



ANNUAL REPORT



2015

ESTA's Mission

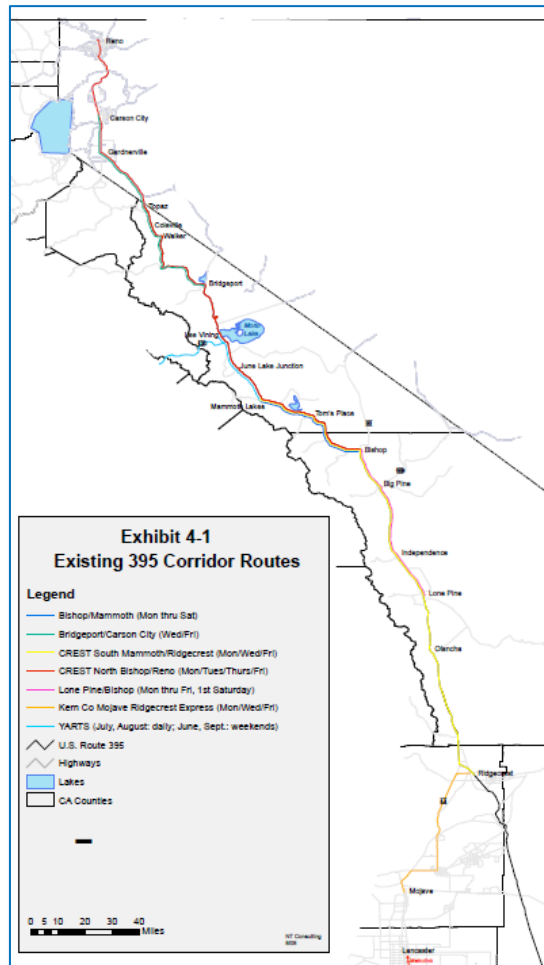
....to provide excellent public transportation services in an entrepreneurial style within the Eastern Sierra Region. The Authority, through its leadership provides responsive and reliable services and is a regional platform for service planning and funding decisions.

WHO -

The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of Inyo County, Mono County, the City of Bishop and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The Authority was formed in 2006 to address growing public transit needs within the Eastern Sierra region.

WHERE -

Eastern Sierra Transit provides service throughout Inyo and Mono Counties and along a 400 linear mile area extending from Lancaster to Reno. The majority of ESTA's services are operated in the Bishop and Mammoth Lakes Areas.



WHAT -

ESTA's provides a wide range of transit service including:

- **door-to-door dial-a-ride** service in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes, Lone Pine and the Antelope Valley
- **town-to-town routes** serving commuters and shoppers accessing work and commercial centers in Lone Pine, Independence, Bishop and Mammoth Lakes
- **local fixed route** service in Mammoth Lakes providing year-round service throughout the Town and to the many nearby recreational opportunities
- **intercity routes** known as the 395 Routes providing access to the national intercity bus network and an international airport in Reno, and the national intercity bus network and regional commuter rail service in Lancaster.
- **weekly lifeline service** from Bridgeport to Carson City out of Mono County, and from Tecopa/Shoshone to Pahrump in southern Inyo County.

HOW -

The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority is governed by an eight member Board of Directors with two elected officials appointed from each of the four member entities. One of Mono County's seats on the Board was unfilled for much of the year due to a conflict of interest for the Supervisor who had been appointed to the Board.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Jeff Griffiths
Second District Supervisor

Tim Alpers
Supervisor – District 3
Mono County

Jo Bacon
Town Council Member
Town of Mammoth Lakes

Jim Ellis
City Council Member
City of Bishop

Michael Raimondo
Town Council Member
Town of Mammoth Lakes

Karen Schwartz
City Council Member
City of Bishop

Dan Totheroh
First District Supervisor
Inyo County

The 2014/15 fiscal year marked the eighth full year of operation for ESTA, providing local and regional transit service throughout Inyo and Mono Counties. The Authority had grown significantly over this period of time both in scope of operations and in breadth of funding resources. As the Authority has grown in scope, it has also matured in terms of perception by residents and users of the transit services. ESTA has grown from a fledgling agency whose future was uncertain, to a respected area service provider that is counted on by passengers, area residents and the local government entities that comprise the joint powers authority. For several years now, the Authority's financial position has strengthened such that the annual advances from the JPA member entities, which were required to supplement operating cash flow to allow payment of ongoing expenses such as payroll and fuel, have not been needed. As of the 2014/15 year, ESTA has developed a strong fund balance that includes reserve funds for capital replacement, budget stabilization, and a general reserve fund.

The ongoing drought in California affected transit operations in 2014/15, as the lack of snowfall had a direct, negative impact on area visitation. Accordingly, the MMSA contracted routes were reduced considerably beginning in January. As had been demonstrated during the previous year, MMSA came to recognize that ESTA is a partner they can count on to respond to changing conditions. The nature of the agreement with MMSA is specifically designed to allow for modifications to the service levels to address variation in demand. An off-shoot of the low snowfall winters is that fact that summer can, and has started early in recent years. This has led to dramatic increases in summer business, particularly in the Mammoth Lakes area. This increased visitation has resulted in increased service on the Lakes Basin Trolley route to accommodate the increase in the number of riders wishing to access the recently completed Lakes Basin Bike Path. The increased length of the summer service season has also been reflected in dramatic ridership increases on the 395 routes to Reno and to Lancaster, as backpackers utilize these routes to access the eastern sierra region.

The well-developed and stable status of ESTA as of the 2014/15 year has proven itself as the fluctuations in ridership and visitation by season have been successfully addressed, and the Authority has continued to strengthen on both a financial and operational basis.

