



TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES

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Date: October 10, 2023

To: Old Mammoth Residents Near Proposed Woodmen St. Bus Turn-Around

RE: Bus Turn-around at Woodmen St

Over the last few years, the Town of Mammoth Lakes has investigated options to provide fixed route transit service to the Old Mammoth neighborhood. Bus service in the area ended nearly seven years ago creating a large gap in the Town's transit network. Providing a transit route in Old Mammoth is difficult as there is only one way into and out of the neighborhood. Additionally, there are many constraints related to topography and narrow streets that add complexity to providing service. Working with Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) the Town reviewed and analyzed numerous locations to serve as a long-term bus turn around area. This included review of existing streets, private property, MCWD and MLFPD property, and Federal lands.

The corner of Woodmen Street and Old Mammoth Road was selected as the best, viable location for year-round service. The Town was granted an easement from the property owner Mammoth Community Water District to construct the needed infrastructure and amenities. The Town introduced the plan to the neighborhood last year and heard significant concerns specifically from the residents on Old Mammoth Road, Woodmen St, Cliff Circle, Mill Street and other area residents. The concerns generally included noise, lights, the size of the bus, hours of operation and functionality of the location. Based upon the community concerns the Town Council decided not to proceed at that time with the proposed improvements.

To provide some level of service the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFPD) permitted ESTA to turn-around but not stop in their fire station parking lot at the corner of Club Drive. This was provided as an interim solution. This allowed ESTA to use the existing stop east of Ranch Road for the 2023 winter season. This was the only stop available to ESTA given the constraints. This single stop currently serves all the Old Mammoth neighborhood and is a significant distance for most residents that need and use transit services. Over the winter Town staff and the Town Council witnessed how difficult it is for residents to access this transit stop and the unacceptable conditions residents had to endure to use transit. Staff was asked to reevaluate the stop at Woodmen St and made changes to the plans to address neighborhood concerns.

In response to concerns raised, the footprint was reduced and amenities such as parking, lighting and the transit shelter were removed. ESTA is proposing to use a smaller bus to access Old Mammoth on a reduced schedule to mitigate noise and light concerns. The Town of Mammoth Lakes has authorized a private contractor to proceed with the paving of the turnaround at Woodmen St. The property is owned by Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD). We understand that this may not be the most desirable location for some residents in the area, which is why I am personally reaching out. The Town is sometimes required to make difficult decisions in determining how best to provide

services to residents. We anticipate continued neighborhood concerns, and we are willing to listen to those concerns. At a public meeting on October 18, 2023 the Town Council will evaluate ESTA's proposed changes to transit routes and services, including decisions to expand service. This includes the changes to service on Old Mammoth Road. The meeting will be held in the Town Council Chambers located in "Suite Z" located at 437 Old Mammoth Road. The meeting will also be available via Zoom. The meeting starts at 4:00 pm. The meeting agenda will be posted by 5:00 pm on October 13, 2023 and may be viewed on the Town's Website at <https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/> under the Meetings and Agenda Tab.

The authorization to move forward with construction of the turn-around has already been given and will not be considered by Council at this meeting. You are encouraged to attend the meeting and share your opinions and concerns regarding the provision and scope of transit services in your neighborhood as well other proposed transit route changes. We trust the changes in the scope of services noted above will address some of the concerns and are open to hearing other adjustments to consider in providing transit services.

Regards,



Daniel C. Holler
Town Manager

cc: Town Council
Phil Moores, ESTA