



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2021

9:30 A.M.

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**Meeting Locations:**

1263 South Stewart Street  
Third Floor Conference Room  
Carson City, Nevada 89712

123 East Washington Avenue  
Building B  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

1951 Idaho Street  
Conference Room  
Elko, Nevada 89801

**SEC 1. OPENING**

**1. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call**

Governor Sisolak called the meeting to order on Monday, December 13, 2021. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

Present: Governor Steve Sisolak, Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske, Controller Catherine Byrne, Member Justin Kalb, Member Stephen Ascuaga, Member Virginia Valentine.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

**3. Receive Director's Report (Informational Item)**

Director Kristina Swallow informed the Board that the Nevada Department of Transportation has received several requests to name their headquarters building after former director, Garth Dull (phonetic), who passed away earlier this year. Director Swallow indicated that NRS provides limitations on how buildings can be named, and explained that for buildings built after July 2015, the Veterans Services Commission may make a recommendation to the governor's office for a member who has served, is a resident of Nevada, and was killed in action.

Director Swallow then stated regarding safety, that the month of November closed with 349 lives lost on Nevada roads, a 20 percent increase in fatalities over the same time the previous year and a 25 percent increase over the same time in 2019. Director Swallow pointed out that the people who have lost their lives total above and beyond the highest total years in the past decade. Director Swallow informed the Board that seven counties



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have experienced increases of 100 percent or more year over year, three of which had increases over 200 percent. Director Swallow noted that pedestrian fatalities are up 5 percent, with 70 pedestrians losing their lives so far this year, and motorcycle fatalities are up 29 percent.

Director Swallow updated the Board on the sustainable funding working group which will not be meeting in December in order to allow the consulting team to work on developing the work product for January. Director Swallow specified that the working group did approve/finalize several principles the previous month, including financial sustainability and viability for current and future needs; flexible use of the revenue; equity for users, including social equity; and ensuring alignment with greenhouse gas emission goals. Director Swallow stated January's meeting will focus on more than 30 different types of funding mechanisms that have been used across the nation and that the group will be cutting down that list to the most promising options for Nevada. The group will focus on how much revenue can be generated and its viability. Director Swallow further indicated that the group will have a presentation for January's NDOT Board meeting in order to generate feedback prior to expanding public outreach.

Director Swallow next updated the Board on NDOT team vaccination, revealing that Carson City and Reno-Sparks duty stations are both approximately at the 70 percent threshold. Director Swallow explained that none of the others are past the 70 percent mark, and further indicated that Ely was the lowest last month, but the only county still lagging is White Pine County, who has increased by 7 percent since the previous month. Director Swallow reported that since the policy was put into place, NDOT's overall vaccination rate has increased by 10 percent, and NDOT is moving forward with progressive discipline for team members out of compliance with the policy.

Director Swallow thanked Governor Steve Sisolak and Governor Gavin Newsom for their work on addressing the Sunday-Monday congestion along the state border of I-15. Director Swallow explained that Governor Newsom will be looking into hard-shoulder running, allowing drivers to use the shoulder during the Sunday-Monday peak congestion times, and that NDOT will be working with California to ensure that the Nevada side will tie into that appropriately and be ready to go at the same time. Director Swallow noted that construction should start in spring of 2022 and be complete by the end of summer 2023.

Director Swallow explained that I-15 is a critical corridor that requires constant diligence. As such, NDOT is studying improvements such as ramp meters at Prim. Director Swallow further indicated that NDOT has recently reinitiated its I-15 Mobility Alliance in cooperation with Caltrans, Arizona, and Utah DOTs to look at the



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I-15 corridor as a whole. Director Swallow explained how Nevada has been a leader of this alliance for decades, and the alliance has had great success in working together as a four-state consortium in getting federal grants to help with projects, as well as looking at operational impacts. Director Swallow explained that the alignment and consortium allow the states to work together regarding closures in order to alleviate congestion. The alliance also does this along I-80 whenever there are challenges in the pass to California.

Director Swallow updated the Board on the Mount Rose corridor study, in which NDOT and its partners in northern Nevada looked at areas of concern along the border. Director Swallow explained that Mount Rose has changed significantly since it was built, and as such, the partners studied previous crash data, traffic operations, proposed land use plans, and multimodal infrastructure. Director Swallow informed the board that proposed land use plans are the biggest challenge faced by NDOT and its partners. A public information meeting took place in January of 2021. The feedback from which resulted in the development of a corridor vision statement that focuses on safety, mobility, and multimodal accommodation. Director Swallow explained that there is a technical advisory committee of NDOT division staff and stakeholders that includes local agency leadership from Washoe, Reno, and Truckee Meadows working on finalizing the vision statement. Once the vision statement is completed and a suite of projects can be considered, these will be put through the One Nevada plan and prioritized along with other state needs.

