



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023

9:30 AM

Meeting Location(s):

1263 South Stewart Street	123 East Washington Avenue	1951 Idaho Street
Third Floor Conference Room	Building B	Conference Room
Carson City, Nevada 89712	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101	Elko, Nevada 89801

SEC 1. OPENING

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call

Governor Joe Lombardo called the meeting to order on Monday, January 9, 2023. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

In attendance: Governor Joe Lombardo, Controller Andy Matthews, Member Stephen Ascuaga, Member Gary Perea, and Member Justin Kalb.

2. Public Comment

Governor Lombardo noted that there were two recorded letters received.

Director Kristina Swallow noted that the letters were distributed to the Board members and will be included in the minutes, along with any items received virtually today.

There was no additional public comment.

3. Receive Director's Report – Informational Item

Director Kristina Swallow began her report with a discussion on safety, noting that the statistics for 2022 are currently in draft form as the statistics are not finalized until a year after the calendar year closes. Director Swallow reported that in 2022, there was almost a 1 percent drop in overall fatal crashes as compared to calendar year 2021, noting that although this appears to be good news, 2021 was the worst year in terms of fatal crashes out of the last 15 years. Director Swallow indicated that speeding and impairment remain the largest contributing factor to fatal crashes. Director Swallow next indicated that another preventable factor statewide is the number of unbuckled fatalities, which rose more than 5 percent between 2021 and 2022. Director Swallow reminded the Board that to save lives and reduce fatal crashes, NDOT and its statewide partners use the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, a plan that has established statewide goals and strategies that focus on elements of traffic safety, including engineering; education; enforcement; and emergency response. Director Swallow further indicated that NDOT has developed a



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Speed Management Action Plan, which will also be used to implement further multidisciplinary strategies to manage speed on state highways. Director Swallow informed the Board that the Nevada Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety brings together NDOT representatives, the Department of Public Safety, Nevada DMV, and state and local agencies to provide guidance and approval and consensus on improving overall highway safety, and noted that all of these measures coupled with Local Road Safety Plans are intended to reduce the total number of fatal crashes as well as reinforce the importance of staying buckled up while in a vehicle, driving sober, and following the set speed limits on roadways.

Director Kristina Swallow next provided the Board with a project update on the I-15 Tropicana Interchange, known as “Dropicana”, which will be taking down the north half of the existing Tropicana Bridge over I-15 and Frank Sinatra Drive, along with the flyover from southbound I-15 to eastbound Tropicana. Director Swallow indicated that this will be a region-wide traffic event for which all drivers need to begin planning as the project will begin officially with the closure of the ramps from southbound I-15 to both east and westbound Tropicana on Tuesday, January 17. Director Swallow noted that these are long-term closures, with the ramp from I-15 to westbound Trop offline for approximately nine months, and the ramp from I-15 to eastbound Tropicana offline for approximately 18 months. Director Swallow explained that “Dropicana” also includes a closure of Tropicana over I-15 and Frank Sinatra Drive from Sunday morning, January 22 through Monday, January 30, with the biggest impact being the complete closure of I-15 in both directions between Russell Road and Flamingo from 10:00 pm on Friday, January 27 to 5:00 am on Monday, January 30. Director Swallow encouraged the public to download the I-15 Trop app and bookmark NDOT's website, as well as to follow NDOT on social media for all of the latest updates.

Director Kristina Swallow provided the Board with a recap and appraisal of the US-50 Tahoe East Shore Corridor Study. Director Swallow reminded the Board that this study is vital as speed is a major concern in this area with the majority of drivers operating well over the speed limit and that one of the key components will be enhancing access to safely get on and off the highway while reducing the potentially dangerous excess speeds. Director Swallow stated that public input has been critical to this process. She continued that there have been 50 meetings and 770 public/stakeholder interactions to gather input. Director Swallow informed the Board that NDOT is looking at the potential to reconfigure the striping on the highway in three high-crash and constrained locations in order to provide safer access to and from the road and bring travel speeds closer to the existing 45-mile-per-hour speed limit. Director Swallow reported that NDOT's modeling shows the reconfiguration will result in an additional two minutes to travel through as part of the full 13-mile corridor, and that this additional two minutes is not due to congestion, but rather how long it should currently take if everyone is not speeding. Director Swallow indicated appreciation for the feedback received from the public and highlighted the fact that NDOT is continuing to review both the



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proposals it has developed as well as the proposals that have come from some of the members of the public. Director Swallow noted that once the plan is finalized in the coming months, it will provide a high-level vision for future options to improve traffic safety and mobility for all transportation types that will consider and prioritize strategies as part of future projects in the corridor. Director Swallow reported that over and above future improvements, NDOT has plans to repave approximately 13 miles of US-50 between State Line and Spooner with the intention of preserving the roadway as well as in compatibility with the corridor plan suggestions.

