

**Eastern Sierra Transit Authority
Minutes of June 24, 2026 Meeting**

Call to Order - 11:06am on Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Chairperson Bubser called The meeting of Eastern Sierra Transit Authority to order at 11:06am from the Town of Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers, 437 Old Mammoth Rd Suite Z., Mammoth Lakes and in the remote location of City of Bishop Council Chambers, 301 W Line St., Bishop, Ca 93514

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established.

PRESENT:

Chairperson Bubser, Co-Chairperson Freundt, Boardmember's Sauser, Griffiths, Orrill, Schwartz, McFarland

ABSENT:

Boardmember Lynda Salcido

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes from previous board meeting May 11, 2026

Board passes approval for the Consent Agenda items

Information Agenda:

The Board was presented the Triennial Audit Report by Kathy Chambers of Moore & Associates. Dawn Vidal - Administration Manager discussed the Financial report. Jarett Chytka presented his Executive Directors report and Operations Report. With all of the discussion about the reports it was discussed and approved to remove Information Agenda(Receive & File Only) from the agenda, and make it a part of the regular agenda.

The Board approves of those changes to the agenda going forward.

Action Agenda:

Legal services contract (D1)

The board considered and unanimously approved a contract transferring ESTA legal services from Inyo County to Mono County Counsel. Deputy County Counsel Jeff Hughes introduced himself, received thanks for joining, and the board publicly acknowledged outgoing counsel for transition assistance before voting to approve the agreement.

* The board approved Mono County Counsel taking over legal services for ESTA and welcomed Jeff Hughes as the new deputy county counsel for ESTA matters.

Mammoth Dial-A-Ride holiday service (D2)

Staff requested approval to add DART service on weekdays that fall on holidays to serve ADA and general-public riders. The board approved the addition, with staff estimating the annual cost at under \$4,000.

* The board approved adding weekday holiday Mammoth DART service for ADA and general-public riders, at an estimated cost under \$4,000 per year.

electric and zero-emission vehicle purchases (D3–D4)

Dawn reported LCTOP funds had been accumulated over four years to buy an electric vehicle and associated infrastructure at the Bishop Hub and requested approval to purchase and coordinate installation with an electrician; the board approved. Staff also presented a separate zero-emission vehicle purchase funded by a different state program and noted staff and drivers had tested candidate vehicles at Bishop and Mammoth hubs.

* The board approved purchasing an electric vehicle funded by LCTOP and agreed to install required electrical infrastructure at the Bishop Hub.

Agendize for Future the Airport Flyer, needs and shifts, delays, concerns

Concerns from some boardmembers about the increase of the charters being too small, it was advised to add another tier for the lower income groups that request a charter.

Board approved the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget 7-0

Action Items:

- * ESTA will conduct a formal driver survey to collect preferences on shift lengths and scheduling.
- * ESTA will formalize driver attrition tracking, including an exit survey process to capture reasons for leaving.
- * ESTA will present organizational restructuring proposals to the board at a future meeting.
- * ESTA will notify the board of the confirmed mid-August hydrogen bus demonstration date by email.
- * Staff will provide hydrogen bus technical specifications and winter performance information to the board prior to the demonstration.
- * ESTA will check and correct the roadside sign at the 203/395 intersection so it reflects the correct reopening day.
- * ESTA will develop a contingency plan to stage standby Bishop buses and drivers to support peak exodus periods at Devil's Postpile and Reds Meadow.
- * ESTA will obtain and report airport flight delay and cancellation statistics to inform operational planning for the airport flyer.
- * ESTA will agendize a deeper discussion of airport and regional transport operations for a future board meeting.
- * ESTA will return to the board at the August meeting to request approval to move contingency funds if needed and to present an updated budget outlook.
- * ESTA will remove the "receive and file only" header and place those items under the regular action agenda so the board can provide direction.
- * New Legal Council, Jeff Hughes will provide contact information to ESTA staff and board members.
- * Dawn will implement additional weekday holiday Mammoth DART service following board approval.
- * Dawn will purchase the electric vehicle using LCTOP funds and coordinate with an electrician to install the required infrastructure at the Bishop Hub.

Closed Session: NO CLOSED SESSION

Boardmember Comments:

Boardmember Griffiths is still working with DWP and the Airport on Leasing efforts for ESTA's new building

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September 2, 2026
Agenda Item # A-1

Boardmember Schwartz wants the changes to the LTC funding reported back on ESTA funds
Chairperson Chris says thank you for staying on top of everything

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm to the next meeting scheduled to be held August 26, 2026 at 11:30am at City of Bishop Council Chambers, 301 W Line St., Bishop with a remote location to be at Town of Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers, 437 Old Mammoth Rd Suite Z

Recorded & prepared by:



Karina Morales

Board Clerk

Eastern Sierra Transit Authority

Minutes approved: _____



