



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2019

9:30 A.M.

Meeting Location:	1263 South Stewart Street Third Floor Conference Room Carson City, Nevada 89711	123 East Washington Avenue Building B Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
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1. Welcome/Call to Order

Governor Sisolak called the meeting to order on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 9:30 AM. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

2. Presentation of Retirement Plaques to 25+ Year Employees (Informational Item)

Director Swallow read off the names and positions and years of service for the 12 Department members retiring. She and the Governor thanked them for their many years of service and dedication to the roads and people of the state of Nevada.

3. Presentation of Awards (Informational Item)

Cole Mortensen, Assistant Director of Engineering, presented the following awards:

- American Trails 2019 Trail Partnership Award: the organization awarded the joint efforts for the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Tahoe Transportation District as part of 13 agencies and other non-profit project partners who came together to develop and construct the State Route Shared-Use Bike Path at Lake Tahoe. The three-mile path is scheduled to open in July of 2019.
 - Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise IT Vanguard Award: recognizes NDOT Traffic Operations Technology Manager Jim Whalen as one of 11 North American information technology leaders who are transforming network communications and bringing value to their organizations with innovative IT projects which ultimately serve the end user.
 - Intelligent Transportation Society of Nevada (ITS) Best ITS Project of the Year Over \$2 Million NDOT's Traffic Operations Technology Section: recognized NDOT's ITS Core Network Upgrade project. NDOT's intelligent transportation system supports many critical services such as traffic cameras, roadway weather sensors, which serve the traveling public with vital road information, and other support.
 - Intelligent Transportation Society of Nevada Most Influential ITS Professional in Nevada: The recipient is NDOT ITS Network Administrator Gary Molnar. The Intelligent Transportation Society of Nevada recognized NDOT ITS Network Administrator Gary Molnar as Nevada's most influential ITS professional for administering NDOT's ITS Core Network Upgrade project.
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4. Receive Director's Report (Informational Item)

Director Swallow started her report with the very good news that according to the most recent *U S News and World Report*, Nevada was ranked the #1 Transportation System in the nation based on road and bridge quality, public transit usage and average commute time to work. In other rankings in this study, Nevada was 4th in overall infrastructure and they have the nation's 2nd best bridges.

There has been a decrease in unrestrained occupant fatalities, hopefully that's a sign that more people are buckling up. Unfortunately, pedestrian fatalities continue to increase. The Director said she was looking forward to giving out the annual zero fatality awards to counties during their state tour in the summer.

Director Swallow gave an update on the procurement for the SBX Project in Reno. Although they had previously announced that they would be giving notice of the award in August 2019, that is going to be postponed while the staff works through finding a more cost-effective solution to the project. Last summer, NDOT short-listed four proposers for the design-build procurement. One of those proposers decided to withdraw from the procurement and so three proposals were submitted. One of those was deemed non-responsive because they didn't conform with the procurement documents. To make a change necessary to align with the procurement documents would have substantially or materially changed their proposal or their proposal price. The two remaining proposals that were submitted and were responsive but were not cost effective. The NDOT project team will be meeting individually with the responsive proposers to understand the reasoning behind their increased costs. From there, NDOT will determine the best path forward, whether the Department needs to change the documents or change the procurement.

Director Swallow gave a report on the opening of their new Small and Disadvantaged Business Resource Center. She said the Department is constantly working to ensure that they can grow small businesses and provide them with the opportunities to pull themselves up as well. What this center will do is provide a one-stop shop where current and interested small and disadvantaged businesses can come and they will be able to have access to attorneys, to accountants, and to people who can help them when they figure out what it means to be small in business. It's a one-stop shop where they have all the experts in one place and that can really help them as they work to get work with the Department or in other cases, other communities, or in other industry areas. It was a great turnout. There's a networking session up with Associated General Contractors (AGC) in Reno and the Department is looking to provide a similar resource center in Reno/Sparks community.

