



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

April 12, 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, April 12, 2021. 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 March 8, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. (For Possible Action)

Motion: Approve the March 8, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

By: Member Stephen Ascuaga

Vote: Passed. Member Catherine Byrne abstained.

4. Receive Director's Report (Informational Item)

Director Swallow began the director's report with a discussion on safety. Director Swallow explained to the Board that the month of March was particularly deadly on the Nevada roads with a 20-percent jump in fatalities compared to March of 2020. Multiple counties doubled their rate of fatal crashes, including Eureka, Humboldt,



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Lincoln, Mineral, Storey, and White Pine, and Nye County experienced a 1000-percent jump from zero fatalities in March 2020 up to ten fatalities in March 2021. Director Swallow explained that the state also saw increases in unrestrained motorist fatalities as well as motorist and bicycle fatalities but a slight decrease in the number of pedestrian deaths compared to March of 2020. Director Swallow commended the partners in traffic safety who respond to these incidents, sometimes risking their own lives and illustrated this point by informing the Board of a crash on March 9th in the North Valley's area of Reno. NHP Sergeant Franco was on the scene and captured video of the pileup of cars on the icy roadway, including his own vehicle being struck. Fortunately, Sergeant Franco was not in the vehicle at the time. Director Swallow further illustrated this point by informing the Board of the death of tow-truck driver Ryan Billet, who was hit and killed while working on the shoulder of the 215 Beltway near Decatur Boulevard. Director Swallow further informed the Board of the six-year anniversary of the death of Ron Raiche Jr., one of the 24 NDOT employees who have lost their lives since 1948 in the line of service. Director Swallow reminded drivers of Nevada's "Move Over" law, which requires drivers to slow down, proceed with caution and, if safe to do so, move over one lane when passing a roadway incident. Director Swallow reminded drivers that the "Move Over" law applies not only to emergency and law-enforcement vehicles, but also to NDOT or any official city or county vehicles using flashing amber warning lights, freeway service patrol, tow vehicles, and all other traffic incidents such as stalled vehicles or roadway debris.

Director Swallow next provided an update on the traffic impacts of the pandemic. With vaccinations in full swing, some occupancy and health restrictions loosened, and spring approaching, Director Swallow informed the Board that NDOT is beginning to see the effects of this in traffic counts. Traffic volumes are trending upwards across the state consistent with typical springtime seasonal trends. While southern Nevada interstates are above pre-pandemic levels at Primm, Apex, and Mesquite, the majority of other sites in southern Nevada remain below pre-pandemic levels. Director Swallow informed the Board that the Reno area has seen strong traffic volumes on I-580 south into Carson City and north into Panther Valley, but growth remains sluggish downtown. Tahoe rose to nearly pre-pandemic levels in the last month and interstate traffic saw an increase in Elko in line with pre-pandemic seasonal trends. Elko remains above pre-pandemic volumes.

Director Swallow next updated the Board on NDOT's legislative session efforts. As of April 1st, NDOT is tracking over 100 bills and has completed 24 fiscal notes, nearly matching the fiscal note total from the entire 2019 legislative session. Three of NDOT's four bills have passed unanimously out of assembly and have now been referred to the Senate Committee on Growth and Infrastructure; the fourth bill passed unanimously out of Assembly Committee Growth and Infrastructure and is awaiting a vote.



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Director Swallow informed the Board of the US 95 closure between the Fallon Landfill and the rodeo grounds north of Schurz that will be in place for two weeks beginning Monday, April 19 through April 29th. Director Swallow informed the Board that between April 20th and May 9th, drivers should expect traffic delays of up to 30 minutes as crews finalize construction. Crews will be working 24-7 to excavate, reinforce, and repave a 2,000-foot section of deteriorating highway during the closure, as well as to repave nearly 30 miles of US 95 between the US 95-A junction in Schurz and ten miles south of Fallon. The following improvements are planned: construction of a four-mile passing lane on northbound 395 north of Schurz; construction of a left-hand turn lane at Rodeo Drive in Schurz; extension and reinforcement with headwalls of drainage culverts and boxes that were installed as an emergency installation to protect the roadway during the floods of 2017. The highway has not been reconstructed since 2003, and the improvements will provide safety and ride-ability for travelers who use this road.

Director Swallow informed the Board that a Bridge Inspection and Rehabilitation Program has recognized Nevada's bridges as some of the nation's best. Nevada's bridges have been ranked among the nation's best for the past seven years. According to the American Road and Transportation Builders Associations, analysis of 2020 NDOT Bridge Inventory Data shows that only 1.4 percent of Nevada's more than 2,000 public bridges were structurally deficient, compared with the national average of 7.3 percent. Director Swallow informed the Board that NDOT inspects the majority of bridges every two years. Bridges with more extensive deterioration are inspected more often, and some newer bridges are inspected only every four years. Director Swallow informed the Board that NDOT has dedicated approximately \$16 million over the last two fiscal years to preserving Nevada bridges, with the goal of keeping all who travel them safe and connected.

Director Swallow updated the Board on how NDOT continues to contribute to the economy and to Nevada's workforce. This month infrastructure jobs supported by construction contracts includes 138 job years and is from contracts that were approved by a delegated authority. These 138 job years will be added to the 3,161 job years added in the prior months for a total of 3,299 job years added from October 2020 to present.

Director Swallow thanked the entire NDOT team, particularly the maintenance crews, for their efforts to make and keep Nevada roadways safe and connected throughout the many difficulties of the pandemic, including furloughs, work loss and pay cuts, and short-staffed crews.



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Director Swallow completed her presentation to the Board with the introduction of Jenica Keller, the new Assistant Director of Operations for NDOT. In her new role, Ms. Keller will oversee multiple divisions, including Equipment, Maintenance and Asset Management, Materials, and Traffic Operations. Director Swallow informed the Board that Ms. Keller began her career with NDOT in 1994 in the Materials Division. Ms. Keller has also worked in Pavement Analysis, Roadbed Design, Specifications, Road Design, and most recently in Project Management, a role in which she helped deliver critical projects across the state such as Centennial Bowl in Las Vegas and the SBX Project in Reno. Ms. Keller is a graduate of NDOT's engineering and training program, a registered professional engineer, and a certified public manager.

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

Director Swallow informed the Board that there are five agreements for the Board's consideration: an amendment to an existing agreement with Volt Delta Resources to extend the current maintenance and operations for the Nevada 511 traveler information system through December 2022; an agreement with Kimley-Horn to provide for the configuration and integration of the active traffic management sign expansion portion of the Tropicana Interchange Construction Project; an amendment to the agreement with Kimley-Horn to extend the maintenance and operations through June 2023 for the advanced traffic management software system; an agreement with Patriot Environmental Services to assist with trash and debris cleanup along NDOT rights of way in District 1; an amendment to the agreement with the Narwhal Group to increase the budget of the on-call ITS maintenance agreement to help with a backlog issue in upgrading lighting systems in the Las Vegas Valley.

Motion: Approve the Agreements over \$300,000

By: Member Virginia Valentine

Vote: Passed unanimously

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

Director Swallow informed the Board that she did not have any comments on this item.

7. Public Comment #2

There was no public comment



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8. Executive Session

There was no executive session in this meeting.

9. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion: Adjourn the April 12, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting
By: Controller Catherine Byrne
Vote: Passed unanimously

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeff Lerud'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jeff Lerud, Acting Deputy Director
Interim Secretary to the Board of Directors