

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2018
(Adopted March 12, 2018)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Fred Stump, Stacy Corless teleconference from Denver, Leslie Chapman for John Peters

TOWN COMMISSIONERS: Sandy Hogan, John Wentworth, Shields Richardson

COUNTY STAFF: Gerry Le Francois, Wendy Sugimura, Michael Draper, Garrett Higerd, CD Ritter

TOWN STAFF: Grady Dutton

CALTRANS: Ryan Dermody, Austin West

ESTA: John Helm

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice-Chair John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance to flag.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Garrett Higerd updated ATP project for Bridgeport Main Street. Mono applied several times for grant to further planning work, including crossing at School Street and sidewalk improvements. Caltrans has SB 1 funding, BOS declined funding. Project not going away, coming back in 2023.
3. **MINUTES:** Continue approval of minutes of December 11, 2017, to March 12, 2018.
4. **WELCOME TO STACY CORLESS, NEW COMMISSIONER:** Unlikely to see Commissioner Larry Johnston again, in hospice care. Corless participated by teleconference from Denver.
5. **ELECTION OF CHAIR (Town) & VICE-CHAIR (County):** Wentworth as chair (*Hogan/Stump. Ayes: Unanimous.*) Corless as vice-chair (*Stump/Richardson. Ayes: Unanimous.*).
6. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Chapman:** No report. **Corless:** No report. **Stump:** Attended half of FAA airport tour, in Bishop. High-level staff, quality input. Lot of work to do at both airports. Recognize Commissioner Johnston's service, presentation when Karen returns from hospice in Davis. AGENDA. Request Karen's presence or at her home. Note from District 9 on contributions over years, engaged and thorough. Hogan recalled Johnston served as planner at Mono, private consultant to Town. Dermody: Visionary, ahead of his time. Plans came to fruition now. **Richardson:** Attended both FAA meetings, well attended by all partners. Great discussion, everyone's input. FAA appreciated partners consulting to find solution. Open to recommendation. FAA wants to be involved up here. First time **regional** director visited, won't be last. **Hogan:** YARTS AAC (Authority Advisory Committee) elected Candy O'Donnell-Brown to replace Danna Stroud. **Wentworth:** Served on statewide climate change panel at Office of Planning & Research, only elected on board. Went to SNC leadership forum. State transit federal opportunities. Met with USDA **rural development**, money to rural CA for housing, broadband. Political emphasis. Retailers show in Denver, partnership with USFS, connectivity to get resources.
7. **APPOINT CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:** After Scott Burns retired, Wendy Sugimura named interim CDD director.
MOTION: Appoint co-executive directors Grady Dutton and Gerry Le Francois. (*Stump/Richardson. Ayes: Unanimous.*)
8. **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION**
 - A. **County line adjustments with Inyo & Madera counties:** Leslie Chapman stated staff looking into it, BOS wanted Madera to forego some of its land, people recreate from Mono side, no public safety action from Madera. MOU indicates Mono responds to incidents. Last summer, took six hours to rescue person with broken leg at

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Rainbow Falls. To change county line, Governor establishes commission, public process, couple resolutions. Already started, met with Madera last week. Two county counsels working on first resolution. Proposed list of commissioners on committee: two Madera, two Mono, one from elsewhere. After boundary change by Secretary of State, change boundary description of two counties.

Wentworth noted Town has FLAP grant to Reds Meadow Road, commended initiative, wants to support, get information. Chapman mentioned rough preliminary map from BOS. Corless stated line follows boundary of Mammoth Ranger District.

- B. **Deer/wildlife crossing/airport fence:** Grady Dutton started process for fence in past. Get USFS and FAA together.

Hogan brought up public meetings to voice objections of deer encountering fence, going back across highway. USFS still scoping? Sugimura noted subcommittee didn't meet in December, needed funding. Identify funding before meet again.

Hogan touted Nevada's wonderful wildlife crossings. Funding is definitely an issue.

Wentworth stated FAA strongly recommends fence, USFS also involved. NEPA by FAA. Bring back to LTC, could wait many years for crossing.

Hogan contrasted CDFW, which cares about deer, with Caltrans, which cares about highway.

Stump indicated he talked with FAA about fence, communicating further with Caltrans on fence issue.

- C. **Green Creek Bridge:** Gerry Le Francois noted RSTP dollars to LTC. Four projects previously recommended. Asking Green Creek unspent RSTP funds to backfill cost increases.