There are two ribbon cuttings to commemorate:

The Kyle Canyon Interchange in Las Vegas on June 20, 2019. This is Phase 2B/5 and its part of the US-95 Northwest Corridor Improvements from Durango to Kyle Canyon.

The SR-28 Shared-Use Path Lake Tahoe, that just won the American Trails 2019 Trail Partnership Award, on June 28, 2019.



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Director Swallow moved on to personnel information. She announced the sad news that a Department friend and coworker, Greg Dotson, passed away. He started his career in 1990 as a development technician and then he worked at District 2 and Headquarters IT as a Communications Professional. He was respected and loved by many of his peers and will be missed greatly.

Director Swallow said that Thor Dyson has retired since the last Board Meeting. She said she is excited that Mr. Dyson has been able to find the next new chapter in his life and NDOT looks forward to working with him as he continues along that path.

And finally, Cole Mortensen will be assuming the role of Deputy Director of Planning and Performance at NDOT. The Department is doing a reorganization and there will be a Deputy Director of Planning and Performance, a Deputy Director of Project Delivery and a Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance. The Project Delivery position is currently being advertised. The Department is looking forward to filling those positions and then backfilling Mr. Mortensen's soon to be vacant position, all in a transition to help really meet the needs of all Nevadans most effectively and efficiently.

Governor Sisolak thanked the Director for her report and asked if there were any questions.

Member Savage asked Director Swallow if her staff could review and clarify the history on the Nevada Pacific Parkway at a future Board of Director Meeting. Since 2006 when the original agreement was made, there have been several administration changes and amendments. Member Savage thinks it would be in the best interest of the Department and the people of Nevada to have an update on this matter at a future meeting.

Governor Sisolak asked for more details about the outreach efforts for the small business resource center. Was the Department reaching out to some of the more disadvantaged minority communities? Deputy Director Tracy Larkin and Director Swallow assured him that indeed the Department was doing that, partnering with Nevada Contractor's Association of Southern Nevada, Latin Chamber, Urban Chamber, and Asian Chamber.

Member Martin suggested staff contact an organization called BOWD (B-O-W-D) in Clark County. They have a consolidation of lists of small businesses. His son, Guy, with Martin Harris Construction has been very active in that organization. If they reach out to him maybe some of their work has already been accomplished by this organization.

5. Public Comment #1

None.



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6. Appointment of Deputy Director Tracy Larkin-Thomason to serve as the Secretary to the Transportation Board (For Possible Action)

Director Swallow explained they are required as the Board, to have a Secretary. Bill Hoffman was serving as their Secretary. Since he retired, they need to replace this position. They are recommending that Tracy Larkin-Thomason serve in that role and are looking for a motion from the Board to support that.

Motion: Appoint Tracy Larkin-Thomason to serve as the Secretary to the Transportation Board

By: Lieutenant Governor Marshall

Vote: Unanimous

7. Approval of the May 13, 2019 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)

Motion: Approve May 13, 2019 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

By: Member Len Savage

Vote: Unanimous

8. Approval of Contracts Over \$5,000,000 (For Possible Action)

Governor Sisolak asked if anyone had any questions on Agenda Item 8.

Member Almberg had a question on item #1. He asked since they did an award for the freeway in the same general area just a month prior, is there a systematic problem with the concrete freeways up there? Assistant Director of Engineering Cole Mortensen, answered that it's not a systematic problem, but just prioritized maintenance work for those stretches of road. They stagger the maintenance and so over time, they just come back on that maintenance cycle to make sure that the roads are maintained statewide.

Member Almberg had a comment on #3, on Highway 50. He commented that there is a lot of spending on Highway 50. Highway 93 seems to be the more used roadway as far as the traffic counts are concerned. He knows the work is needed on 50, but 93 is used more.

Governor Sisolak asked how long are the cycles for repaving? Mr. Mortensen said it depends on the materials that that are used. Portland Cement Concrete is about 20 years and typical asphalt pavement is 7-8 years. The Department has various programs using lower cost maintenance methods to try to extend those timeframes to get the most from our funding.

