

# Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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## MINUTES

June 10, 2019  
(Adopted July 8, 2019)

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Jennifer Halferty, John Peters, Fred Stump

**TOWN COMMISSIONERS:** Sandy Hogan, Dan Holler for Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth

**COUNTY STAFF:** Wendy Sugimura, Gerry Le Francois, Garrett Higerd, Megan Mahaffey, Hailey Lang, CD Ritter

**TOWN STAFF:** Haislip Hayes

**CALTRANS:** Brent Green, Ryan Dermody

**ESTA:** Phil Moores

**PUBLIC:** Julie Brown, Devin Middlebrook, Don Condon, Lynn Boulton

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1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Fred Stump called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

### 3. MINUTES

**MOTION:** Approve minutes of May 13, 2019, as amended: Change Berry to Barry (2x) (*Hogan/Peters*. Ayes: 5. Absent: *Salcido*.)

4. **Unmet Transit Needs:** Michael Draper distributed comment letter from Julie Brown regarding transit needs at June Lake and allowed time to read. He reminded of annual State requirement for unmet transit needs hearing. Resolution includes needs identified. Needs reasonable to meet included Old Mammoth Road service, lifeline service to June Lake, and Bridgeport-to-Gardnerville extension to Carson City. Tri-Valley service to Bishop needs update in resolution.

Phil Moores, ESTA, noted process makes sure people not left behind. Old Mammoth Road would be disconnected without any service. Options by next month include none, as is, more frequent serviced (all year), and hourly service year-round.

Hogan: Used to have hourly weekdays as in rest of town. Keep as long-term goal. It's a contract issue. In budget, have the money. Service taken away, tried to fill gaps. Ridership was low, but it's a part of town. Not lay it back on ESTA. It's a Town contract. Corless hears from constituents.

Wentworth: Town could handle outside unmet needs process.

Stump: Important to identify in this document as reference point.

Moores: Never about money at ESTA. Hear pain and suffering on getting things covered. Staff has asked for but just can't cover. Maybe when housing abundant, wages high enough.

**Item 2:** Lifeline service to June Lake: Changes from lifeline to core services when daily. Discontinuing service is unmet need. Find way to make it happen.

Was five-day-a-week service from different source? Moores: MMSA, ESTA. 3.7 riders/day. Housing in June Lake improved.

**Item 3.** Carson City: Only 16 mi farther. Sometimes people need Gardnerville only. Improve route efficiency.

Peters: Great adjustment to that route. Challenge of drivers under maximum hours. Construction along route needs to be factored into delay possibility. Moores: *Maximum driving = 10 hr/day*.

Peters: DAR in Bridgeport/Antelope Valley area. Get seniors to travel between communities.

**Item 4:** Sonora junction: Needs planning, getting contractors. *Peters: Work on this later*.

**Item 5:** Deviate to June Lake: Driver gets 30 mins in 10 hours, so no time to deviate. June Lake needs connections.

**Item 6:** Service Chalfant to Bishop: Keeping eye on as community grows, hope to increase connection.

**Item 7:** Additional lifeline service: Maybe set target when popular enough.

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### COMMISSIONERS

Jennifer Halferty Sandy Hogan John Peters Lynda Salcido Fred Stump John Wentworth

Stump: Walker DAR had specific funding request. Not heard from Tri-Valley funding. Sits on senior program, get Tri-Valley seniors into Bishop. ESAA (Eastern Sierra Agency on Aging). Check with Kathy Peterson. Partial recovery to get seniors to Bishop senior center, which prepares meals to transport to Tri-Valley now.

Halferty: Data on ridership would help gauge success. How many now from Walker to Gardnerville? Did ridership go up when added Carson City?

New Item 8: Purple Line. Important due to population density. May be contract issue with Town.

--- Dan Holler for Lynda Salcido arrived at 9:42 a.m. ---

Halferty: Some but not all of need being met. Need data. Still unmet need if only every 30 minutes. Potential for more riders, better service. Not agree it's unmet.

Hogan: Separate out Town contract issues. In matrix have separate part with Town contract. Gaps should be met through Town process but keeps coming back to us.

Wentworth: Getting data in urban area. Make sure Town understands while other issues going on.

Moore: Bundle Purple Line with Old Mammoth? Yes. Go back to definition in R98-01. More-frequent service affects employment.

Sugimura: Hearing meets unmet needs process + annual public hearing to hear transportation input. Not all about unmet needs. LTF (Local Transportation Fund) dollars funds local streets and roads. LTF dollars always toward transit. Transportation needs in general, no strings attached for LTC to consider funding. Legal requirement of unmet needs, larger discretionary LTC discussion.

Halferty: Didn't realize two buckets. Disappointed public didn't know could have commented on anything transit related. More transparency in future.

Sugimura: In public hearing notice. Mono through RPACs transit needs all time. LTC-mandated annual formal public hearing.

Halferty: Make things simpler, more approachable.

