



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2020

9:30 A.M.

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**Meeting Location:** Live streamed via BlueJeans in accordance with Governor Sisolak's March 22, 2020 [emergency directive](#) which suspends the requirement that there must be a physical location designated for meetings of a public body where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate in-person so long as participation is available.

**1. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call**

Governor Sisolak called the meeting to order on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 9:30 AM. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

**2. Public Comment**

Director Swallow said that all public comments were distributed to the Board members that were received before 4:00 PM on Friday. There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda. There was no open phone line for comments.

**3. Consideration of Approval of the June 8, 2020 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**

There were no corrections or changes in the Minutes.

**Motion:** Approve the June 8, 2020 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**By:** Lieutenant Governor Marshall

**Vote:** Passed unanimously

**4. Receive Director's Report (Informational Item)**

Director Swallow began her report with a safety update. In general, Clark County is trending positively in all of the areas that are tracked and reported on: bike; PED; unrestrained fatalities; but that's not consistent across the state. Crashes overall are tracking down. In March, there were 40 percent fewer fatalities compared to last



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year. In April, there were 17 percent higher fatalities compared to last year. May was almost a 50 percent reduction from last year, but in June it was almost a 40 percent increase. Pedestrian numbers are also tracking better than they did last year with 32 pedestrian fatalities this year compared to 38 last year. Motorcyclists are tracking down with 24 percent than last year. Bicyclists are also lower than last year. In general, positive increases in travel volumes as it relates to potential revenue for moving forward are being seen.

Director Swallow discussed natural disasters. On the evening of June 24th, approximately two to two-and-a-half inches of rain fell in a short period of time, causing several rock and mudslides to cover State Route 140 in a remote area located in the far north part of the state, over 100 miles North of Winnemucca. Oregon DOT closed the road at the state line and assisted by inspecting the roadway on the west side of the landslide. All mud was cleared away and the road was reopened in approximately two-and-a-half days. The Governor signed a declaration of emergency on this road, as the anticipated damage is going to be over a million dollars for the cleanup, as well as any cleanup needed to ensure that there are ravines to carry the storm water flows in the future. There have been several wildfires across the state. The Mahogany Fire burned nearly 3,000 acres on Mt. Charleston in Las Vegas. Starting on July 1st, NDOT provided for water tankers with operators around the clock to help load water into helicopter containers for aerial firefighting. On July 2nd, State Route 156, Lee Canyon Road, was closed in both directions west of Deer Creek, and fire personnel were assisted in clearing trees from the right of way. The fire is now 100 percent contained. Also helped in response to the Murphy Fire, the Poeville Fire, Jake's Fire, Rose Fire, and Numbers Fire. In the case of the Numbers Fire, one mile of guardrail was replaced. NDOT is continuing to help throughout the active fire season as needed and requested by partners.

On June 29th, NDOT accompanied a super load carrying a decommissioned nuclear reactor as it left North Las Vegas bound for Utah. NDOT accompanied the load as it made its way slowly north in order to make sure that the proper closures were in place and that the road itself was protected. The load will be out of the state July 21, 2020.

Director Swallow discussed changes to the Ely project. The landscaping and aesthetic aspects of the project were removed, which affected quantities for a total of 15 bid items. This resulted in a change order price reduction in the amount of \$469,380.18. The change order has been executed and the project is moving forward.



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NDOT received a \$50 million INFRA Grant from the federal government to help reconstruct the Tropicana Avenue Interchange.

NDOT continues to contribute to the economy and provide jobs, not just direct jobs, those working on the project, but also indirect jobs, the suppliers who provide the needed materials, and also induced jobs. 5,569 job years have been delivered in projects. If all the items on the agenda are approved, a total of 5,721 anticipated job years will have been approved through July Board meeting.

There were no questions from Members. Governor Sisolak proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

**5. Consideration of Approval of Agreements over \$300,000 (For Possible Action)**

Director Kristina Swallow gave Members an overview of four agreements for consideration: a telecom infrastructure program to extend a communications conduit along USA Parkway from the switch campus to I-80; an architectural task order for three architectural consultants to help with an architectural program; microwave radio upgrades; materials testing and construction inspections for architectural projects.

**Motion: Approve the Four Agreements**

**By: Member Stephen Ascuaga**

**Vote: Passed unanimously**

**6. Contracts, Agreements, and Settlements (Informational Item)**

There were no comments from Members. Governor Sisolak proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

**7. Presentation for the Draft Fiscal Year 2021 NDOT Work Program and the Draft 2021-2024 STIP (Informational Item)**

Assistant Director for Planning, Sondra Rosenberg, gave a presentation.

Rosenberg identified six goal areas: to enhance safety; preserve infrastructure; optimize mobility; transform economies; foster sustainability; and connect communities. This prioritization process was presented to the



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Board in April along with 15 weighted criteria under the six goals. The harmonization process was presented to the Board in May.

Rosenberg presented a map showing the distribution across the state of investments proposed for Fiscal Year 2021. These included just those projects that were prioritized, so it doesn't include some of the programmatic investments or statewide investments such as a statewide bridge inspections and inventories and doesn't include locally delivered projects either.

Total anticipated investment for just the prioritized projects is about \$588 million for Fiscal Year 2021. The largest project in the 2021 program is that Tropicana Interchange at about \$200 million.

Both the STIP and the work program are currently available for public comment at [estip.nevadadot.com](http://estip.nevadadot.com).

Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall asked if the amount of \$588 million anticipated GST tax collection from NDOT at the current rate of 75 percent, or does it anticipate what is currently proposed and how that fits in with it all. Assistant Director Rosenberg responded that generally it assumes kind of the current state of the GST, but that it is a timing issue.

Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall asked if it anticipates a certain level of reserves that will be maintained, or does it anticipate a change in that. Felicia Denney, Assistant Director of Administration responded by saying that, "We work with the other highway fund agencies in the budget to try to ensure that our minimum cash balance is re-paid at one month of all operational expenditures for all highway fund agencies and a month and a half capital expenditures for NDOT and that is part of that plan."

Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall asked if this plan anticipates and includes the \$160 million bond approved by the Board. Assistant Director of Administration responded that it does include the bonding, and that they will be going to the Board of Finance in August to determine if the funding will be available in 2021.

Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall asked if the changes in this that might be anticipated in this special session, the amount of reserves that are normally kept, and this bonding issue, whether these are incorporated into what's been presented to the Board. Director Swallow responded that what was presented to the Legislature during the special session and here does include and anticipate that the bonding will be able to move forward.



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However, they are actively working on identifying the list and the changes that will have to take place if, for any reason, the bonding cannot occur.

8. Public Comment

Director Swallow said the Department received three public comments that were not on the agenda and they had been shared with the Board.

9. Executive Session

Governor Sisolak stated that there was no Executive Session.

10. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The Governor thanked everyone and said he would accept a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Adjourn the July 13, 2020 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting

By: Lieutenant Governor Marshall

Vote: Passed unanimously

Secretary to the Board of Directors  
Tracy Larkin-Thomason