

# Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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## MINUTES

August 13, 2018  
(Adopted September 10, 2018)

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Stacy Corless, John Peters, Fred Stump  
**TOWN COMMISSIONERS:** Sandy Hogan, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth  
**COUNTY STAFF:** Gerry Le Francois, Megan Mahaffey, Garrett Higerd, CD Ritter  
**TOWN STAFF:** Grady Dutton  
**CALTRANS:** Brent Green, Austin West, Terry Erlwein, Lianne Talbot  
**ESTA:** Karie Bentley, Joe Rye  
**GUESTS:** Lynn Boulton, Raejean Fellows, Malcolm Clark

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**1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited pledge of allegiance.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No items

**3. MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Approve minutes of May 14, 2018, as amended: 1) Item 7B, line 2: hired Gordon Shaw, LSC consultant, represented by Selena McKinney, LSC consultant. 2) Item 7B, line 5: JPA (Joint Powers Authority) was NPS, Merced, Mariposa and Mono. 3) Item 7B, Corless/Stump. (Hogan/Corless. Ayes: 5. Abstain due to absence: Peters & Salcido)

**4. WELCOME TO LYNDY SALCIDO, NEW COMMISSIONER:** Salcido served on mobility commission and attended LTC meeting as Stump's alternate during Round Fire.

**5. COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Stump:** Fog seal project: section of Crowley Lake Drive, gouge at Appleton. Good comments. **Hogan:** Thanks to Caltrans for bulletins on highway closures. **Peters:** Lots in District 4. Brent Green & Garrett Higerd always respond. Pothole repairs appreciated. Talk through difficult construction issues. **Corless:** No report. **Salcido:** Reading materials, getting up to speed. **Wentworth:** Walk/Bike/Ride program effects in Lakes Basin in summer. Sidewalks on Main discussed. Thanks to Caltrans for road work. Appreciate SB 1 signs.

**6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION**

A. Community interest in EV (Electronic Vehicle) charging stations, state requirements and RTP policies. Gerry Le Francois introduced Rayjean Fellows and Lynn Boulton. Draft policy in packet. Promoting electric since 1977. Difficulties over climate change, public health. Look around Mammoth. Diesel, trucks, etc. Unique environment. Challenges with electric vehicles. Resort relies on people getting here. Think of big picture of all who need to get here. Tesla has eight super chargers. Chevy Volt Bolt goes 238 miles. From Orange County, can't get here, must stay overnight. Charging at Minaret Village Mall? New chapter: Eastern Sierra Electric Vehicle Association. Electric drive event Sept. 9 at park and ride lot. Mitsubishi Outlander 25 mi electric, then to gas. 400,000 EVs in California today, half of all in nation. Join new technology, test drive one.

Influence type of plugs that vary from vehicle to vehicle? Tesla works only for Tesla. *Fellows: Inter-operability, technical method of charging to be interchangeable. Europe has it. Japan manufacturing has one method, Europeans have another. Adapters are current workaround. Tesla is proprietary so not share. Important to have comfortable, easy access.*

PowerPoint by Boulton showed three charging levels: 120v; 220v; and supercharging (higher price range). Plug in overnight.

Europe? Level 2.

Fellows suggested electric within Mammoth, gas when out of town.

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## COMMISSIONERS

Stacy Corless Sandy Hogan John Peters Lynda Salcido Fred Stump John Wentworth

Boulton indicated level 2 charges six to eight hours. Measure by miles and how long to fill up battery. Need separate electric box for it. 50-amp circuit, according to Stump. Since 1980.

Boulton noted pedestals vary, non-Tesla. SCE offers \$500 for installation. \$450 cash for new or used EV. Order online. Electrician installs.

Part of charge-ready program? *Boulton: Location specific.*

Boulton noted Independence has two level-2 chargers with pedestal to collect money.

Internet to make credit card work? *Cell phone works.* Boulton also noted wall mount for level 2. Level 3 has supercharger, lot faster, Reno, Topaz, Mammoth Lakes, Lone Pine, Inyokern. Virginia Lakes settlement has single supercharger. Lots of Tesla at motel guests in Mammoth. Now non-Tesla level 2 as well. No level 3 non-Tesla anywhere. Showed bar graph of vehicles. Need greater range for big trip.