Director Kristina Swallow thanked the dedicated highway maintenance staff for their work during the recent and ongoing winter storms in northern Nevada. Director Swallow reported that because the rain event turned into a snow event, NDOT was able to help work and stabilize the areas and reduce flooding concerns. Nonetheless, Director Swallow reported that nearly 40 inches of snow fell near Mount Rose Highway and that during storm events like these, the NDOT team works in staggered 12-hour shifts for 24-hour snow removal to help clear highways and keep Nevada mobile. Director Swallow noted that roads that were closed due to mud flow and/or flooding have since been safely reopened. Director Swallow further reported that NDOT crews utilized a controlled avalanche detonation system near the Mount Rose Summit to loosen snow on the roadway slope with NDOT plow operators on the ready to remove the snow as it came down from the hill. Director Swallow explained that controlled releases such as this one help to prevent unpredictable and potentially dangerous snow slides that could bury vehicles and motorists on highways. Director Swallow indicated that like many of the residence in the area, crews also battled local power outages at highway maintenance facilities. Director Swallow commended the crew, noting that this is particularly amazing work in light of the unprecedented highway maintenance vacancies that range from 45 to 75 percent, with a total of approximately 400 highway maintenance positions unfilled statewide. Director Swallow explained that during events like this, with this type of staffing deficiency, NDOT occasionally needs to close some of the smaller corridors in order to maintain the major corridors.

Director Kristina Swallow next moved onto something fun and read out the winning names of the snowplow naming contest for each district. The winning names were as follows: southern Nevada, District 1, "Cirque de Snowleil"; Reno Carson, District 2, "Sierra Scoop"; Elko, Ely, and northeastern Nevada, District 3, the "Nevada Thaw Enforcement". Director Swallow noted that the honorable mention winning name was "Snow-be-gone Kenobi".

Governor Lombardo asked if the mentioned vacancies would continue to be an issue over the next 10 days of predicted stormy activity.



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Director Kristina Swallow said that it would continue to be an issue and that team members are doing everything they can. Director Swallow went on to say that the NDOT Team was the best team in the state and are passionate and committed to doing everything they can to keep the roads open.

Governor Lombardo questioned if the Department of Emergency Management could help to supplement that labor.

Director Swallow noted that because plow operations are a very specific skill, requiring a CDL license and knowledge of the roads, the Department of Emergency Management can not help in this area. Director Swallow explained that NDOT is looking at alternative options should hiring not change and indicated that the team does have some ideas and strategies on what can be done in hopes of improvement for the next season.

Governor Lombardo asked if there was a plan for recognition to the winners of the snowplow naming contest.

Director Swallow stated that the winners were being sent certificates and that a public recognition was not planned. She continued that one of the winners was over the moon when finding out that her name was chosen for a snowplow.

SEC .2. CONSENT AGENDA: Items No. 4 through No. 16

Governor Lombardo explained that items 4 through 16 will be taken together unless any of the Board members wish to hear an item separately.

4. Consideration of Approval of the December 19, 2022, Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. – For Possible Action

Upon request of Controller Andy Matthews, this item was taken separately outside the consent agenda.

Contracts over \$5,000,000 from November 11, 2022, to December 8, 2022

5. Contract 3947 Project No. NHP-080-1(179) ON I-80, from the California/Nevada Stateline to West McCarran Interchange, with ROAD AND HIGHWAY BUILDERS, LLC, for barrier rail upgrade, culvert lining and replacement, hardware upgrade for Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices, aesthetic and fencing improvements, Washoe County, Nevada – For possible action



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Agreements over \$300,000 from November 11, 2022, to December 8, 2022

6. Agreement 300-22-040 with GCW ENGINEERING, INC., for augmentation of Crew 903 for the I-15 and SR 169 truck climbing lanes, Clark County, Nevada. – For possible action
7. Agreement 363-22-040 with CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ENGINEERS, INC., for augmentation of Crew 904 on US 50 and US 95, Churchill County, Nevada. – For possible action
8. Agreement 365-22-015 with C.A. GROUP, INC., for environmental and preliminary engineering services for the I-15 Central Corridor, Clark County, Nevada. – For possible action
9. Agreement 371-22-040 with C.A. GROUP, INC., for full administration of Contract 3944 Preservation Project on I-80 at Nightingale Interchange, Churchill County, Nevada. – For possible action
10. Agreements with STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES, INC., ATKINS NORTH AMERICA, INC., LAGE DESIGN, INC., AND DESIGN VISION, INC., DBA SOUTHWICK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, for on-call landscape and aesthetic design services, statewide, Nevada. – For possible action
11. Agreement 610-21-067 with GO FLEET CORPORATION, for Automated Vehicle Location and Telematics System (AVLTS), statewide, Nevada. – For possible action
12. Amendment 01, Agreement 081-21-017, with AERO-GRAPHICS, INC., for continued aerial photography and aerial Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) services, statewide, Nevada. – For possible action
13. Amendment 02, Agreement 413-19-016 with THE NARWHAL GROUP, for continued Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) maintenance, Elko, Humboldt, Pershing, Churchill, Lander, Eureka, White Pine, and Nye Counties, Nevada. – For possible action

Right-of-Way

14. ABD 22-03 - Resolution of Abandonment of a portion of U-095-CL-091.230 XS7, a portion of LOT 1 in the "FARM & DURANGO COMMERCIAL CENTER", Clark County, Nevada. – For possible action
15. SUR 19-16 - Disposal of portions of Starr Avenue between Dean Martin Drive and Las Vegas Boulevard, Clark County, Nevada. – Informational item only