Garrett Higerd cited total match \$170,000. Looking at whatever revenue is available from RSTP. In past, Town and Mono collaborated, trade off. Amount usually \$130,000-\$140,000. Next allocation unknown, could be higher. Add this project to list. Town is aware.

Stump stated bridge destroyed by heavy runoff, main arterial for recreation, ranchers, Bridgeport economy.

Traffic study at McFlex? Sugimura indicated different source of funding.

Bridgeport ranger consulted on maintenance? Higerd noted Mono-maintained facility on portion of road on private land. Coordinated with all involved parties.

- D. **OWP amendment:** Gerry Le Francois noted first budget adjustment to OWP. Shift funds around. Help fund update to Town's traffic model for McFlex property. Would facilitate that review.

Wentworth thought facility could be candidate for significant funding resources to support this project. Stump favored data set that would benefit Town and Mono.

MOTION: Approve minute order M18-02 for OWP amendment between Work Elements WE 700-12-0 & WE 900-12-0 (Stump/Hogan. Ayes: Unanimous.)

- E. **CTC South State hearing:** Gerry Le Francois noted Courtney Smith from Inyo attended as well. CTC appreciative, enjoyed visit here. Inyo LTC in negative share balance of \$20 million. Kern COG talked about Freeman Gulch-1, thanked Inyo and Mono. 60% contribution to state projects. Kern COG on SR 58 and Bakersfield Centennial Bypass. MOUs need renewal 2022. Dermody confirmed another STIP cycle in 2020.

Wentworth eyed transportation in future. Get resources to combine with Digital-395. Climate change at top of policy initiative with State.

Le Francois cited Cambridge Systems on truck movement.

- F. **Scenic Byway:** Le Francois introduced Amanda Benbow, who has been following up on extension of grant from few years ago. Outlined chapters of Corridor Management Plan. Stump wanted to include things already being done, like geothermal trail, and add new things.

Le Francois noted grant that allowed potential infrastructure projects since has gone away. Still move forward with scenic byway.

State scenic byway? Dermody cited State scenic byway designation already. USFS has separate byway. Federal scenic byway. Mono must show project for taking money and doing work.

Stump wanted document to display and be able to update. Benbow noted Mono's marketing plan will be included.

Part of state or national? Le Francois stated when federal bill allowed revenue stream for local visitation, first needed state highway designation. Got it in 1990s. Looking at Bodie visitor center, other ideas. If funding stream ever resumes, this would be ready. Tried joint application, but Inyo declined. Town supported, so eligible for projects.

When wrap up? Sugimura noted final invoice by Feb. 20, still in OWP, so could continue to flesh it out.

Wentworth saw useful part of arsenal to enhance partnership with USFS. Living document to further promote partnership with federal agencies. Interest in local partnerships. How reduce carbon footprint. Tie into variety of initiatives to leverage funding and resources.

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Who does maintenance? Dermody cited no funding with scenic highway system. Hogan stated USFS moneys going to wildfires.

9. TRANSIT

A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)

1. **List of projects under new State of Good Repair funding program:** John Helm noted new program under SB1 for rehab of transit assets: buses, preventive maintenance, etc. Use this year's funding for preventive maintenance, or operations. Lost some funding for express routes to Mammoth and Lone Pine, combination of population and transit revenues generated. State provides 70% to Mono, 30% to Inyo. Supervisor Gardner noted funding provided under SB 1 has tangible benefits. Recall effort of SB1 under way, so note value provided to us. ESTA in touch with Alterra? Helm indicated not. Goes to Alterra automatically, wouldn't increase funding.

MOTION: Approve authorized agent for State of Good Repair funding program (*Stump/Hogan. Ayes: 5. Abstain: Chapman*)

MOTION: Approve certifications & assurances for State of Good Repair funding program (*Stump/Hogan. Ayes: 5. Abstain: Chapman.*)

MOTION: Approve Resolution R18-001 authorizing execution of certifications & assurances for California State of Good Repair funding program for FY 2017-18 (*Stump/Hogan. Ayes: 5. Abstain: Chapman.*)

2. **Quarterly operating statistics:** John Helm distributed revised version. Ridership down 17%, reflective of Mammoth services in Nov/Dec due to light snowfall, decreased visitation. Fares up nearly 10% on 395 routes, more days, more passengers, more revenue, particularly Reno. Farebox return systemwide meets 10%. Most of Mono services fare-free, so farebox not as significant. All Inyo services charge fare. Last two weekends were barnburners, extra buses to address volume.

