



Nevada Department of Transportation  
Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2020

9:30 A.M.

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**Meeting Location:** Live streamed via Blue Jeans in accordance with Governor Sisolak's March 22, 2020 emergency directive which suspends the requirements that there must be a physical location designated for meetings of 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, November 9, 2020. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

Present: Governor Steve Sisolak, Lt. Governor Kate Marshall, Controller Catherine Byrne, Member Virginia Valentine, Member Justin Kalb, Member Stephen Ascuaga.

**2. Public Comment #1**

There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

**3. Consideration of Approval of the October 12, 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 October 12, 2020 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**By:** Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall

**Vote:** Passed unanimously



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

Director Swallow began the Director's Report with a discussion on safety. The data from October is not yet available, so Director Swallow focused instead on what was needed to keep roads safe. Director Swallow reported that last year 51 pedestrians lost their lives on Nevada roadways and from January to September this year, so far, 62 pedestrians have lost their lives on Nevada roadways. Director Swallow reminded the Board that as a result of the time change, it is now darker earlier in the evenings and cautioned drivers to be aware of pedestrians out walking dogs, kids walking to and from school, and the fact that it is more difficult to see them in the dusk and dawn timeframes. Director Swallow emphasized the importance of pedestrians wearing brightly colored clothing, reflective wristbands, and reflective foot bands to be better seen. Director Swallow reminded drivers to be extra vigilant of possible pedestrians when driving. Director Swallow also reminded drivers to keep a safe distance between cars and check the integrity of tires as it is now snow season. Director Swallow shared a story with the Board of a fatal crash involving a car and a pedestrian that occurred on October 30, 2020, on I-15 northbound near Primm. The male pedestrian was confirmed deceased at the scene. It is not known whether or not the pedestrian was in the roadway. The car remained on the scene and is cooperating with the investigation. This story illustrates the Director's point that it is imperative to be vigilant both as a driver and as a pedestrian, and underscores the importance of pedestrians being as visible as possible.

Director Swallow provided update on the volumes in various places as they relate to COVID as they give an idea as to how system performance with regards to revenue. In Reno, volumes fell in October. In Las Vegas, volumes increased in October, and along I-80 in Elko the volumes continue to increase. Director Swallow reported that the increase along I-80 in Elko is indicative of revenue stabilization but remains a concern because the increase is due in large part to trucking traffic. Director Swallow reported that it is important to be aware of what impact the trucking traffic may have on the network in terms of prioritizing preservation efforts moving forward.

Director Swallow discussed the I-15 Tropicana design build. In September, the request for qualifications for design build teams was issued. Three statements of qualifications were received, and all three teams made the short list. The three teams include: Ames Construction partnered with Horrocks Engineers; Las Vegas Paving partnered with Jacobs Engineering; and Kiewit partnered with Atkins. Next steps in this project include issuing a draft request for proposal later in November and a final request for proposal in early 2021. It is anticipated that proposals will be received from the three teams in the spring and that the contract will be awarded in summer of 2021.



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Director Swallow provided an update on jobs. In October, there were no construction contracts on the agenda. Only 13 job years have been approved thus far for this federal fiscal year. Director Swallow informed the Board that if the four projects on the agenda packet for this meeting are approved, that will produce 1,062 job years for a total of 1,075 job years for all of October and November.

Director Swallow announced the hiring of Jeff Lerud to the executive leadership team. Mr. Lerud is the Assistant Director of Engineering. Mr. Lerud graduated from University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. He is a registered professional engineer and a certified public manager who has worked with NDOT since 1995. Mr. Lerud has worked in roadway design, traffic operations, and project management where he has managed projects in the north and south for the last ten years. Mr. Lerud was the lead on the Tropicana design build and is now transitioning the project in preparation for his new role.

#### 5. Consideration of Approval of Contracts over \$5,000,000 (For Possible Action)

Director Swallow discussed the four contracts for the Board's consideration. The first low bidder was Road and Highway Builders for a 25-mile project along I-80 between Lovelock and Winnemucca. The second bidder is Granite Construction Company for six miles of roadways, including passing lanes, on US 93 between Wells and Jackpot. The third bidder is Q & D Construction for 32 miles of I-80 between the Osino Interchange and the Death Starr Interchange. The fourth bidder is also Q & D Construction for a contract of five miles of I-80 between Emigrant Pass Interchange just east of Beowawe and west of the Eureka/Elko line.