John Helm

Executive Director



Images 2015



Driver orientation training in the new Reno-Lancaster buses



Pre-season interpretive training at Devils Postpile



Another beautiful day on the Reds Meadow route

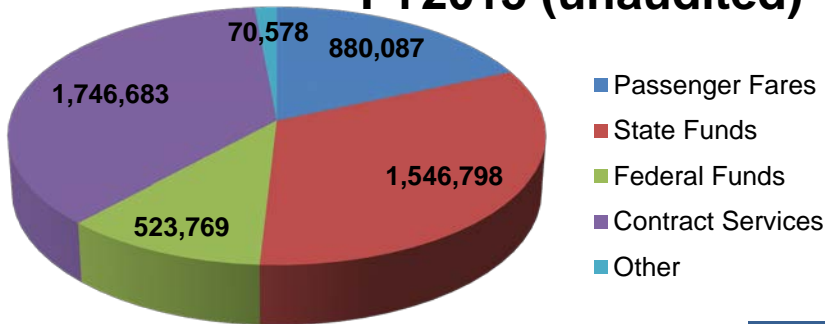
New Sprinters arrive for Bishop Dial-a-Ride service



4th of July Parade – Mammoth Lakes

FINANCIALS 2014/15

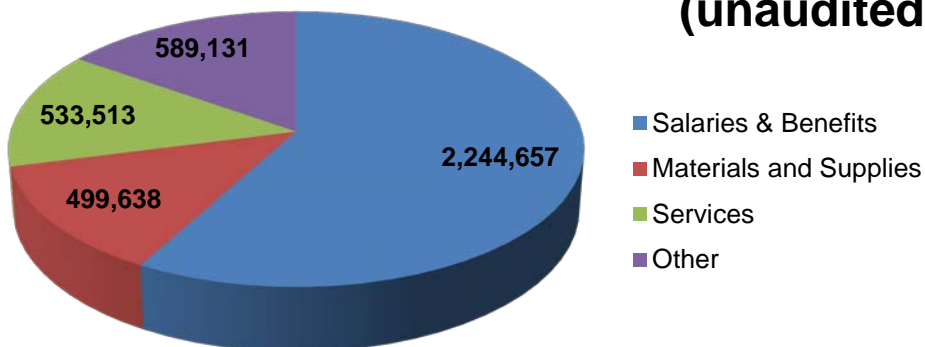
Operating Revenue Source FY2015 (unaudited)



REVENUE

Passenger Fares	\$880,087
State Funds	\$1,546,798
Federal Funds	\$523,769
Contract Services	\$1,746,683
Other	\$70,578
TOTAL	\$4,767,914

Operating Expenses FY2015 (unaudited)



EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,244,657
Materials and Supplies	\$499,638
Services	\$533,513
Other	\$589,131
TOTAL	\$3,826,938

FACTS and FIGURES

Fleet:

#	Description	Service
13	37-passenger buses	Reds Meadow and MMSA
9	20 - 33 passenger buses	395 Routes
7	Trolleys	Fixed Route (Mammoth Lakes)
20	15-passenger	Local Dial-a-Ride, Community Circulator
4	11-passenger Sprinters	Local Dial-a-Ride
4	Minivans	Local Dial-a-Ride
57	TOTAL	

Note: 5 minibuses and 7 trolleys are owned by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Personnel:

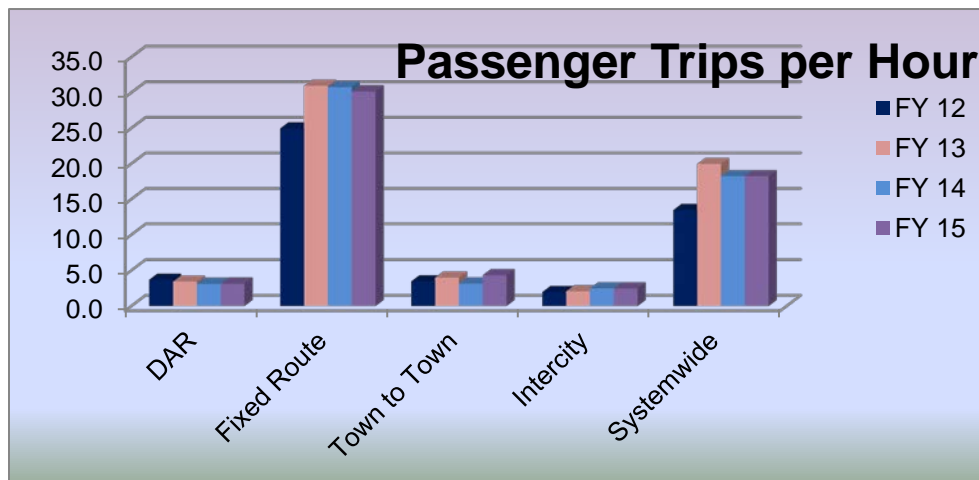
#	Description
5	Management
4	Administrative
65	Drivers
2	Support

FY 2014 Operating Statistics:

	2014/15	2013/14	% Variance
Vehicle Service Hours	53,474	53,379	0.2%
Service Miles	863,560	853,019	1.2%
Passenger Trips	975,082	972,953	0.2%

FY 2015 Key Performance Indicators:

- 18.2 passengers trips per hour (0% increase from 13/14)
- 23% farebox recovery ratio (10% = state required minimum)
- \$2.99 subsidy per passenger (2% increase from 13/14)
- 1.09 Preventable accidents per 100,000 miles (12% decrease from 13/14)





EASTERN SIERRA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
703 Airport Road
P.O. Box 1357
Bishop, CA 93515
760.872.1901
www.estransit.com