Director Swallow commended the NDOT team for their work to help address severe roadside shoulder collapses and culvert erosion two Saturdays prior to the meeting. Director Swallow indicated that once the pipe was cleaned out, the team discovered that the pipe bottom had completely eroded, leaving a huge hole beneath Mount Rose. For this reason, the road needed to be closed for emergency repair and replacement of the shoulder, a task that the NDOT team was able to complete in one day.

Director Swallow next discussed the Reno Spaghetti Bowl project, which was approved two years ago and that NDOT crews have been keeping the project on track despite challenges from COVID and fires. Construction work began in August of 2020 and is currently approximately 60 percent complete, with Reno Sparks Indian Colony neighborhood walls at 80 percent complete, the Glendale and Mill Street interchange ramps at 60 percent complete, the southbound expansion from Vassar to the Spaghetti Bowl at 50 percent complete, and the widening of I-80 to I-580 southbound ramp to two lanes at approximately 50 percent complete. The job is on schedule to be completed December of 2022. Director Swallow noted that in spring of 2022, the Mill Street and 2nd Street interchange will be open similar to its final intended condition, and as such, improvements will be seen sooner than later.



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Director Swallow next discussed the contributions of NDOT to the state. Director Swallow explained that through November's agenda, 4,188 job years were supported for October and November, and that today's agenda included an additional 547 job years. Director Swallow informed the Board of the successes of the NDOT team, including the research unit's national honor by AASHTO for research conducted in partnership with UNR, and Lake Tahoe State Route 28 multi-use path was named at Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Fest as the Basin Award winner for environmental stewardship within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Director Swallow explained that NDOT's team worked quickly and efficiently with rural transit providers to amend agreements to provide relief funding during the pandemic to ensure critical services could continue, that the federal transit funds were obligated by summer of 2021, and that most have already been spent. In addition, Director Swallow informed the Board that during the COVID pandemic, NDOT's aviation division was able to provide the certifications for the rooftop heliport at the Las Vegas Children's Hospital, allowing it to remain operational during the pandemic. She further noted that NDOT continues to focus on safety on the roads, including a proprietary design spring-loaded truck escape ramp put into use on State Route 431, which would allow the vehicle operator to walk away from the event without injury. Also, NDOT's partnership with DEM and other state and local agencies allowed NDOT to assist with the Caldor fire, including an evacuation, staging, road closures, and support to those asked to leave their homes. Moreover, Director Swallow informed the Board that in southern Nevada, NDOT was instrumental in assisting with the response to a major issue on US93 in which flood and debris up to 10 feet deep impeded 300 feet of highway. In addition, Director Swallow discussed the hardships faced by NDOT this year, including a team member who was shot, a team member in a traffic incident, and NSP trooper Micah May hit by a vehicle on I-15.

Director Swallow concluded her report by indicating that the last two years of the pandemic have indeed stressed NDOT's capacities to be there for one another and to serve the traveling public. Nonetheless, Director Swallow informed the Board that as 2021 closes, NDOT remains more resolute than ever to continue with its department measure. Director Swallow thanked Board members for their help in that effort, expressing the deep appreciation for the patience the Board has extended to the NDOT team as they transition back to post-quarantine posts.

Governor Sisolak commented that NDOT's help with Caltrans is extremely important and that the work with resort partners to alleviate congestion at the border will certainly help in creating a permanent solution to this issue. Governor Sisolak next discussed the tragedies at the Stewart School in Carson City, where 20,000 children were taken from their parents. Governor Sisolak shared that the state does not know who was there, who died



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there, where the gravesites are, and how that will affect NDOT. Governor Sisolak explained that the state needs to move forward with the help of the federal government in order to determine the locations of the actual gravesites, as well as to deal with the elders and the sanctity of those areas, and thanked Director Swallow for her commitment in making this happen.

Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske thanked Director Swallow and her staff for their updates and professionalism. Secretary Cegavske informed the Board that Chief of Staff, Scott Anderson, is on the tribal committee and looks forward to working with the state and with NDOT in whatever capacity needed regarding the Stewart School situation.

Governor Sisolak explained to the Board that the meeting was sobering and emotional, particularly when listening to the survivors speak, and reiterated the state's commitment to acknowledge the situation, regardless of the lack of written history, and helping to provide healing for the tribes.

Member Virginia Valentine thanked Governor Sisolak for his work with Governor Newsom to address the congestion on the I-15 border.

**SEC .2. CONSENT AGENDA: Items No 4 through No. 9**

Governor Sisolak explained that items 4 through 9 will be taken together unless any of the Board members wish to hear an item separately.

None of the Board members wished to hear an item separately.