**Motion:** Approve the four contracts

**By:** Member Virginia Valentine

**Vote:** Passed unanimously

#### 6. Approval Agreements over \$300,000 (For Possible Action)

Director Swallow informed the Board that three agreements are presented to the Board for consideration. The first is for additional construction service augmentation to assist crews in Districts 1, 2, and 3. There will be three master agreements, one for each district: recommended for District 1 is Horrocks Engineers; recommended for District 2 is Construction Materials Engineer, Inc.; recommended for District 3 is Geotechnical and Environmental Services. The second agreement for the Board's consideration is for a corridor management plan for US 50 from Spooner Summit to State Line. NDOT recommends Wood Rodgers for this



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project. The third agreement for the Board's consideration is for renewal of a two-year contract with Jacobs Engineering, Inc. for policy analysis and federal government affairs work related to transportation programs, projects, legislation, and regulations.

Motion: Approve the three agreements  
By: Member Justin Kalb  
Vote: Passed unanimously

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

Director Swallow informed the Board that this is an information item only.

There were no questions from members of the Board.

8. Consideration of Approval for disposal by direct sale to the City of Reno, a portion of the Governor's Bowl, designated as SUR 20-12, Parcel I-080-WA-014.555 XS1, located in the City of Reno, County of Washoe, State of Nevada (For Possible Action)

Director Swallow informed the Board that the piece of land in question is in the southwest quadrant of the Spaghetti Bowl in Reno. The City of Reno currently leases the land and has a lease extending for approximately another 40 years at \$1 per year. The City of Reno has requested the direct sale and NDOT recommends honoring that request, pursuant to their surplus process, as NDOT no longer needs it.

Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve thanked the Board, Governor Sisolak, and Director Swallow by telephone for being great partners with the City of Reno.

Governor Sisolak commented that his understanding is that all the adjacent property to the parcel of land in question is industrial and asked Mayor Schieve for confirmation.

Mayor Schieve confirmed that the Governor's understanding is correct.

Governor Sisolak asked if all adjacent property owners were aware of the sale. Mayor Schieve confirmed that they are.



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Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall commended NDOT and Director Kristina Swallow for their success in facilitating the City of Reno's request, commenting that this was actually a quite complicated process.

Mayor Schieve also thanked and commended NDOT's team.

Governor Sisolak also thanked and commended NDOT.

**Motion:** Approve the direct sale of the land to City of Reno  
**By:** Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall  
**Vote:** Passed unanimously

9. Public Comment

Leslie Creel from Elko County called to follow up on her September 14 public comment regarding public support for a five-mile bike path between Elko and Spring Creek. Ms. Creel informed the Board that the local NDOT district engineer informed her that he needed public support to advance the path, and in response, the Elko community posted a petition on a Facebook thread that garnered 674 names. The local NDOT district engineer reported that he needs head office to support the project. Ms. Creel informed the Board that with an accelerated effort, they could partner with Southwest Gas pipeline reclamation for a three-mile stretch of the path for the fall of 2021. Ms. Creel looked to the Board for recommendations on how the Elko community could gather the needed political support and partner with NDOT to make the bike path a reality.

Alita Dupree from Las Vegas called into the meeting to discuss HOV lanes. Ms. Dupree expressed her continued support for the 24-hour HOV lanes. Ms. Dupree commented that she looks forward to improvement and refinement of that system by adding more entry and exit points along those HOV lanes. Ms. Dupree discussed the need for safety enforcement on the HOV lane system, particularly with winter approaching and more hours of darkness. Ms. Dupree discussed the importance of keeping the roads up for trucks coming into Nevada. Ms. Dupree discussed the need to look for new ways to pay for roads and discussed electrification and posited that Nevada cannot be dependent solely on sales of gasoline and diesel fuel to move forward. Ms. Dupree suggested the idea of express lanes requiring modest tolls through a transponder or app during periods of congestion.



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Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall asked Director Swallow to follow up with Leslie Creel regarding her request for help in facilitating the process for the bike path in Elko County.

Director Swallow assured the Lieutenant Governor that she would do so.

10. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn the November 9, 2020 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting  
By: Member Virginia Valentine  
Vote: Passed unanimously

  
Secretary to the Board of Directors  
Tracy Larkin-Thomason