Hogan: Mobility Commission ~~collapsed hearings are now handled by PEDC (Planning & Economic Development Commission). Town needs should come forward.~~

Stump: Suggestion: Appropriate place to discuss but LTC sends letter to Town on continual needs from Town, would appreciate taking up as discussion item.

Wentworth: Town staff make sure workflow is clear. Degree of reliability.

Halferty: Old Mammoth Road people stopped coming, felt unheard. Need to feel listened to.

Wentworth: Town Council makes decisions about funding. Contracts at Town not LTC.

Stump: LTC unable to solve through unmet needs, asking Town to pick up.

Wentworth: Add something to matrix on general transportation concerns.

Moore: Don't blend.

Halferty: We heard this, put it into pathway to be addressed.

Stump: To initiate, have letter simultaneously arrange Town staff presence.

Julie Brown: Don't know what you've got till it's gone. Impacts. Winter service daily mornings. Future. Not discontinue services because difficult. Wentworth: Comment on general transportation needs. Brown: Part of unmet needs.

Moore: Included on list because lifeline issue. Plan with Supervisor Gardner for volunteer shuttle drivers. ESTA would help guide individuals. Introduce lifeline service. In September will consider next six months.

Stump: CAC meetings canceled. Gardner needs to be there, hear ESTA options. Attended two meetings where Moore was present.

Hogan: Considered on-demand service at various places but not June Lake. An omission. Van idea good. YARTS at junction not loop. Tried pilots twice but residents not on board. Ridership was problem. Keep working on it.

Brown: June Mountain worked hard to build sustainable model. Access is important piece. Visitation from IKON passholders.

Peters: Does resolution address transit users as tourists? Refresh resolution to include non-residents.

Moore: Not thought of tourists needing necessities of life. Peters: Expand economic base. Moore: ridership = 3.7 riders/hour last year. Not meet farebox. Peters: Need data.

Stump: Fifth day DAR in Walker came later. Serious hearing today. LTC look independently.

Wentworth: Regional importance. Clean division between unmet and general needs. Reliable air service in Bishop. TBID money on airport in Bishop significant discussion. How will Alterra handle?

Halferty: Need separate item with more information. No service from June Lake to anywhere else is certainly an unmet need. Know what is available every year.

Have LTC request transit services? *Sugimura: Pass R19-04 today, figure out clearer format of unmet needs.*

Stump: Request to break out June Lake separately from MMSA contracting or bundle all into 1.5-hr agenda item. Leave up to staff.

Mahaffey: Never done LTC budget. Piecemeal entities. If want annual budget, address funding sources as they come through.

Hogan: Maybe last 15-20 years, what's gone for transit.

Stump: Request future item. Data request, research, what has funded what service. Mahaffey: Could fund through reserve.

Sugimura: Transportation dollars confusing. Bring back funding sources from ESTA, Town that LTC does not have authority over.

**MOTION:** Adopt Resolution R19-04 as amended regarding Unmet Transit Needs: 1) Increase service to Bishop from Benton, Hammil Valley and Chalfant Valley; and 2) Add one additional lifeline service day to Bishop from Benton, Hammil Valley and Chalfant Valley. (*Halferty/Wentworth. Ayes: 6.*)

--- Break: 10:25-10:35 a.m. ---

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Holler:** Sidewalks. Suspend work south of Main in July. Town/Inyo FAA recognition cert partnership on airport. **Hogan:** Tim Taylor lecture on wildlife overcrossings/undercrossings had good attendance. Caltrans doing **bid PID (Planning Initiation Document)**. **Peters:** Health fair in Walker, ESTA on calendar next year. Many agencies and groups require transportation. **Halferty:** Heard Tim Taylor also. Tioga last week. Within 20 minutes stopped by foreign visitors on how get through. Sign at bottom of 120/395 no access to Yosemite? Dermody: Tioga Pass closed at bottom. **Wentworth:** The Parcel workshop June 26 3-6 pm. Town Council moving forward with community recreation center. **Stump:** Request to Town on Commissioner Salcido: Need governing board members in attendance (he sits on eight boards). When Town Council looks at board assignments, LTC is high importance... Environmental work grant at airport. Scheduled service or not. Area needs modern facility for helicopters, emergency flights. Hope Town Council moves ahead expeditiously. **Holler:** EA (Environmental Assessment) on next agenda. Fleet of C130s for firefighting. **Stump:** C130 here, broke down. **Peters:** Blackhawk helicopters can fly at night.

## 6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

A. **Electric Vehicles (EV) in the Tahoe Basin:** Devin Middlebrook started in 2016 funded by grant from CA Energy Commission that requires no matches. He discussed EV technology, overview of chargers that range in timing of charge. Partnered with Truckee and others in planning. Protecting environment is key benefit. EV reduces 70% of GHG emissions. Range anxiety: Make it to destination? Chargers expensive to install. Running wires under buildings. Improve EV awareness. Universal chargers vs Tesla only. High income area. 5% reduction in GHG by 2035. Biggest challenge is lack of 4WD and AWD vehicles. Awareness: 50% not know of federal, state, local tax credits. Public outreach events with owners and dealers with their cars to check out. Bus too. [tahoealternativefuels.com](http://tahoealternativefuels.com) Implementation plan identified players, stakeholders. Performance metrics: how many miles traveled, ease of installation, public awareness. Liberty Utilities important participant. Regional coordination is key. Get big-picture coordination. Education and awareness important. Data-driven planning with measurable outcomes. Capture buzz and "sexy-ness" of EVs.

