



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2021

9:30 A.M.

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, February 8, 2021. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

Present: Governor Steve Sisolak, Controller Catherine Byrne, Member Virginia Valentine, Member Justin Kalb, Member Stephen Ascuaga. Lt. Governor Kate Marshall joined the meeting at approximately 13:44 minutes into the meeting.

2. Public Comment #1

There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

3. Consideration of Appointment of a Secretary to the Transportation Board of Directors pursuant to NRS 408.121. (For Possible Action)

Director Swallow requested that this item be postponed until the March meeting. Governor Sisolak agreed to the request.

4. Consideration of Approval of the January 11, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. (For Possible Action)

Motion: Approve the January 11, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

By: Controller Catherine Byrne



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Vote: Passed unanimously

5. Receive Director's Report (Informational Item)

Director Swallow began the Director's Report with a discussion on safety. Director Swallow informed the Board that NDOT has just received January's safety statistics earlier in the morning and, as such, did not have a presentation for the Board, but instead opted to discuss winter weather safety. Director Swallow discussed the fact that the state has already experienced several seasonal storms. Director Swallow shared that Nevada winters can bring harsh and rapidly changing conditions including black ice, avalanche-prone areas, and snow equipment on the roads. Director Swallow informed the Board that more than 2,000 crashes on average occur statewide each year during winter due to unsafe driving as well as dangerous road conditions. Director Swallow informed the Board that during storms, NDOT crews work in 12-hour shifts with rotating personnel to provide 24 hour a day snow removal. With that, Director Swallow shared with the Board life-saving, winter safety driving guidelines that included: traveling in winter weather only when necessary; checking road conditions and weather by calling 511 prior to traveling; leaving enough time to safely reach the end destination; removing snow and ice from vehicles; wearing a seatbelt; turning on headlights and turning off cruise control; driving slowly; maintaining a safe distance from other drivers; exercising caution when passing; observing snow equipment; using extra caution on bridges, ramps, and shaded areas that may freeze; keeping the fuel tank full; and carrying tire chains when driving through mountain passes and snowy areas. Director Swallow encouraged the public to be prepared and to help keep roads clear and advised that for more winter driving tips, information can be found at NevadaDOT.com/winter.

Director Swallow informed the Board of a fatal crash that took place on Sunday, January 17th in which a three-car crash on US 95A involving a 72-year-old woman in Lyon County. The victim failed to slow for a Nissan pickup truck waiting to turn left, left the roadway in order to avoid hitting the truck, over-corrected, and ended up in the northbound lane of US 95A at which time a commercial Peterbilt vehicle traveling northbound then struck her Dodge Ram. The driver was declared dead at the scene and NHP continues to investigate the crash.

Director Swallow next updated the Board on the impacts of the pandemic on traffic and how it may relate to NDOT's revenue. Director Swallow indicated that NDOT has now evolved reporting to quarters rather than months as the pandemic continues. Director Swallow informed the Board that most count stations are starting to see and/or maintaining some level of improvement over the initial stages of the pandemic. Nonetheless, in January 2021, the majority of count stations remained below January 2019 and January 2020 levels. Director



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Swallow informed the Board that traffic remains below 2019 and 2020 averages on I-15 at the California border, but I-15 traffic is picking up in southern Nevada at Apex and on the eastern border at Mesquite, where traffic levels in January 2021 exceeded traffic levels prior to the pandemic. Director Swallow indicated that traffic remains strong but below the peak of the December holiday season. I-80 in Elko and other counties continue to see strong truck traffic.

Director Swallow informed the Board that the Legislative Session has started and indicated that NDOT has a team working to support lawmakers, the Governor's office, and other stakeholders on issues related to transportation. The legislative team is headed by legislative Director of Communications and Government Affairs, Ryan McInerney, with the assistance of Debbie Binggeli, Legislative Coordinator and customer service manager, who will help to track bills, committee sessions, and floor sessions to ensure preparedness for potential future questions.

Director Swallow updated the Board on job numbers approved by the Board of Directors since the beginning of FY '21 in October. The Board has approved contracts ensuring employment of 1,473 Nevadans with another 589 job years pending per this agenda, thus totaling, upon approval of the agenda, 2,062 transportation-supported jobs from October 2020 to February of 2021.

Director Swallow discussed the importance of the appointment of Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, who intends to focus on fighting climate change and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure. Director Swallow indicated that these things are of great importance to NDOT as well. Secretary Buttigieg has stated that the US Department of Transportation can play a central role in building the economy by creating good-paying jobs, revitalizing communities, enabling workers and families to compete in the global economy, and tackling the climate crisis. Both Nevada senators voted to confirm Secretary Buttigieg.

Director Swallow informed the Board that Jeff Lerud, who joined the NDOT team in the past months as an Assistant Director for Engineering, has agreed to step into the role of Acting Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance.

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

Director Swallow informed the Board of two contracts for consideration. Q&D Construction was the low bidder for a 6.5-mile section I-80 in Elko County, adjacent to Elko City. The project will address pavement issues and



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improve bridge maintenance and signage along the corridor. Q&D Construction was also the low bidder for the project that includes South Lake for State Route 28 on the California/Nevada state line through Incline Village to one mile north of Sand Harbor and State Route 431 from the summit of Mount Rose Highway down into Incline Village. The project will be a pavement project and will include critical ADA upgrades and storm-water improvements to help mitigate impact on and ensure preservation of the Lake moving forward.

Motion: Approve Contracts over \$5,000,000
By: Member Stephen Ascuaga
Vote: Passed unanimously

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

Director Swallow informed the Board that there are three agreements for the Board's consideration. The agreement with Ford Audio Video Systems will provide maintenance and component replacements for video systems in each district's road operation centers statewide. The improvements will prevent system outages and ensure that the driving public is apprised of road conditions. The agreement with Milestone Solutions will help NDOT to study alternative, sustainable transportation funding strategies for potential shortfalls in evolving to a cleaner, greener system with more electric vehicles. The third proposal is for an on-call agreement recommended to five consultants: Avenue Consultants; CA Group; CDM Smith; Horrocks Engineers; and Jacobs Engineering Group. Director Swallow informed the Board that this on-call agreement will help provide indefinite delivery and indefinite quantity services for NDOT's program management and project delivery divisions. This agreement will assist NDOT with programmatic needs, including managing larger programs and helping with alternative delivery.

Motion: Approve Agreements over \$300,000
By: Member Justin Kalb
Vote: Passed unanimously

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

Director Swallow informed this is an information item only.

There were no questions from members.



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9. Public Comment #2

There was no public comment.

10. Executive Session

There was no executive session in this meeting.

11. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion: Adjourn the February 8, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting
By: Member Virginia Valentine
Vote: Passed unanimously

DocuSigned by:

Jeff Lund

Secretary to the Board of Directors