Fifth day in Walker have neg impact on statistics? *Usually when service expands, overall drop. Ridership on fifth day matched other four days.* Stump saw investment as worthwhile, should continue.

Ridership correlation with weather? *Yes, year-round.*

Deal with State on financing of system? *Yes.*

Helm indicated recruitment for executive director going live today, deadline March 2, ESTA board interviews end of March. Helm's final date? *May 1.*

B. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** Michael Draper and Sandy Hogan attended meeting, no quorum to approve requested action items. New money with STA funds \$3,353 to bank for updates on bus cameras. STA/Public Utilities Commission funds \$7,089. Short-term transit planning under way. Awarded project to LSC in Tahoe region. Mono requested to participate, as only West Side is included.

Hogan: Meetings here in summer. Short-range transit **planning** is big deal, LSC. Record year, builds every year. Funding for three days when NPS open, needed to add buses. New superintendent. Tuolumne project ongoing, YARTS funded by NPS.

Helm cited YARTS as only route to get from Reds to Tuolumne.

Hogan noted Fresno route state funded, cut in half last year.

Corless stated YARTS added some gateway counties as voting members: Madera, Tuolumne. Online reservation system nearly 17,000 in first year out of 34,000 ticketed passengers. 90+ countries, 2000 summer reservations for 2018. Ten "service days" include Fourth of July and National Public Lands Day in September.

Tuolumne include AAC? *Quorum problems.*

Dermody noted Mike Reynolds at Death Valley, but Michael Reynolds at Yosemite.

Walk/bike/ride meetings on transit hubs, climate change. Kathleen Morse at meeting in Mammoth. Add Wi-Fi?

10. **ADMINISTRATION:** No items.

11. CALTRANS

A. **Natina finish on guardrails:** Statewide standards include guardrail. Narrow ability to do stuff, but Natina steel stain is only thing can do. Crestview has it, orange weathered. Will use Natina on Conway replacement project. Done at factory, or at Caltrans.

Higerd: Looking into it for bridge project. Still working out cost implications and application. Can apply on site, but not preferred by manufacturer.

Retrofit instead of new guardrail? Even if not perfect, start on continuity.

B. **Lane miles for Caltrans & Mono County:** Caltrans has 2,500 lane miles, 768 in Mono. Public Works has 200 mi paved roads, 500 mi dirt.

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Le Francois referred to potential infrastructure funding.

USFS roads? Higerd cited mostly dirt roads on federal land, some paved as well (Rock Creek, Convict). Town has 104 land miles. (two lane road = x2)

Stump attended airport tour at Bishop, lateral cracking. Higerd stated airport runways don't compare due to asphalt thickness. \$1 million low for airport.

C. Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information: Terry Erlwein promoted to Craig Holste's position. *Austin West, announced Moberly will reapply for mobility hub study. Freight study group meeting Jan. 31.*

Stump noted *trucks no longer at Taco Bell, now park along US 6, idling.*

Intelligent transportation systems grants begin around May. Town and Mono involved. Dermody noted need to update 2001 plan.

West described Lee Vining project as comprehensive for all facilities from SR 120 to Cemetery Road. Public engagement against at headquarters. Consultant to take comments on project construction, elements to include. Site visit, RPAC comments. Currently developing origin/destination study update from 2011 for funding purposes. Now useful for local agencies on people movement.

Dermody recalled original studies asked series of questions. Looking at cell phone tracking. Studies every decade. May be a dinosaur now.

Stump noted studies did not capture truck traffic. Reno expects 350,000 population due to increased business. Discouraging to see businesses leaving CA due to policies. Impact is huge. One-month inventory of homes, can't build fast enough.

Wentworth thought study critical for ML. Airport issues part of discussion. Data sets with science behind them, reliable. Visitation key to Mammoth area. Turnaround? *Two years, interim updates.*

12. INFORMATIONAL

A. Support letter for San Bernardino County Transportation Authority: Gerry Le Francois noted LTC has unfunded MOU Adelanto to Kramer Junction, competitive process under SB1. San Bernardino looking at stretch. Mono dedicated \$2 million to planning. See how much was accomplished before funding ceased.

13. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Commissioner Johnston appreciation; 2) resolution for Scott Burns; 3) winter debrief; 4) ESTA audit; 5) traffic counts; 6) walk/bike/ride; 7) partnership with federal agencies

14. **ADJOURN** at 11:22 a.m. to March 12, 2018 (*no February meeting*)

Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary

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