

COUNTY OF INYO NORTH SIERRA HIGHWAY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2016 MEETING

MEMBERS:

INYO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
INYO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
BISHOP CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF BISHOP PLANNING COMMISSION
BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE
BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER
EASTERN SIERRA TRI-COUNTY FAIR 18TH DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
EASTERN SIERRA COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT
BISHOP RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Inyo County
North Sierra Highway Plan Advisory Committee
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The Inyo County North Sierra Highway Plan Advisory Committee met on Thursday, September 28, 2016, in the City of Bishop, Executive Room, 377 West Line Street, Bishop, California.

Meeting opened at 5:30 p.m.

ITEM 1: **ROLL CALL –**

Members present: Rick Pucci, Board of Supervisors; Frank Stewart, District 1 Inyo County Planning Commissioner; Shane Huntley, City of Bishop Planning Commissioner; Peter Bernasconi, Bishop Paiute Tribe; Gloriana Bailey, Bishop Paiute Tribe; Brandon Fitt, Caltrans; Don McGhie, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Suzanne Wolfensberger, Tri-County Fairgrounds; Jill Batchelder, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority; Dan Nolan, Eastern Sierra Community Services District.

Staff present: Josh Hart, Inyo County Planning Director; Tom Schaniel, Inyo County Associate Planner; Dave Grah, City of Bishop Public Works Director; Elaine Kabala, City of Bishop Associate Planner.

ITEM 2: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all

ITEM 3: **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD –** This item provides the opportunity for the public to address the North Sierra Highway Plan Advisory Committee on any planning subject that was not scheduled on the Agenda.

There was no one from the public that wished to comment on any planning subject that was not scheduled on the Agenda.

ITEM 4: MEETING SUMMARY JULY 21, 2016– Summary of July 21, 2016 Meeting of the North Sierra Highway Plan Advisory Committee. Review and provide input.

Planning Director Josh Hart provided a summary of the July 21st Advisory Committee Meeting, and informed committee members that draft and final summary materials can be accessed on the Inyo County Planning website: www.inyoplanning.org

ITEM 5: STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARY REPORT - This Stakeholder Interview Summary Report highlights the most consistent and relative findings of stakeholder feedback on existing conditions and opportunities, as it was collected by the Plan’s project team through interview-style meetings, by touring the corridor with a group of agency stakeholders, and by attending association functions (e.g., Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce) and by facilitating the first North Sierra Highway Sustainable Corridor Plan Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee will receive a presentation from staff and provide input.

Mr. Hart provided a summary presentation of the contents of the Stakeholder Interview Summary Report.

The Advisory Committee voiced questions and concerns regarding the See-Vee Lane extension, the Wye Road intersection, parking along the Highway 395 corridor, signalization of pedestrian cross-walks and other design solutions to allow for better pedestrian highway crossings, bike paths, creation of a second entry to the Fairgrounds, extension of Home Street through to Highway 395, consistent speed limits throughout the corridor, lower speed limits in the corridor, consistency with the Bishop General Plan Mobility Element, Collaborative Bikeways Plan and Active Transportation Plan, undergrounding utilities for aesthetic purposes, and the timeline for the North Sierra Highway Corridor Plan completion.

ITEM 6: NORTH SIERRA HIGHWAY SUSTAINABLE CORRIDOR PLAN PROJECT BOUNDARY - Exhibit defines project boundaries and its relationship to Bishop City Limits & Bishop Paiute Reservation. The Committee will receive a presentation from staff.

Mr. Hart provided an overview of the proposed corridor plan project boundary.

The advisory committee had no comments regarding the proposed project boundary.

ITEM 7: NORTH SIERRA HIGHWAY CORRIDOR PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS - This Environmental Constraints Analysis (ECA) is intended to describe the existing setting and identify potential environmental constraints associated with the proposed North Sierra Highway Sustainable Corridor Plan. The Committee will receive a presentation from staff and provide input.

Mr. Hart provided an overview of the North Sierra Highway Corridor Plan Environmental Constraints Analysis.

Ms. Kabala requested creeks and other water features be identified as an aesthetic opportunity in the corridor.

DRAFT BACKGROUND/OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS REPORT-PUBLIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE - This report has been prepared by Inyo County staff to describe infrastructure and services and related opportunities and constraints within the Corridor. The Committee will receive a presentation from staff and provide input.

Mr. Hart provided an overview of the Draft Background/Opportunities and Constraints Report – Public Service and Infrastructure Report.

The committee discussed constraints with underground utilities due to the high groundwater table in the project area, and asked that stormwater drainage be considered, particularly due to flooding near the bridge on Highway 395.

ITEM 9: PRELIMINARY RESEARCH REPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS SUMMARY/OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS MAP- In consideration of the project purpose and relevant goals and objectives from previous planning efforts, this Preliminary Research Report involved a review of relevant documents, data, and mapping to describe existing conditions, identify issues and concerns, and highlight potential opportunities and constraints. The Committee will receive a presentation from staff.

Mr. Hart provided an overview of the Preliminary Research Report and Opportunities and Constraints Summary / Opportunities & Constraints Map.

Ms. Batchelder explained that fixed-route transit had been previously explored and did have sufficient ridership to continue the service, and that Eastern Sierra Transit (ESTA) is currently working with the Rite-Aid Center to establish a bus stop for the Mammoth Express service. She expressed it would be good to have “safe spots” at trip generators off of the highway where drivers can see riders, safely pull off the highway and allow riders to safely embark/disembark. The “safe spots” were also discussed as nodes that could include bicycling amenities and landscaping. Service is currently met through ESTA’s dial-a-ride service. Other issues discussed included increased truck traffic anticipated with Reno’s growth as a distribution and logistics center, deliveries to businesses in the Corridor, development of an I.T. infrastructure plan for efficient deployment of broadband, and available funding for undergrounding utilities.

ITEM 10: SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – CHARRETTE

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business, meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:
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