

# Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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## MINUTES

April 8, 2013  
(Adopted May 13, 2013)

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Tim Hansen (alternate for Tim Fesko), Larry Johnston, Fred Stump.

**TOWN COMMISSIONERS:** Jo Bacon, Sandy Hogan. **ABSENT:** Matthew Lehman.

**COUNTY STAFF:** Scott Burns, Gerry Le Francois, Garrett Higerd, Mary Booher, Jeff Walters, C.D. Ritter

**TOWN STAFF:** Peter Bernasconi, Jessica Morriss

**CALTRANS:** Forest Becket

**ESTA:** John Helm, Jill Batchelder

**GUESTS:** SSTAC (Carolyn Balliet, Megan Foster, Gary Cotter, Beth Himelhoch, Rick Franz, Laurel Martin, Terri Speidel, Natalie Sanders, Lori Ciccarella), Kelly Garcia

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1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Larry Johnston called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes, and Scott Burns led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 11, 2013

**MOTION:** Adopt minutes of March 11, 2013, as amended: Commissioner report: ~~Hogan.~~ **Bacon.**  
(Bacon/Hogan. Ayes: 4. Absent: Lehman. Abstain due to absence: Hansen.)

4. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Bacon: Must leave at 11:30. Stump: Lower Rock Creek product by June or July. Johnston: At Great Basin Unified Air Pollution meeting Los Angeles Department of Water & Power blamed Caltrans for Owens Dry Lake dust and Keeler dunes; no lawyers present.

### 5. ADMINISTRATION

A. **UNMET NEEDS: OPEN PUBLIC HEARING.** Wendy Sugimura introduced the hearing as opportunity to voice opinions and needs prior to funding allocations. **Staff:** John Helm confirmed unfiltered input summary in packet. Unreasonable to meet? *Items 5-8. Fare-box ratio? Achieve 10% of operating cost. June Lake/Mammoth Lakes route? Funded with Local Transit Funds (LTF) through LTC, discontinued due to extremely low ridership eight to nine months. Wintertime funding? Through Mono County. Previous year fare-box reimbursement agreement with Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain ski areas.* Alternate Commissioner Hansen thanked Helm, reported Lee Vining bus stop gets use for various reasons. **Public:** None. **SSTAC:** Himelhoch thanked ESTA for meeting SSTAC's needs. **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING** and take under advisement.

Commissioner Stump reported no discussion of unmet needs at Long Valley RPAC and questions on timing of Crowley-to-Mammoth bus that precludes work commute. Chalfant thought ridership might go up with lower fares. Benton/Chalfant ridership? *Benton varies by time of year, three to five Tuesday and Friday. June Mountain wintertime experience this year? Mixed. Extremely robust during Christmas holidays, larger bus needed late day. Presidents Weekend, weekends and holidays were good. Otherwise, low ridership, ranging from zero to two.* Commissioner Johnston recalled that original Lee Vining/June Lake route took Mammoth riders to Lee Vining first, then June, adding more time to ride. Not convenient. *Loop route included Lee Vining, June Lake and Mammoth. Route to Mammoth was more direct, but circuitous route back home was not adjusted.* Pilot program for a year? Scott Burns stated it was funded as a trial run outside unmet needs process.

Needs were reviewed item-by-item

Item 1: Have vehicle capacity, could put driver on.

Item 2: In winter couldn't get Mammoth employees to June or June employees to Mammoth with one bus. Vanpool for workers or June Lake residents? *Vanpool riders pay fixed fee, so are committed whether they ride or not. Designated drivers have background checks.* Commissioner Hogan suggested buying some vanpool seats. Vanpool for Crowley? *At least eight interested individuals could contact ESTA.*

Item 3: Vanpool comments.

Item 4: Are recreational purposes "necessity of life"? Sugimura confirmed yes from resolution verbiage. Bridgeport riders can't get to Lee Vining in time to catch YARTS. *New route would not be economically reasonable to meet. Low ridership is constraint, not vehicles or drivers. Low demand for reverse commute.* Benton: Riders to Mammoth or services to Benton. Incorporate idea into survey? *Be careful not to confuse survey with employment vs. health.*

Sugimura suggested summarizing, listing possible actions for LTC consideration at next meeting when pass resolution.

Item 7: Specialized medical services in Reno are not reasonable to meet.

Item 8: Commissioner Hogan recalled ESETS study in 2003 anticipated need. Sonora Pass is lower priority than Whitney, and if Whitney didn't work, Sonora unlikely. Sugimura suggested scheduled pickup route for hikers. It would bring people into Bridgeport. Trailhead shuttle?