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General Administration

16. Contracts, Agreements, and Settlements/Judgements

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 Consent Agenda Items 5 through 16
By: Member Gary Perea
Vote: Passed unanimously

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

SEC. 3. ITEMS TAKEN SEPARATELY FROM CONSENT AGENDA

4. Consideration of Approval of the December 19, 2022, Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. – For possible action

Motion: Approve the December 19, 2022, Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.
By: Member Stephen Ascuaga
Vote: Passed. Governor Lombardo and Controller Matthews abstained from the vote.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS ITEMS

17. Condemnation Resolution No. 479, US 6, Nye County, MM Holdings, LLC, - 1 Owner, 3 parcels. – For possible action

Member Gary Perea stated that he would move for a motion but did have some concerns with this and hoped they could negotiate with the property owners and come up with a good resolution.

Motion: Approve Item 17 Condemnation Resolution No. 479
By: Member Gary Perea
Vote: Passed unanimously



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18. Condemnation Resolution No. 480, US 6, Nye County, Nevada Select Royalty, Inc., - 1 Owner, 1 Parcel – For possible action

Motion: Approve Item 18 Condemnation Resolution No. 480
By: Controller Andy Matthews
Vote: Passed unanimously

19. Condemnation Resolution No. 481, US 6, Nye County, Rippie/Hersman Estate - 2 Owners, 1 Parcel – For possible action

This item was withdrawn based on an agreement reached between the parties involved.

20. Consideration for approval of Director for the Nevada Department of Transportation – For possible action

Motion: Approve Tracy Larkin Thomason as the new Director for the Nevada Department of Transportation effective January 17, 2023
By: Controller Andy Matthews
Vote: Passed unanimously

Tracy Larkin Thomason thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the state of Nevada once again. Tracy Larkin Thomason thanked Director Kristina Swallow for her service and passion.

Governor Lombardo also thanked Director Swallow for her service and wished her goodwill and good wishes moving forward.

21. **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.

22. **Public Comment:** A period devoted to comments by the general public about matters relevant to the Board's jurisdiction will be held. No vote may be taken upon a matter not listed on the posted agenda. Comments will be limited to three minutes. Please clearly state your name and SPELL your last name for



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the record. If any of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this will be done by the Chair, or the Board by majority vote.

Thomas Erwin, Erwin Thompson Faillers, informed the Board that his firm is representing Blackrock Gold Corporation and commenting on Agenda Items 17, 18, and 19 for the highway project north of Tonopah. Mr. Erwin explained that the company has conducted exploration on this project, upon which they have expended approximately 30 million and have discovered a valuable silver deposit. As such, Mr. Erwin expressed concern that the mineral rights owned by the company be preserved and noted his belief that the company and the Department have been able to come to an agreement whereby the mineral rights will be preserved, and the project can move forward and not be adversely affected by fee estate taking.

Gerald Baughman, Nevada Select Royalty, noted that Nevada Select Royalty is optioning the property to BlackRock Gold and reiterated Mr. Erwin's assertion that the mineral rights need to be preserved.

Janet Murphy, Administrator of Tahoe Douglas Utility District, discussed the Highway 50 East Corridor Project and requested that the new governor and the new Board members consider her alternative plan to the area rather than simply accepting the NDOT plan. Ms. Murphy discussed the biggest concern with NDOT's plan for the area, noting that evacuation is an enormous worry for the residents and first responders. Ms. Murphy cited Paradise, California as an example, noting that the area did a road diet and a road reduction, the result of which ended up with people perishing. Ms. Murphy indicated that her proposal includes narrowing the lanes, while still keeping all four in place, thus producing slower traffic, as well as allowing for a center lane or median to reduce crashes.

Elisabeth Lernhardt indicated her opposition to the NDOT lane reduction in the Highway 50 East Corridor Project. Ms. Lernhardt also cited Paradise as an example of the dangers of highway reduction, noting that the campfire in 2018 was two years after the reduction from a four-lane to a two-lane highway, and as a result, 87 locals were overtaken by the fire during evacuation and died by burning to death in their cars. Ms. Lernhardt cautioned that the East Shore Development Plan by NDOT and TARP is the same folly, devised in the name of fueling tourism. Ms. Lernhardt further noted that after local residents and businesses pointed out the shortcomings of NDOT's plan, NDOT quietly changed the plan again, this time abandoning safety and accessibility for the bike lanes. Ms. Lernhardt indicated that for more than 20 years, locals have begged NDOT to make I-50 safer, and further indicated that there is plenty of federal land in the basin where bike lanes can be created that would neither interfere with traffic nor require new asphalt.

There was no additional public comment.



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23. Adjournment – For Possible Action

Motion: Adjournment of the January 9, 2023, Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting
By: Member Gary Perea
Vote: Passed unanimously

DocuSigned by:

Darin Tedford, Deputy Director

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For Jeff Lerud, Deputy Director
Secretary to the Board of Directors