Hogan cited VW ads on sound of silence.

Helping locals? *Middlebrook: No real need on residential side.*

Don Condon, EV Association. Pushback on snow removal at charging stations. *Middlebrook: Snow removal a big thing. Go with contractor for pre-site planning. Make sure get retractable cord systems. Solar companies offered poles. Big green bollards on all sides.*

Lynn Boulton: Financing for quick chargers at private site? *Middlebrook: Worked with Tesla, but EV-go had its own grant to install. VW settlement money. Most from public or settlement moneys. Public money has pushed it. Few city/county-owned properties of infrastructure.*

Liberty into northern Mono? *Middlebrook: One near Topaz.*

Hwy 50 bus pilot? *Middlebrook: Not know. Buses plug-in charging at night, overhead charging along route. Skepticism on buses from drivers, mechanics (threat to their jobs). Test drives help. Getting behind wheel is best.*

Stump wanted to re-contact Middlebrook in future.

B. **2019-20 Local Transportation Fund:** Megan Mahaffey introduced topic. Allocation has gone up due to economy. Allocation based on estimate. Reserve in recommendation, could allocate on unmet needs.

**MOTION:** Adopt Resolution R19-05 approving apportionment & allocation for 2019-20 Local Transportation Fund (*Peters/Hogan. Ayes: 6-0.*)

C. **2019-20 State Transit Assistance:** Megan Mahaffey noted higher estimates than last year due to economy as well.

**MOTION:** Adopt Resolution R19-06 approving apportionment & allocation for State Transit Assistance 2019-20 fiscal year (*Halferty/Peters. Ayes: 6.*)

D. **Senate Bill 152 Beall/ATP (Active Transportation Program):** Gerry Le Francois noted it passed out of subcommittee pending further action. Letter to maintain existing percentages. Even CTC disappointed with reach for additional funds (40% to 70%). Letter out soon, email to LTC.

E. **2019-20 Overall Work Program:** Gerry Le Francois noted funding for planning dollars dependent on State budget. Share with Town. RPA and PPM. Asking for adoption via M19-02

Hogan noted airport planning total funding incorrect. \$7,500.

Le Francois: Use planning dollars only getting to airport. Sit down with Town on ALUC (Airport Land Use Commission), explore option of designated body. BOS would have to authorize change. Look at connectivity.

Wentworth: Voting to approve OWP? Hesitant to vote due to lots of issues to understand. *Le Francois: Address many issues. Include point-by-point letter next month.*

Hogan thought it important to know Austin West of Caltrans carefully reviewed OWP. *Le Francois: Lot of money comes through LTC. HQ staff soon to discuss OWP. Wheeler Crest v Swall Meadows: Mono uses Wheeler Crest in all documents.*

Wentworth: Evidence in letter of discretionary funding. Wanted net result. Report next meeting how things resolved. Stump noted staff covering many bases.

Peters indicated recent requests to look at policy of angled parking, change of location possibility. How approach parallel vs angled.

**MOTION:** Approve Minute Order M19-02 adopting 2019-20 Overall Work Program (*Hogan/Halferty. Ayes: 6-0.*)

7. **ADMINISTRATION**

A. **Olancha/Cartago letter of support:** Gerry Le Francois noted letters of support in past. Offsetting RTIP/STIP dollars.

8. **TRANSIT**

A. **Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA):** ESTA grant letter of support

**MOTION:** Approve ESTA grant letter of support (*Hogan/Holler. Ayes: 6.*)

B. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** Sandy Hogan noted YARTS will operate four months, till Oct. 31.

--- Dan Holler exited at 11:58 a.m. ---

9. **CALTRANS:** Brent Green noted lower gate on Tioga Road has traffic counter. Little Walker/Aspen-Fales project to start around July 8. Public meeting with contractor (Peters recommended July 1-2). Phase project in two seasons. 395 Task Force on Eastern Kern: Traffic 4,000-6,000 north of Kramer Junction, 20,000 south. District 8 noted illegal passing south of Kramer, so added delineators.

Four-lane Adelanto area? *Green: North into Kramer passing lanes added at huge cost, huge environmental (no way to fund).*

Caltrans held first-ever town hall in Bishop for educating public.

10. **INFORMATIONAL:** None

11. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Unmet needs vs. general transit; 2) quarterly reports; 3) STIP estimates; 4) OWP responses

12. **ADJOURN** at 12:13 p.m. to July 8, 2019

*Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary*