

ANNUAL REPORT



2016



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 ten years ago 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 transportation network (bus, rail, airline) in Reno and Lancaster.
- **lifeline service** in both Mono County (Bridgeport to Gardnerville, Benton to Bishop), and Inyo County (Tecopa/Shoshone to Pahrump).

HOW -

The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority is governed by an eight member Board of Directors with at least one elected official appointed from each of the four member entities. The other seat from each member entity can be filled by an appointed member at large.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Karen Schwartz
City Council Member
City of Bishop

Tim Alpers
Supervisor – District 3
Mono County

Jeff Griffiths
Second District Supervisor
Inyo County

Cleland Hoff
Town Council Member
Town of Mammoth Lakes

Joe Pecs
City Council Member
City of Bishop

Bill Sauser
Town Council Member
Town of Mammoth Lakes

Kirk Stapp
Director At-Large
Mono County

Mark Tillemans
Fourth District Supervisor
Inyo County

FY 2015/16 was a big year for ESTA in many regards. Not only was it a record-breaking year in terms of ridership, but it also was marked by a number of new innovations.

ESTA provided more than 1.1 million passenger trips in FY 15/16. This eclipsed the previous record set in 2012/13 by more than 10,000 trips. For the first time in ESTA's history, the Authority's productivity, as measured by number of passenger trips per service hour, exceeded 20 for the year. Ridership has grown significantly over the past five years as a result of entering into a contract with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for the operation of winter-time fixed route service, and due to expansion of services for the Reds Meadow Shuttle and the Lakes Basin Trolley in the Mammoth Lakes region. While these services have posted impressive ridership gains, equally important paratransit service has continued to be well used in other areas including Bishop, Lone Pine, the Antelope Valley, and the Tri-Valley area. Although productivity is a common and important metric for the measurement of transit efficiency, provision of valuable life-line transit services in more rural areas also provides great utility to our region.

The strong operational performance of FY15/16 was accompanied by equally strong financial performance resulting from operational running cost savings due to continued low fuel prices and vehicle maintenance costs. The Authority's revenues minus expenses ended the year \$467,000 better than budget. These surplus funds will be used to supplement the Authority's fund balance and will continue to position the Authority to weather potentially uncertain future economic times.

During the past year, ESTA's Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) was completed. The SRTP serves as a roadmap to guide improvements to the public transit program for the next five years. In addition to reviewing ESTA's current services, the Plan also made important recommendations regarding future service enhancements which include: expansion of the days of service for the Reno and Lancaster routes, development of a transit hub or hubs in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, expansion of service on the Mammoth Town Trolley route to address a service gap along the Meridian Corridor, and expansion of service to recreational opportunities, specifically the Bishop Creek Recreation Area. The SRTP also identified sustainable funding sources to insure that existing and expanded service can continue into the future.

FY 2015/16 also marked the initiation of a new rider information system called Swiftly. This web-based app provides real-time information to passengers regarding bus arrivals as well as valuable trip planning tools. ESTA also debuted a re-designed website in 2015/16 which has greatly improved the user's experience. Intuitive route mapping information leads to detailed schedule and fare information on the site, allowing individuals to easily plan their travels on ESTA's system.

FY15/16 proved to be yet another great year for ESTA.

John Helm
Executive Director



ESTA's Service Area

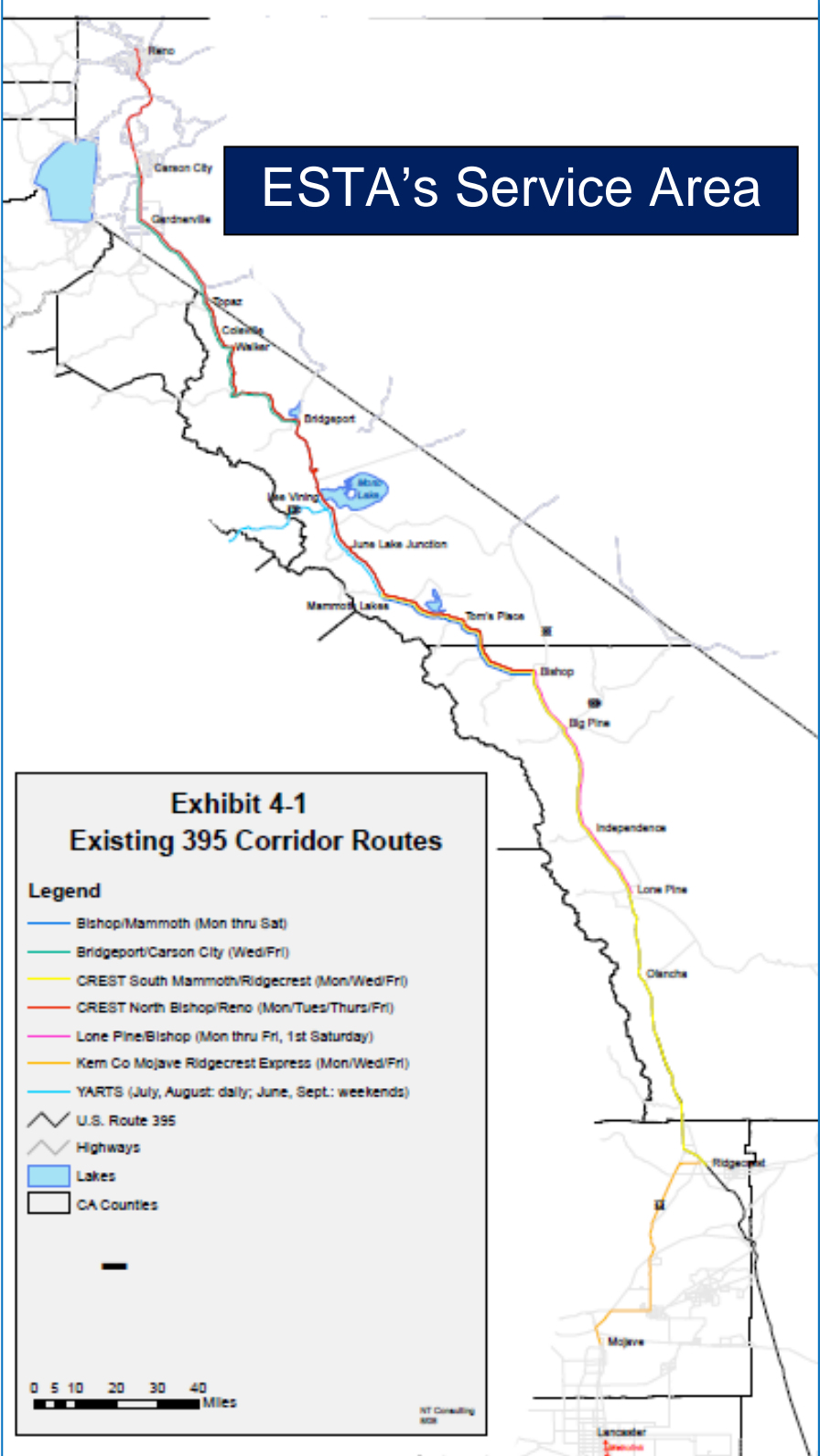
Exhibit 4-1
Existing 395 Corridor Routes

Legend

- Bishop/Mammoth (Mon thru Sat)
- Bridgeport/Carson City (Wed/Fri)
- CREST South Mammoth/Ridgecrest (Mon/Wed/Fri)
- CREST North Bishop/Reno (Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri)
- Lone Pine/Bishop (Mon thru Fri, 1st Saturday)
- Kern Co Mojave Ridgecrest Express (Mon/Wed/Fri)
- YARTS (July, August: daily; June, Sept: weekends)
- U.S. Route 395
- Highways
- Lakes
- CA Counties

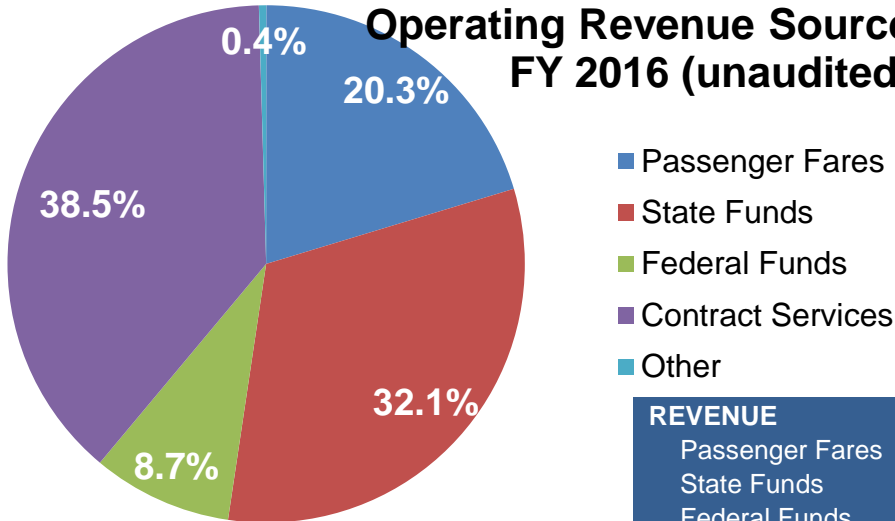
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 Miles

