



Quarterly Newsletter of the Planning Division

1st Quarter, 2013

Spotlight -
Nevada State Rail Plan
 By Matt Furedy

The Nevada State Rail Plan was written to provide the state of Nevada with a plan for implementing passenger and freight rail service improvements in the state, as well as guide multi-state initiatives, and to fulfill the requirements of the 2008 federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA). The plan has a multimodal passenger and intermodal freight focus designed to be compatible with highway, air, and transit modes operating in and through the state.

A comprehensive public information and outreach program was used to engage project stakeholders in the planning process to develop the plan. The program included identifying the stakeholders, creating north and south technical advisory committees with industry experts, hosting multiple committee and public information meetings, soliciting stakeholder input through surveys and interviews, and developing a series of electronic and hard copy information materials. Project information was disseminated through correspondence, technical advisory committee and public meetings, including WebEx conferencing, printed collateral materials, and an interactive website to inform stakeholders and the public about project status and outcomes.

Nevada's geography and historic development patterns have resulted in two primary rail corridors, which generally run east-west across the state, along with a few supplemental branch and excursion lines. The Union Pacific Railroad operates both the northern and the southern east-west corridors, as a result of mergers; BNSF Railway has trackage rights on nearly three quarters of the Union Pacific Railroad trackage in Nevada as a condition of the mergers. The two-route northern corridor serves Reno, as well as other northern Nevada communities, and connects with Salt Lake City and Denver to the east and with Sacramento and the San Francisco area to the west. Amtrak operates once-a-day passenger rail service in each direction across this northern Nevada corridor; I-80 generally parallels the rail lines in this corridor. The southern corridor serves Las Vegas and connects it with Salt Lake City to the northeast and with Los Angeles to the southwest. Amtrak discontinued providing passenger service in this corridor some 15 years ago; I-15 generally parallels the single-track rail line in this corridor. The state lacks north-south through rail or interstate highway linkages, thus, Las Vegas is not connected to Reno or with nearby Phoenix to the southeast.

A total of 191 million net tons of freight moved across Nevada by rail in 2009, of which 96 percent was through-traffic with origins and destination outside the state. Three percent of the rail traffic flow originated outside Nevada with an in-state destination, and less than one percent originated in Nevada with a destination outside the state.

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The recommended projects included in the Nevada state rail plan involve a combination of private and public-sector conventional and high speed passenger rail, freight rail, excursion rail, and rail-highway grade crossing improvements to be made in the short-, mid-, and long- term.

New Employees

Transportation/Multimodal Planning (TMP) Division has four recent new employees in 2012:

1) Graham Dollarhide:

Graham started as a Transportation Planner/Analyst July 23rd —and was married in Zephyr Cove on July 28th. He works in the Transit section with Michelle Gardner and Trish Giomi on providing transit in the rural areas of our state.

Graham graduated from the University of Nevada in 2005 with a B.S. Geography, going on to earn his Master's in Land Use Planning and Policy, also from Nevada. Before landing at NDOT, he spent two separate stints interning for the Washoe County Community Development Department.

Outside of his professional career, Graham enjoys traveling with his wife Ashley (and 5 lb. Yorkie named Petri), and all things sports—including his skydiving trip for his bachelor party. Graham is also a managing member of Will 'N Company Limited, a fledgling fan apparel company based out of Reno.



From l to r, Jocene Yang, Jana Mabry, Andrea Napoli, Tim Rowe and Graham Dollarhide.

2) Jana Mabry:

Jana happily accepted her position with Transportation and Intermodal Planning on April 30, as a Transportation Planner Trainee. She started her journey with NDOT in the Construction Division as a Management Assistant II in 2002. She then worked in Roadway Design for 7 years as an Engineer Technician and has worked for the state a total of 14 years.

Currently, she is finishing a degree in General Studies, then hopefully on to a BA in Social Work/Business.

Jana grew up in Washoe Valley and attended schools in Reno. She moved to Sacramento where she attended American River College for a year. She then moved to Hawaii (little adventure) in 1991 to manage a Deli in Lahania, Maui. She returned a year later, 1992, when she moved to Carson City, where she has lived ever since.

She enjoys spending time with her family, golfing, the water, and pretty much any outdoor activities. She has a wonderful dog her name is Mulligan (Mully for short), rescued from the Humane Society 5 years ago, so hence the name, second chance! We both enjoy long hikes, daily.

3) **Andrea Napoli:**

Andrea started as a Transportation Planner/Analyst in November and is working with Coy Peacock in development of the STIP and consultation with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations in development of their respective transportation plans.