Items 9-12: Not unmet needs. Commissioner Stump suggested dollar amounts would help decision on additional funding. Helm indicated basically a zero-sum game. LTC moneys, LTF and STA provide for public transit. If funds were allocated for any needs identified today, something existing would have to be reduced. Stump wanted to know existing funding. Commissioner Hogan asked about rollover funds. Booher indicated Finance Department could provide estimate when it receives LTC claimant letters from ESTA, etc., and then LTC could approve resolution to allocate funds. Built up 15% reserve last year. LTC discretion on reserve (5% to 15%). Sugimura thanked SSTAC for attending. **Five-minute break...**

**B. 2012-13 Overall Work Plan (OWP) amendment #2:** Mary Booher reviewed amendment and redline and/or typo adjustments. Jessica Morriss indicated no major changes on budget amendments. Town has eliminated mobility and airport commissions. Mono provides LTC staff support. Booher requested authorization for staff to submit changes next month.

**C. 2013-14 OWP:** A comment letter from the California Department of Transportation to Forest Becket at Caltrans had commendations (OWP well written and formatted, with work element tasks and deliverables clearly aligned) and suggestions (submit funding amounts for each source in draft OWP, add more details to purpose of each work element, and feed local planning activities into regional planning). Becket noted that Inyo LTC is staying under the radar (has not done ICAP, the Indirect Cost Allocation Plan), so headquarters is looking more at Mono, which is a step ahead now. Booher stated GIS is better at time studying than IT, and GIS component can be separated out. Becket described ICAP as quite detailed, and Booher wanted staff time tied to projects.

**D. Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21):** Gerry Le Francois presented another LTC letter to legislators on how detrimental population-based formulas are to rural counties. There are many unknowns regarding MAP-21, and staff will keep the commission updated as necessary. Commission discussed sending to Governor and Business, Transportation Secretary as well as copies to legislators, as the Active Transportation Program is being proposed by the Governor as part of the budget process. Staff will make necessary corrections.

**MOTION: Send letter to governor's office, where decisions are made, and also to CTC and legislators, including last letter as well. (Hogan/Stump. Ayes: 5. Absent: Lehman.)**

**E. 2011-12 LTC audit report:** Mary Booher requested continuation to May 13 meeting.

**F. 2013-14 Local Transportation Funds (LTF):** Mary Booher indicated a reserve of 5% to 15%, with staff preferring higher end: \$15,000 for annual audit, triennial audit, and support costs; \$30,000 for Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) and CREST (48% Town, 42% County). If ESTA does not need all the money allocated, it could go to unmet needs. In the past, LTC has allocated the full 2% for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

G. **LTC priorities:** Alternate Hansen suggested four lanes at North Conway instead of a passing lane (item 5). Commissioner Hogan ~~Hogan~~ **Johnston** reported that California Department of Fish and Wildlife agrees with deer/snow/safety fence along SR 203 and US 395 to airport (item 14) and **Commissioner Hogan** thought maybe the project could qualify for State Highway Operation & Protection Program (SHOPP). Update list and continue review at May 13 meeting.

6. **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:**

A. **TIOGA ROAD OPENING:** Jeff Walters reported that the sequester cut of \$2.4 million from the National Park Service (NPS), so plowing Tioga Road would not begin till May 15. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area offered to assist, but only if Memorial Day opening guaranteed; Mono County offered assistance; and Peter Bernasconi would ask about Town assistance. The NPS wants services operable when the road opens. Alternate Tim Hansen thought that with so little winter, NPS should go for earliest opener ever and help the local economy.

B. **CONVICT ROAD REHABILITATION:** Garrett Higerd reported this project was on the fast track, with staff report to Mono Supervisors April 16, 2013. He mentioned roads that access federal lands: Twin Lakes, Virginia Lakes, Lundy Lake (completed); Rock Creek Road (programmed); Convict Lake (wide range of users); and Owens River and McGee Creek roads (longer roads). Convict Road would be enhanced with climbing lane for bikes. Higerd noted a required 11.5% match of ~\$60,000/year. Support has come from users, Inyo National Forest, and private business.

7. **TRANSIT**

A. **Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA):** Jill Batchelder reported federal funding up to \$40,000, State Transit Assistance (STA) < \$30,000, Local Transit Funds (LTF) flat. Commissioner Hogan thought it important to stay involved in Town budget process. *All routes are funded with different sources. Reds Meadow shuttle? Memorial weekend only, then resume in June.*

B. **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** Scott Burns reported fare increase (Mammoth \$30 to \$36) to equalize fares with other routes. Status-quo budget, with \$30,000 from Mono. YARTS board: Supervisors Tim Alpers and Byng Hunt. Tuolumne County and Fresno are potential members.

8. **CALTRANS**

A. **Activities in Mono County:** None to report.

9. **INFORMATIONAL**

A. **National Park Service Commends YARTS**

B. **CA Statewide Local Streets & Roads Need Assessment**

10. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) quarterly reports; 2) unmet needs resolution; 3) 2012-13 OWP; 4) 2011-12 audit; 5) 2013-14 OWP; 6) LTC priority list

11. **ADJOURN** at noon to May 13, 2013.

*Prepared by C.D. Ritter, LTC secretary*