Director Swallow said at the August Board Meeting she'll come back with a full funding accounting of what they've been doing over the past and where they're looking at going in the future. Also, she will provide a



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briefing in terms of how they go through the prioritization process on rehab projects and what they're looking at in terms of capacity and safety projects.

Motion: Approve Contracts Over \$5,000,000 under Agenda Item Number 8
By: Lieutenant Governor Marshall
Vote: Unanimous

9. Approval of Agreements Over \$300,000 (For Possible Action)

Governor Sisolak asked if anyone had any questions on Agenda Item 9.

Lieutenant Governor Marshall asked when only one person responds, then what is NDOT's protocol? Director Swallow replied when they only have one respondent to a procurement and they are responsive, and their fee is appropriate, they will enter into negotiations and see if they can develop and come to an agreement on a fee. If they do, then they move forward.

The Lieutenant Governor asked if the Department identifies whether there are certain projects which always only get one respondent? Is there an internal discussion about that?

Director Swallow said they do have those conversations with the contracting community. Often what it means is that it's a really slammed market and everyone is just busy. Maybe that project isn't something that's of interest. The intent is to make sure that they can get a broad pool of applicants and proposers on all projects.

Member Savage said it's vitally important to keep those relationships and be proactive and reach out to the contractors and consultants. Make the phone calls. If you don't see somebody on the list, ask why didn't you bid it? Why didn't you submit? Make sure those relationships are kept intact because it's about being competitive at the end of the day.

Governor Sisolak agreed and said often the phone call after the fact, why didn't you bid, was there a reason you find out things that you don't realize were difficult for the bidders to get in there. It would behoove the Department to take advantage of that.

Motion: Approve Agreements Over \$300,000 under Agenda Item Number 9
By: Member Almberg
Vote: Unanimous

10. Contracts, Agreements, and Settlements (Informational Item)

Governor Sisolak asked if anyone had any questions on Agenda Item 10.

Member Savage had a question about Item #4. NDOT is contracting for ten years to the Department of Agriculture for a noxious weed program. He wanted to know more about the history of this program. Mr.



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Mortensen said noxious weeds have been handled in various ways in the past, but now the Department is understaffed, and this partnership is beneficial to both agencies and the work is being done in conformance with all state laws.

Lieutenant Governor Marshall asked if in addition to preventing noxious weeds, was the Department promoting the growth of non-noxious plants to get those established in those areas? Mr. Mortensen replied that yes, they do manage the plants and the establishment of plants within their right-of-way. They use soil stabilization that has seeds in it and slopes are treated to have native plants. They want to get other plants established so that the noxious weeds can't establish.

11. Report on the Status of Road Transfers Between the Department and the City of Las Vegas (Informational Item)

Governor Sisolak said this report was an update on the transfer that is being finalized at Summerlin Parkway for portions of Charleston, Sahara and Fremont. With completion of this transfer, the majority portions of Charleston and Sahara will have been completely transferred to the County or the City of Las Vegas. He asked if there were any questions.

Member Almberg asked why the Department was only doing the north half of the roadway? Did those already transfer in the past? Is the other side the county?

Director Swallow responded yes.

12. FY2020/FY2021 Biennium Equipment Procurement Staff Report (For Possible Action)

Director Swallow reported the Department is looking to procure their annual fleet for FY 2020 as well as their heavy equipment and those items that are at risk for significant price increases for the biennium. The full list of equipment that they are requesting permission to begin procurement on is included in the attachment. Director Swallow said she was ready for any questions the Board might have.

Members did not have any questions, but they did have comments.

Member Savage stated he had many questions formulated before he opened the NDOT procurement packet, but once he read the packet, all his questions were answered. The packet was complete and thorough. The explanations were detailed, and cost benefit analysis was done on every piece of equipment. Job well done.



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Member Martin echoed those comments. He said he is a numbers guy and he went through every little thing in detail and the presentation answered every question he could possibly think of.