**4. Consideration of Approval of the November 8, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. (For Possible Action)**

Contracts over \$5,000,000 from October 8, 2021 through November 11, 2021

**5. Contract 3868READV, Project No. SP-000M(072), on US6 and SR376, with W.W. CYDE & CO. to replace Structure B-180, on system bridge; RCB extensions and improvements, including new wing walls, headwalls, aprons, and dirt. Nye County. (For possible action)**



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6. Contract 3889, Project No. NHP-095-6(010), on US95, from 0.100 miles south of SR140 to Albisu Road, with Q & D CONSTRUCTION, LLC, to cold mill and place plantmix bituminous surface with open grade, hydraulic and safety improvements. Humboldt County. (For possible action)
  7. Contract 3893, Project No. NHP-080-5(043), on I-80 from 0.82 miles east of the Wells Interchange to 1.04 miles east of the Moor Interchange, with Q & D CONSTRUCTION, LLC, to coldmill, place leveling course and plantmix bituminous surface with open grade. Elko County. (For possible action)

Agreements over \$300,000 from October 8, 2021 through November 11, 2021

8. Agreement 068-21-040 Amendment 1 with INFOTECH, LLC for AASHTOWare Civil Rights and Labor Module Implementation. Statewide. (For possible action)
9. Report on Informational Contracts, Agreements, and Settlements

Pursuant to NRS 408.131 the Board may delegate authority to the Director which the 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. (Informational item only)

Motion: Approve the Consent Agenda: Items No. 4 through No. 9  
By: Member Virginia Valentine  
Second: Member Justin Kalb  
Vote: Passed unanimously

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

SEC. 3. ITEMS TAKEN SEPARATELY FROM CONSENT AGENDA

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS ITEMS

Planning



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**10. Receive a report on Nevada Department of Transportation 2021 Performance Management Report. (Informational item only)**

Deputy Director Cole Mortensen informed the Board that this report does go to the state legislature, and that there are 16 measures with some sub-measures used to track NDOT's performance and inform its priorities and resource allocation along with its goals and strategic plan.

Deputy Director Mortensen informed the Board that the employee satisfaction measure is lower than it has been for several years and that where it shows NDOT is still meeting target measure is actually an error. Deputy Director Mortensen explained that the target is 75 percent and at the current metric of 61 percent, NDOT is not meeting that performance measure. Deputy Director Mortensen next discussed the performance measure of maintaining the state's highway pavement and indicated that NDOT anticipates it will take a few years to catch back up with additional funding for those types of projects. Deputy Director Mortensen reiterated Director Swallow's assertion that 2021 has been one of the deadliest years on Nevada roadways in over a decade and with the recently passed infrastructure bill, the methodology has been changed to require targets to be less than the current numbers. Deputy Director Mortensen explained that NDOT has undertaken a number of new efforts to reduce serious crashes, such as establishing the Nevada Advisory Committee on Transportation, a multi-agency, multi-industry committee that is tasked with evaluating data and recommending policy and practices to reduce fatal and serious injuries on the transportation system. NDOT is also developing a speed management plan to inform NDOT and partner agencies on factors relating to speed and speeding for the implementation on future projects. In addition, NDOT has established a local road safety plan, which will provide a way to bring consistency to approaches to improve roadway safety while also providing a path for increased federal safety funds to local partners. Deputy Director Mortensen further stated that PM 13, the project delivery performance measure, has allowed NDOT to accomplish an increase in the percentage of projects advertised within the reporting year while demonstrating that the additional projects beyond those initially envisioned are also being delivered with continued emphasis on the evolution of the One Nevada process. Deputy Director Mortensen indicated that in terms of cost estimating, NDOT is continuing to evaluate the differences between the estimates and awards and is continuously updating its bid item estimates. Deputy Director Mortensen explained that it is important to note that while there are projects falling outside the desired range, when evaluating the total cost of all the projects, there is about a 1.5 percent difference, so while some projects are over or under, NDOT does do a fairly good job of estimating total program costs. Deputy Director Mortensen concluded his report by informing the board that NDOT is continuing to work with partners



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such as DCNR and the Governor's Office of Energy on the greenhouse gas measure to reduce transportation emissions overall.

#### 11. 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 (Note: This item may be closed to the public pursuant to NRS 241.015(3)(b)(2) in order to discuss legal matters.). (For possible action)

There was no executive session.

#### 12. Public Comment

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.

Assemblyman P.K. O'Neill indicated his disagreement with Director Swallow's earlier statement that NRS does not provide for the naming of a state building by a person unless they died during service in the military, and cited the renaming of McCarran airport after Harry Reid, as well as the building in northern Nevada named after Richard Bryan. As such, Assemblyman O'Neill requested that legal review this issue and that the Board then re-agendize it for the next meeting.

Former Secretary of State Cheryl Lau discussed her husband, Garth Dull's, dedication to the state of Nevada and NDOT. Ms. Lau indicated her support for renaming the NDOT building after Garth Dull and asked for the consideration of the Board on this matter.

Governor Sisolak indicated that he will ask Director Swallow to meet with legal counsel and potentially seek expert opinion of the AG or LCB regarding the naming of the building. Governor Sisolak explained that because McCarran is a county facility as opposed to a state facility, the rules may be somewhat different and reiterated the fact that legal counsel would be asked to make a determination and the item would be re-agendized for the January meeting.





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13. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Governor Sisolak adjourned the December 13, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting.

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeff Lerud'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeff Lerud, Deputy Director

Secretary to the Board of Directors