Andrea is a recent graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, having earned her Master's degree in Land Use Planning in May 2012. During her studies, she completed a course taught by NDOT's Sondra Rosenberg titled Transportation Planning and Policy, and subsequently served as a Public Service Intern during the summer of 2011 for NDOT's Planning Division.

Prior to attending graduate school, Andrea worked in the fields of land use and environmental planning within the Lake Tahoe Basin for both a private consulting firm and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Andrea is an avid mountain biker and cycling advocate. In 2011 she had earned a national title as the USA Cycling Collegiate National Champion for Women's Downhill, and continues to compete at the professional level within the Western States. Additionally, thru her academic achievements and cycling advocacy work, she was selected as the 2011/2012 national female recipient of the USA Cycling Kuck Scholarship.

Andrea is a proud mother to her four-legged, furry son, Petey.

4) **Tim Rowe:**

Tim started as a Transportation Planner/Analyst in August and is working with Bill Story on Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs. Tim is also the coordinator for Safe Routes to School (SRTS).

Tim graduated with a BS degree in Fisheries/Wildlife Biology from California State University, Sacramento in 1978 and also attended USC, UAA and UNR.

Prior to NDOT, Tim completed a 34+ year career with the Federal Government, retiring on August 1st. This included 33 years as a Hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in California, Alaska and the last 26 years in Nevada. Tim also worked with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Fish & Game.

Tim's bicycle experience includes being appointed by three Governors to the Nevada Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (NBPAB), serving as Chair for 3 years. Tim has also been a Bicycle Advocate for the past 22 years and serves on many positions with many organizations. Tim is also a League Certified Instructor (LCI) for the League of American Bicyclists, a Race Official for USA Cycling and served as Death Ride Coordinator for 4 years.

Tim's outside adventures include bicycling, camping, hiking, being a Cub Scout Den Leader. He is an avid road cyclist and putting on 3,000 miles a year for the past 26 years. Tim's wife works at the Nevada Supreme Court and they have a son (Christopher-10), two guinea pigs and Tim also has two daughters (Lisa-30 and Sara-27).

Performance Analysis:

Performance Analysis has a new employee and her name is **Jocene Yang**. Jocene started as a Professional Engineers in October and is working with Alauddin Khan in developing Federal & State mandated reports such as pavement preservation, performance management, benefit cost, engineering economics, and value engineering.

Jocene graduated with a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from University of Idaho, and she is a registered professional engineer in Nevada and Utah.

Prior to NDOT, Jocene worked for TxDOT and consultant. She has more than 13 years of combined transportation professional and research experience, participated in various projects covering planning, design and traffic. Her specific expertise includes roadway design and microscopic traffic simulation. Other skills include horizontal and vertical geometrics design, grading, signing and striping, traffic control and preparing PS&E plans. She has extensive experience with various traffic and roadway design software packages.

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Jocene and her husband have two daughters. In her free time, she enjoys doing fun things with her family and friends.

Research and Technology:

Research and Technology has a new employee and her name is **Christianah Akinola**. Christianah started as a Research Analyst recently and she works with Ken Chambers. She also is the Editor for the Research and Technology Review Newsletter.

She received her bachelor's in Civil Engineering from University of Nevada, Reno, and has spent a number of years in the private sector doing designs and planning for Theil Engineering Consultants and Lumos and Associates. For many years, she also worked a second job as a part-time book-keeper for a supermarket chain. She is very well organized and brings a fresh perspective to Research and Technology.

Christianah is health-conscious and likes to cook outdoors in the summer with unique recipes.



Christianah Akinola

Traffic Information:

Traffic Information has a new employee and his name is **Stephen Helms**. Stephen started in August as a Transportation Technician and Reese Rigsby is his immediate supervisor. His job entails installing traffic counters that measure traffic volume and classification. He graduated from Silver Stage High School in 2008 and has taken a few courses at Western Nevada College. From 2008 to 2012 Stephen worked at Ron Wilson & Associates doing shipping and receiving. In his free time he enjoys dirt bike riding and exploring the mountains around Gardnerville.



Stephen Helms

Key Dates

Feb 12 – Roadway Relinquishment Workshop, Elko, Tue., 12pm-2pm

February 22 – Deadline for Research Problem Statements To Manju Kumar Friday, 2013

March 18 – Product Evaluation Committee meeting 3rd Floor Conference Room Monday, 2013

March 14 – PIE Day

March 21 – NBPAB Meeting

April 1 – STTAC Meeting

April 24 – Nevada Moves Day

May – Bike Month

May 13-17 – Bike to Work Week

May 16 – NBPAB Meeting

May 17 – Bike to Work Day



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