Motion: Approve FY2020/FY2021n Biennium Equipment Staff Report under Agenda Item Number 12
By: Member Martin
Vote: Unanimous

13. Public Comment #2

There were several public comments:

- Mack Rossi: Highway 80 passes within one block of the downtown Reno area and one block of the University. Many residents feel it's time for NDOT to address the matter of large 100-foot trucks that weigh up as much 45 tons, driving through the downtown area, with speeds from 65-70 miles an hour. In the best interest of the residents of Reno and Sparks, we're asking that the speed be dropped to 55 miles an hour for trucks and restricted from the number one lane.
 - Councilwoman Seaman: HOV lanes becoming 24/7 are very unpopular with the residents of her ward. The citizens resent not having access to the roads that their tax dollars pay for because they don't have the ability to carpool. Most of the citizens admit that the only time they use it is when they have their kids or family in the car. They don't believe four lanes, idling in packed traffic while one lane stays virtually empty can be good for the air quality. As we know, carbon monoxide is released during the idling of cars. Las Vegas is not conducive to carpooling for the following reasons: employees here live too far apart from one another making the miles spent meeting up greater than carpooling. Please reconsider the 24/7 on carpool lanes.
 - Trish Messenger: HOV lane would be so much better used if we could use it. I'm a motorcyclist, so I can use it anytime, but it's not fair. We spent our tax dollars on this. Again, I'm a concerned citizen and I just don't understand why our tax dollars were spent on this.
 - Robert Solomon: HOV hours needs to be adjusted. In the rest of the country they are regulated to align with the workday. I was just in Arizona two weeks ago for a rally for my employer. I was driving around to different areas and over in Arizona, and their HOV lanes are Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM and then 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. In the northeast, where I'm from, most of their HOV lanes are from 6:30 to 9:30 and then 3:30 to 6:30. I appeal to you to change 24/7, 365. I know the road, we need to take this down. There is no logical reason to have HOV restrictions the way they are now.
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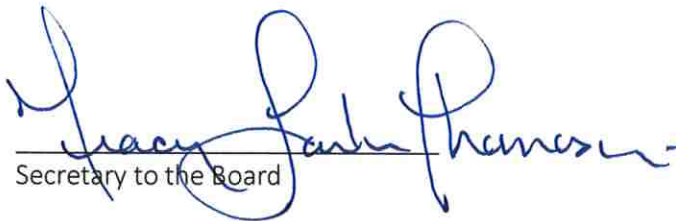
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- Mac Miller: We do not need to have the HOV lanes be 365 24/7.
- Director Swallow said there was one written letter received in the HOV topic that would be added to the record.

14. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion: Adjourn
By: Member Martin
Vote: Unanimous


Secretary to the Board

J. Berry Johnston
4001 S Decatur Blvd 37 408
Las Vegas, NV 89103

NDOT Headquarters
1263 South Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89712

Transportation Board of Directors,

For Public Comment 6/17/19

This shameful HOV implementation is a failure to responsibly serve the taxpayer for laziness and absurd ideas. HOV is stupid but 24/7 HOV is completely insane! NHP should be able to look at the time and know when to and when not to write a ticket.

8% of traffic use HOV which is 20% of the lanes we can use. To continually hurt the most vulnerable Americans by forcing people to waste their gas and time for these idealistic and extreme wastes of money on everyone you are using our own tax dollars against the very citizens you are appointed to serve.

NDOT is failing NV by their inability to manage their project responsibly and by not adding as many lanes as possible. We could easily remove the slopped areas with rock and add lanes for more traffic flow but instead some arrogant person thinks social engineering bottlenecks and or HOV pain to waste our time and money is appropriate.

You are all our employees not our overseers, your job is to make our lives easier not manage our behavior based on experimental ideas which are ridiculous. Stop ruining our State, manage our projects with multiple shift 7 days a week and raise the speed limit.

Disappointed,

J. Berry Johnston