



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Meeting Location: Live streamed via BlueJeans 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 October 12, 2020, Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting to order. A roll call was conducted, and 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 September 14, 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 September 14, 2020 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

By: Member Virginia Valentine

Vote: Passed unanimously

4. Receive Director's Report (Informational Item)

Director Swallow began her report with a safety update. Despite the sustained, prolonged reduction in traffic due to COVID, fatalities have risen nearly 6 percent since the same time in 2019. Increases in fatalities have



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risen 200 percent in Elko, Churchill, and Humboldt Counties and 500 percent in Pershing County. Total pedestrian fatalities statewide equaled 62: three in Churchill County in September, an increase of 300 percent; Clark County has had a total of 48 for the year so far, an increase of 26 percent. Motorcycle fatalities have dropped 9 percent across the state, and the number of bicycle fatalities has dropped 67 percent in the last year. Speed and impairment continue to be the leading causes of fatalities across the state. Speeding accounts for over 30 percent of Nevada's fatalities. Director Swallow urged the public to please slow down and be aware that it is now getting darker earlier and reiterated her message to the public to please be safe.

Director Swallow discussed the continuing tracking of the COVID impact and reported that the statewide traffic volumes appear to be stabilizing at 10-15 percent lower than in 2019. The tracking locations include: I80 outside of Elko; I80 and 580 interchange in Reno; Flamingo and Decatur and Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas. Director Swallow pointed out that although the numbers look fairly low, they are merely a sampling of the numbers across the state and do not necessarily reflect fuel trends. Director Swallow reported that fuel tax collections in April were down by 39 percent, May collections were down 20 percent, June actual fuel tax collections were down five percent, and July collections were down eight percent.

Director Swallow discussed Governor Sisolak's question regarding bonding and revenue at the last meeting. Director Swallow indicated that when initial approval was sought for the bonds in June, based on estimates prepared in May. At that time, fuel tax collections had not yet been received for March and April, and so May's estimates were based on traffic numbers at that time. The original estimate for FY'20 was \$281.3 million, and that was used for the bond sales. The actual revenue collected ended up being \$296.4 million. The original projection for FY'21 was \$241 million, and current projections indicate an amount closer to \$290 million, indicating that revenue is tracking above initial estimates for the regular bond. Director Swallow indicated that the FRI bond follows the same pattern, although not quite as dramatically: original revenue estimate for FY'20 was for \$11.43 million, and actual revenue was \$11.96 million; for FY'21, original estimate was \$11.6 million and the new projections indicate \$12 million. These trends indicate that revenue is up and Director Swallow continued on to say that interest rates and payments for the bonds are lower than originally anticipated: the 2020 A bonds are projected to be 3.85 in 2021 and 4.15 in 2022; the 2020 B bonds are projected to be 9.65 in 2021 and 3.4 for 2022. The interest rates are far lower than what was initially estimated, promoting continuing maintenance of healthy bond coverage ratios.

Director Swallow reported that between 2013 and 2017 nearly 300 people died in crashes at Nevada intersections, prompting an initiative to increase safety at signal-light intersections statewide in the hopes of



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modifying driver behavior and reduction in red-light running. Director Swallow indicated that similar modifications in other states have shown a reduction in crashes. NDOT conducted an engineering study in 2019 and developed updated guidelines for advanced signage and warnings at intersections based on safe and effective use of different types of enhanced signal warning systems. These changes are compliant with federal guidelines and seek to enhance the safety of the traveling public and promote driver behavior. Director Swallow reported that starting this winter, NDOT will be using the new guidelines to update the operation of some of the advanced signal warning systems to align with specific geometry and engineering needs. Examples of these systems include: changing from flashing at the onset of an upcoming yellow to a static sign or to a continuously flashing signal; modifying timing of flashing signals to enhance safety by extending or shortening; in some cases, the advanced warning may be removed altogether if the road and development around the road have changed significantly. Director Swallow reiterated that similar modifications in other states have shown positive safety impacts. Thirteen changes are proposed for the Las Vegas Valley, 13 in Douglas and Carson Counties, and 19 in Washoe County, totaling 45 across the state. Contractors have already been advertised and selected for the Las Vegas, Douglas and Carson work; NDOT is currently advertising for Washoe County.