Fellows stated Volt has 53 miles all-electric. Bigger batteries. Good way to start around town.

Boulton noted range of 100 mi from Reno to Walker, 100 mi across Tioga to Groveland. From Mojave, can't make Lone Pine, but Ridgecrest to Lone Pine works. Need chargers every 100 miles. Time and cost considerations. \$3+, RV in Mammoth charges \$25. Charge customer: free, kwh, by hour, or by session.

Wentworth wanted Caltrans perspective. To Mammoth Tourism. Enormously valuable in Eastern Sierra.

Green indicated State has robust program for EV. Close gaps, ready to go in Boron, Coso, Independence rest area, Bishop. To March 29 CTC meeting, construction next summer. Rest areas have federal funding. Go as far as Crestview, but nothing till Topaz. 4% of parking places for EV vehicle charging. Contracts for 30 vehicle models. VW lawsuit funding electric charging at CHP, lease buildings. Only one Nissan in fleet, inspections. Good for Bishop. State doing lots. Caltrans is drop in bucket.

Mitsubishi as pilot? *Green: Equipment shop in Sacramento. Different regions have different restrictions. Hydrogen power better, so some equipment might go that direction.*

Caltrans restricted funding? STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program)? *Green: EV not fit under either STIP or SHOPP (State Highway Operation & Protection Program). 30-38 charging stations.*

Peters predicted 7 million EVs on road by 2030. Project in Bridgeport, private individual. How become more unified, maybe include Crestview. Liberty doing its thing in Walker/Coleville. Keep bringing new information.

Boulton: VW lawsuit in phase I, put in suggestions for phase II. Eastern Sierra might get one or two. Tesla wanted supercharger in Lee Vining. Community center, library, County yard. Carport with Tesla and non-Tesla. Hogan also suggested USFS and visitor center.

Air Resources Board have role in development? *Green: Working in concerted effort.*

Communicate with? *Green: Zev fest. Find out, presentation here.*

Funding? New revenues for SB 1 under this section. Pieces of revenue eligible for funding?

Higerd: to Caltrans or Town. Congress set aside earmarks for SB 1.

Le Francois reached out to Edison, sent website for home installation. Liberty installed two at Coleville High School for bus and staff.

Wentworth wanted to bring back **item related to ev**, think on action item, singular point of dissemination of reliable resources.

Hogan requested update every two or three quarters. How could LTC help? *Green: Don't repeal SB 1!*

## B. **Summary of SB-1 revenues, project listing:** Gerry Le Francois showed Town and Mono projects.

Higerd: Mono investing since January, committed through October on fog seal project, striping 46 miles of Mono roads that need preventive maintenance. Shows SB 1 funding, some into Mono coffers with other gas tax revenue. Total SB-1 levels off at \$3 million. Very significant for Mono no general fund for maintenance or engineering staff. Preventive maintenance, projects, major rehab from other sources.

Stump suggested here's what it's going for, what it's not. Educate on value of **the** legislation even though **hardship gas tax and vehicle registration fee increases cause hardship.**

Wentworth wanted targeted talking points to constituents. Outdoor Recreation position at risk on SB 1 outcome. Advocate for SB 1.

Higerd suggested letter on LTC stance on repeal effort with accompanying information.

Stump wanted dollar figures on projects in next few years with money received. Direct benefit.

Peters suggested Caltrans signs indicate planned SB 1 projects.

Higerd presented last fall comprehensive list of projects for five years. Policy decision for future: All revenue programmed for projects (\$3 million), Interim Public Works Director Doug Wilson prefers \$1 million to road fund. Staffing issues: competing projects. Not comfortable with signs several years in advance. Signs up for 46-mile fog seal project. SB 1 does not fund airports per se.

Signage for SB 1 projects?

Do people know what SB 1 is? *Green: SB 1 is gas tax. Political arm is governor's office. Public interest groups, efforts go to governor's office with message to educate public.*

Stump heard Proposition 6 polls show it passing.

Hogan wanted to emphasize gas tax = SB 1.

7. **ADMINISTRATION:** No items

--- Break: 10:25-10:30 ---

8. **TRANSIT**

A. **Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA):**

1. **New Interim Executive Director:** Karie Bentley introduced Interim Executive Director Joe Rye, who said he's excited to be here, great system with challenges and opportunities. Unsure how long. Manage it like it's his own. Involved in transit in California for 20 years.

