Fences are not good for sage grouse (perches for predators).*

Fesko: How much is not reported? Educate people. Johnston: Met with Tim Taylor on this area, looking for solutions. At least 10x as many collisions are unreported, deer ran off. CDFW knows where deer herds go. Project proposed by Caltrans at Sonora Junction. See if Caltrans data matches CDFW's.

Hogan: Time of day? *Commute time am and pm.* Johnston: Type of vehicle? *Sheriffs and CHP tend to run into deer. May have data.* Johnston: Why Sonora where no hot spots exist? *Based on 1960s data.*

Grady Dutton: Airport wildlife assessment will be available in week or two. Recommended fence, check out types of fences available. Around airport and along US 395.

D. **California Transportation Plan (CTP):** David Bloom described CTP as vision for California's transportation future, 2015-40. Commissioner Fesko: Freight movement on US 395, state to state. Tesla plant and ancillary businesses. Look beyond our own state to what's going to impact us. Bloom: Other units along with Tesla. CTP integrates statewide modal plans: Interregional, transit, freight, rail, bike, etc. Comments due by April 17. Submit CTP to governor by year's end. Dermody: Federal requirement as well as State. Major overhaul, focus on GHG, biking, etc.

E. **Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information:** Map of active MOU projects. Freeman Gulch Segment 2 funding must be identified. Kern COG had lots of needs and pulled back, so Inyo and Mono increased percentages. Le Francois: Mono put in \$2 million to get Purple Sage Canyon to Kramer Junction project started. Who else applied? Dermody: Beauchamp **worked commuted** every week **to-build along this** route. Le Francois: Safety projects, shoulders, separation, rumble strips, one-mile passing lanes. State will four-lane SR 58 and realign intersection.

Dermody distributed construction map for District 9. Cedrik Zemitis will discuss Lee Vining Rockfall Project next meeting. Fund non-motorized projects by State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

9. INFORMATIONAL

A. **California Transportation Plan 2040 public workshops**

10. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) CTC comments; 2) Lee Vining Rockfall; 3) Unmet needs

11. **ADJOURN** at 11:21 a.m. to April 13, 2015

Prepared by C.D. Ritter, LTC secretary