Director Swallow discussed the opening of the new Parr/Dandini Bridge over US 395 in Reno's north valley. This bridge replaced the previous, 48-year-old Parr/Dandini Bridge, which was removed in June. The new bridge is longer and wider at 56 feet wide compared to the previous 50-foot wide bridge. The new bridge meets more robust and current seismic design standards. Although not open for pedestrians through mid-November, the new bridge features sidewalks on both sides, a contrast from the previous bridge, which did not have pedestrian facilities. Director Swallow reported that this bridge is a critical first step in NDOT's future phased widening of US 395 in the north valley.

Director Swallow indicated that October 1 marks the beginning of the new federal FY'21. Director Swallow reported that President Trump signed a continuing resolution that funds federal programs through December 11 and also included a one-year extension of the FAST Act.

Director Swallow provided an update on jobs. In FY'20, 8,654 job years were approved as part of NDOT's program. Director Swallow reported that because it is only the first month of FY'21 and there are currently no contracts on the agenda, there are 13 jobs pending approval.

Director Swallow provided an update on the Elko bike lane comment received at last month's meeting. NDOT has reached out to that constituent. NDOT does have plans in place for bike facilities throughout the state of



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Nevada and Director Swallow reported that NDOT continuously works with its partners. The constituent's comment was related to a project run by Southwest Gas, and so NDOT did not have the opportunity to extend the trail, but will continue to work with local partners to extend bicycle and pedestrian facilities as appropriate.

Governor Sisolak asked for questions for Director Swallow regarding her report. Member Ascuaga offered praise to the NDOT staff for excellent planning with Q & D regarding the new Parr/Dandini Bridge project that had taken place in the north.

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

Director Swallow reported that there are three agreements on the agenda for approval. The first agreement was recommended to CA Group to conduct a corridor analysis for Mount Rose Highway in Reno. The second agreement is to be issued as an on-call, task orders as needed, and the recommendation is to award the agreement to seven consulting engineers. This agreement is being used in case the federal government is able to provide additional COVID resources to help backstop NDOT's program, and roadway design and project management divisions would use it to help augment staff as needed. The third agreement is an on-call agreement for Jacobs Engineering, GCW and Horrocks Engineers to augment the regular structures programs and assist structures teams where help is needed with capacity and project delivery. There were no questions regarding these agreements.

Motion: Approve Agenda Item 5 Consideration of Approval of Agreements over \$300,000
By: Member Justin Kalb
Vote: Passed unanimously

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

There were no questions or comments from Members, so Governor Sisolak moved on to the next agenda item.

7. Public Comment #2

Governor Sisolak requested that the written public comments the Board had received be made a part of the record.



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Director Swallow reported that six virtual comments were received, three from the same person. Director Swallow reported that virtual public comments would continue to be received through the end of the day and would be included in the record.

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 discussed the helpfulness of HOV lanes for both fixed-route buses and paratransit, particularly in helping people with disabilities to access medical appointments. Ms. Dupree expressed her desire for NDOT to be active in the rail space. Ms. Dupree discussed the Amtrak California Zephyr and its success as a good, safe way to travel and expressed the desire to ensure that the rail corridor is in good shape. Ms. Dupree expressed her hope that a high-speed rail would be available to go to Los Angeles. Ms. Dupree praised the Nevada side of I15 north of the state line and expressed hope that California would widen the road on their side. Ms. Dupree thanked the Board and Director Swallow for her continued active involvement with RTC.

8. Executive Session

Governor Sisolak stated that there was no executive session

9. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

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

Motion: Adjourn the October 12, 2020 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting
By: Lieutenant Governor Marshall
Vote: Passed unanimously

DocuSigned by:
Cole Mortensen

Acting Secretary to the Board of Directors