NT Consulting
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FINANCIALS 2015/16

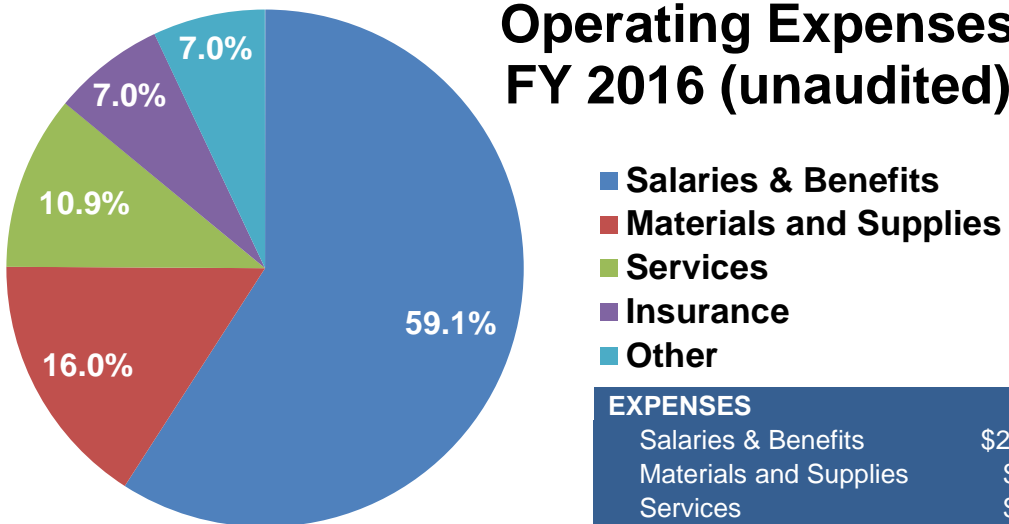
Operating Revenue Source FY 2016 (unaudited)



REVENUE

Passenger Fares	\$951,567
State Funds	\$1,502,330
Federal Funds	\$409,226
Contract Services	\$1,803,131
Other	\$20,760
TOTAL	\$4,687,014

Operating Expenses FY 2016 (unaudited)



EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,368,506
Materials and Supplies	\$639,878
Services	\$436,745
Insurance	\$280,356
Other	\$281,378
TOTAL	\$4,006,563

BY THE NUMBERS

Fleet:

#	Description	Service
13	37-passenger buses	Reds Meadow and MMSA
9	20 - 33 passenger buses	395 Routes
8	Trolleys	Fixed Route (Mammoth Lakes)
22	15-passenger	Local Dial-a-Ride, Community Circulator
4	11-passenger Sprinters	Local Dial-a-Ride
3	Minivans	Local Dial-a-Ride
59	TOTAL	

Note: 4 minibuses and 7 trolleys are owned by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Personnel:

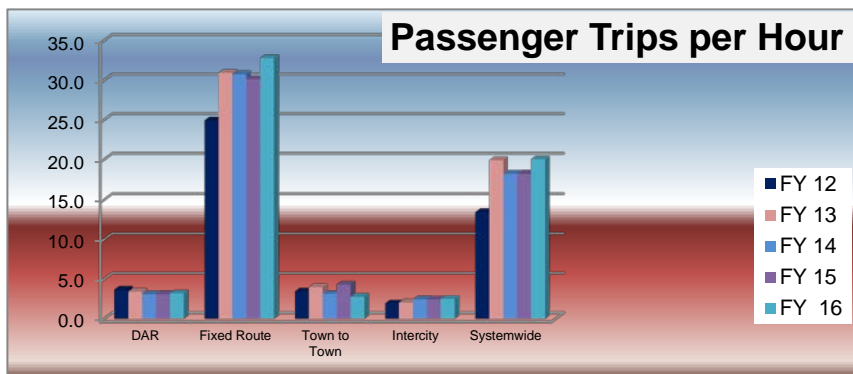
#	Description
5	Management
4	Administrative
65	Drivers
2	Support

FY 2016 Operating Statistics:

	2015/16	2014/15	% Variance
Vehicle Service Hours	56,948	53,474	6.5%
Service Miles	971,040	863,560	12.4%
Passenger Trips	1,141,632	975,082	17.1%

FY 2016 Key Performance Indicators:

- 20.0 passengers trips per hour (10% increase from 14/15)
- 23% farebox recovery ratio (10% = state required minimum)
- \$2.68 subsidy per passenger (10% decrease from 14/15)
- 1.44 Preventable accidents per 100,000 miles (32% increase from 14/15)





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