



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

May 10, 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, May 10, 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 April 12, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)

Motion: Approve the April 12, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

By: Member Justin Kalb

Vote: Passed unanimously

4. Receive Director's Report (Informational Item)

Director Swallow began the director's report with a discussion on safety. Director Swallow reported that traffic fatalities across the state are up 17 percent from the same last year and that 109 people have lost their lives



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on Nevada roadways in 2021. Nine counties have seen increased fatalities; seven of these counties have jumped more than 100 percent. Director Swallow reported that although pedestrian fatalities have gone down statewide, motorcyclist fatalities have risen 31 percent, as well as bicyclist fatalities, of which there were two this year from Clark County, an increase over the zero fatalities at this time last year. Director Swallow further indicated that unrestrained motorist fatalities have increased from this time last year, with a total of 24 thus far, and reminded the members of the Board and the public to wear their seatbelts to reduce the risk of serious injury or death in a crash by up to 50 percent.

Director Swallow described two crashes to the Board. The first occurred on April 20th in which a Gardnerville resident lost their life in a single-car crash on State Route 88 in Douglas County. The driver was unrestrained and pronounced deceased at the scene. The second crash included the loss of an NDOT highway maintenance worker out of the Tonopah district, who was involved in a single-vehicle crash on US 6 east of Tonopah. Director Swallow reminded the Board and the public that with the state reopening, summer travel and commuter traffic has increased and as such, reminded the public to drive sober, drive the speed limit, wear seatbelts, and do their part to protect themselves and others.

Director Swallow next discussed COVID traffic impacts across the state. Director Swallow informed the Board that truck traffic remains strong across the state, particularly in the Elko and the eastern part of the state. I-15 in southern Nevada remains above pre-pandemic levels, resulting in an increase in the Las Vegas numbers. Director Swallow explained that other southern Nevada sites are showing some growth, but that there is a bit of a lag overall. In northern Nevada, traffic volumes north of Reno at Panther Valley and on I-580 at the Carson City Bypass are exceeding pre-pandemic levels, but growth remains sluggish elsewhere. Tahoe also has remained slightly above pre-pandemic levels this month. Director Swallow indicated that the numbers are starting to see a more sustained increase and suggested that there will be more consistency as the state continues to move out of the pandemic.

Director Swallow updated the Board on happenings in the legislative session. As of May 1, NDOT is tracking over 100 bills and has completed 24 fiscal notes. Three of NDOT's four bills have been signed by Governor Sisolak. The fourth bill, which will create the Nevada Executive Committee on Traffic Safety under the use of a new acronym, Nevada ACTS, is out of Assembly, out of Committee, and in the Senate awaiting a vote prior to requiring Governor Sisolak's signature. Director Swallow indicated that NDOT is closely monitoring AB413, which looks at NDOT's funding sources and creates a sustainable funding source for the transportation system



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moving forward. Director Swallow indicated that this bill has passed unanimously out of the Senate Committee and is awaiting a Senate floor vote.

Director Swallow informed the Board that May is bike month and that a lot of people are out on their bikes as well as out walking. Director Swallow discussed the health benefits of biking and indicated that May is supported by the League of American Bicyclists and the National Center for Safe Routes to School. Director Swallow further indicated that as part of NDOT's Nevada Moves initiative and in celebration of bike month, many Nevada school districts held bike to school activities. Director Swallow cautioned drivers to be aware of bikers and pedestrians on the road.

Director Swallow indicated that it is National Infrastructure Week and as such, highlighted the importance of transportation, water, energy, and other infrastructure priorities that are critical to the future of Nevada families, workers, and businesses. Director Swallow reminded the Board that every dollar invested in infrastructure nationally generates nearly four dollars in economic growth. Director Swallow further indicated that inadequate infrastructure costs each American family an additional \$9 per day and explained that infrastructure in Nevada is much better than in other locations. Director Swallow explained that every billion dollars in federal investment in infrastructure supports roughly 13,000 American jobs. Director Swallow expressed NDOT's appreciation for the Board and its support of transportation infrastructure in keeping Nevadans safe and connected.

Director Swallow concluded her report by discussing the impact of NDOT and its program. Infrastructure job numbers from approved contracts between October 2020 and April 2021 equaled nearly 3,300 new jobs. The agenda for May includes an additional 189 jobs, which will total 3,488 jobs supported by NDOT through May of 2021.

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

Director Swallow indicated that there is one contract for approval under this agenda item, the preservation project on US 93 north of Caliente, for which the low bidder was WW Clyde and Company. Director Swallow explained that this corridor frequently serves as a detour for I-15 when there are closures. The preservation project will improve the pavement surface, provide additional drainage improvements that will extend the pavement life and reduce maintenance efforts along the corridor, and will provide new safety signs that warn of icy roads in inclement weather.



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Governor Sisolak noted that WW Clyde is a Utah-based company and asked if NDOT had discussed hiring Nevadans with the company.

Dustin Olson, WW Clyde, indicated that WW Clyde is signatory to Local 12 and Local 872 and at the time of bid submittal, there were not any Nevadans employed, but that the company intends to utilize union craft and subcontractors and suppliers from the state of Nevada.

Governor Sisolak indicated his thanks as the number of still unemployed Nevadans looking for work is a concern.

Motion: Approve the Contracts over \$5,000,000

By: Member Catherine Byrne

Vote: Passed unanimously

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

Director Swallow informed the Board that there are four agreements for the Board's consideration. Four Leaf Consulting will provide crew augmentation services for Elko County to help with the construction of contract 3854 along I-80. NIT is the selected consultant to provide the architectural and engineering design for the reconstruction of Searchlight Maintenance Station. Director Swallow indicated that this is just for the design, but that the actual construction is included in NDOT's budget for the upcoming biennium. Biological will be providing the federal highway mandated biological monitoring during the construction of I-15 Logandale to Mesquite project, which is required by the federal government to ensure the preservation of the endangered flora and fauna in the area. Hershenow & Klippenstein Architects will be overseeing the architectural and engineering design for the reconstruction of three rest areas at Beowawe, Millers, and Trinity. Director Swallow indicated that NDOT had anticipated requesting construction approval for this biennium but because the design is somewhat delayed, design will be first and then construction approval will be sought in the next biennium.

Justin Kalb expressed concern with the \$1.2 million price tag for a 7,000 square foot building, indicating that this breaks down to approximately \$165 a square foot for architectural services.



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Darin Tedford, NDOT, indicated that the Searchlight Maintenance Station includes the building, as well as design, grading, utilities, and connections. Mr. Tedford explained that the project includes the design of all of this and is actually a larger facility than the building and includes the entire maintenance yard.

Motion: Approve the Agreements over \$300,000
By: Member Stephen Ascuaga
Vote: Passed unanimously

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

Pursuant to NRS 408.131, the board may delegate authority to the director, which a director may exercise pursuant to NRS 408.205. These items and matters have been delegated to the Director by the Board by resolutions in April 1990 and July 2011. Director Swallow.

Director Swallow informed this is an information item only.

There were no questions from members.

8. Public Comment #2

This public comment period is for any matter that is within the jurisdiction of the public body. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. The Chair of the Board will impose a time limit of three (3) minutes.

There was no public comment.

9. Executive Session

Receive information from legal counsel regarding potential and existing litigation involving a matter over which the Transportation Board of Directors has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power and to deliberate toward a decision on the matter.

There was no executive session in this meeting.



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10. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion: Adjourn the May 10, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting
By: Member Catherine Byrne
Vote: Passed unanimously



Jeff Lerud, Deputy Director
Secretary to the Board of Directors