Bentley cited severe shortage of four to seven drivers. Board approved discontinuing Limited Route. Twice/day weekdays for schools. Public meeting on turnaround. Board also approved employee incentive/training program. Give driver feedback. \$500 employee referral bonus to drivers. \$500 phased sign-on bonus. Creative recruiting efforts.

Rye indicated nationwide issue with drivers is acute in Mono County. Petaluma trained drivers who then went elsewhere for more money. Constant struggle.

Down time? *Yes, mandatory eight hours between shifts.*

Salcido suggested employment agency, school district drivers. *Bentley: Done that, past employees, flexibility with part time, ads in theaters with captive audience, job fairs. Need 10-yr driving record, maybe DMV from ESTA.*

Peters reported Walker senior center passengers on field trip raved about driver/tour guide, helpful, thankful. Driver eager to replay.

Corless thanked Old Mammoth transit work. Advocate for policies legislative/administrative on DMV policy.

Wentworth cited third party in strip mall Brett Walters, who might provide service.

2. **Resolution R18-09:** Joe Rye stated losing State of Good Repair would be devastating. Preventive maintenance for flexibility, helps operating budget. Same as last year.

Stump suggested notice on buses about funding sources. Mobile billboards need no approval. Bump revenue-based ad on bus. Message is that important – Gas tax = SB 1.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution R18-09 on ESTA's SB 1 funding project list (*Hogan/Corless. Ayes: 6-0.*)

B. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) update:** Outreach appendices to SRTP (Short-Range Transit Plan), financial alternatives. Marketing strategies. Third working paper in September with alternate management strategies. Artis Smith will provide updates.

Corless noted full operations tomorrow, has been running Mammoth to Tuolumne.

Hogan recalled reservations were booming until fire impacted whole system.

Corless indicated no JPA board meeting due to lack of quorum. Leadership changes at Merced, executive director departed, so fee increase back on table. Meet in couple weeks.

Hogan wanted Eastside Working Group to start looking at issues to address.

9. **CALTRANS**

A. **SR 120 speed survey:** Terry ~~Erlwain~~ Erlwein indicated two-lane = 55 mph, four-lane = 65 mph, freeway = 70 mph. Speed surveys every five years. Study shows 85<sup>th</sup> percentile = 55 from 395 to closure gate at end of straightaway. YARTS' Cindy Kelly mentioned riding brakes whole way.

Erlwain stated speed limit affected by other drivers, roadside environment, history. Stump added multiple users.

Public hearing on speed surveys Aug. 21 at BOS. Pass/no pass pennants installed upon arrival.

B. **Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information:** Green acknowledged SB1 projects, sidewalk project on Main Street. Three contractors died on Caltrans projects. When told director, held safety stand-down meeting statewide as reminder for consultants, contractors to recognize how dangerous road construction can be. Bizarre weather, slides and fire closed June Lake Loop, 168 E Westgard, Tioga, Monitor, SR 168 W, SR 108. Construction: Most chip seal completed. More construction next few years. Olancho/Cartago moving forward with ROW acquisition. No resistance. 395 task force on safety improvements: E Kern to 15, engaged District 8 on corridor. Illegal passing south of Kramer Junction.

Erlwain: Shoulder projects intended for refuge from oncoming cars. Passing lane for trucks. Adelanto plans four lanes throughout area.

Green noted District 8 philosophy different from Mono. Added signage Kramer to Adelanto. Short of moving to four lane, what else can be done? Long time, expensive traffic counts low, accident data below statewide averages, so perception of problem vs. reality exists. No E Kern projects on books.

## 10. INFORMATIONAL

A. **Caltrans Mile Marker excerpt.**

B. **Support letter for US 395 under the BUILD grant program:** Le Francois said SBD asked for other funding.

11. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Quarterly reports; 2) YARTS short-range transit plan #3; 3) SB 1 letter, talking points; 4) electronic vehicles with Air Resources Board/District 9/Edison/Liberty. Salcido will attend next meeting remotely.

12. **ADJOURN** at 11:17 a.m. to September 10, 2018

*Prepared by CD Ritter, LTC secretary*