



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

9:30 AM

Meeting Location:

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

In attendance: Governor Joe Lombardo, Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony, Controller Andy Matthews, Member Virginia Valentine, Member Stephen Ascuaga, Member Justin Kalb, and Member Gary Perea.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Receive Director's Report – Informational Item

Deputy Director Darin Tedford began the report by informing the Board that the 2023 Traffic Safety project of the year award went to the Wadsworth Walking Trail. Deputy Director Tedford indicated the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and NDOT collaborated on a multi-use path with crossing improvements along State Route 447 near Natchez Elementary School on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Reservation in Wadsworth and explained the State Route 447 bisects Wadsworth community. Deputy Director Tedford explained the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe sought a grant to improve the stretch of highway obtaining \$500,000 for pedestrian improvements, and approached NDOT to engage in a partnership. Deputy Director Tedford indicated the project included pedestrian activated rapid rectangular flashing beacons, speed feedback signs in the school zone, upgraded crosswalk lighting to current standards, construction of a shared-use asphalt path with ADA-compliant ramps, upgraded signage to current standards, and striping and pavement markings to current standards. Deputy Director Tedford explained this project was completed just before the 2022 school year, and community members are getting out and using the trail because of the safe multimodal access in their community, which has also helped many vulnerable road users.

Deputy Director Tedford next discussed the final phase of the Centennial Bowl, noting the substantial completion is scheduled for this fall. Deputy Director Tedford indicated westbound CC 215 is expected to open to traffic in the next month and will also be opened in a different direction this fall. Deputy Director Tedford



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

9:30 AM

explained the project includes several new surface-street connections and multi-use trails. Deputy Director Tedford indicated this is the final phase of the project undertaking and the total of all the phases amounted to nearly \$500 million and 16 years of work. Deputy Director Tedford informed the Board of the ribbon cutting ceremony planned for December 4, 2023, noting more details and invitations will follow.

Deputy Director Tedford next discussed the emergency projects to the south, noting Kyle and Lee Canyons at Mount Charleston remain closed to visitors due to ongoing repair activity in the area. Deputy Director Tedford explained the many popular trails at Mount Charleston sustained extensive damage from the August storms. Carpenter Canyon and Wallace Canyon Roads remain inaccessible due to significant flooding washouts. Deputy Director Tedford informed the Board in the aftermath of the storm, NDOT identified extensive damage in 43 different locations along these critical roadways, with one of the most notable challenges being a completely washed out 900-foot section of State Route 157. Deputy Director Tedford noted the repairs on SR 157 and SR 156 are nearly complete, but road closures remain in place due to hazardous conditions in the area. Deputy Director Tedford indicated NDOT is working with Clark County and the Forest Service balancing the desire to open the mountain with the safety of the visitors and residents. The public is encouraged to visit gomtcharleston.com.

Deputy Director Tedford informed the Board that SR 158 connects SR 157 and SR-156 about halfway up the mountain, known as Deer Creek Road, suffered significant damage near the Mahogany Grove Campground. Deputy Director Tedford indicated an emergency contract was opened on October 2, 2023, to repair that road with the goal of reopening it by the winter season. Deputy Director Tedford encouraged the public to visit gomountcharleston.com for updates on response and recovery efforts.

Governor Lombardo questioned the status of the fire station and the library.

Deputy Director Tedford indicated he did not have the status but would be happy to find out and report back to the Board.

Deputy Director Tedford informed the Board the online public study for the Highway 50 corridor study ended on September 30, 2023. Deputy Director Tedford indicated 1,931 entries and more than 3,000 individual comments were received, most of which came from residents of Lake Tahoe, as well as other users of the road from Washoe, Douglas, Carson, and El Dorado Counties. Deputy Director Tedford reported the survey was open to all users of the roadway, both locals and those who travel the road for business or other purposes. Deputy Director Tedford clarified this feedback is in addition to the approximately 1,500 elements of public feedback already received over the previous two-year study. Deputy Director Tedford explained NDOT is currently compiling the data and reviewing the comments received and will report a summary of the results to the Board



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

9:30 AM

in November. Deputy Director Tedford further indicated all results and comments will be included in the final corridor study, that results of the survey and the previous outreach will be factored into the recommendations, and the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the final draft of the corridor study in December. Deputy Director Tedford informed the Board a last public meeting will be held to answer questions on the draft final report, likely in January.

Deputy Director Tedford added information on the pavement preservation project, which is currently under design. Deputy Director Tedford indicated this upcoming project is intended to resurface the existing road from State Line to Spooner Summit, address drainage issues, replace guardrail and a barrier rail where needed, and include wider striping and permanent speed feedback signs. Deputy Director Tedford explained this project does not include any lane reductions. Deputy Director Tedford indicated the project will be advertised before the end of the year, and construction is scheduled to begin in May.

Deputy Director Tedford next discussed winter maintenance preparation, noting NDOT has winter storm operations in all three districts. Deputy Director Tedford reiterated that Mount Charleston will have the road repaired, and repaved and hopefully will be ready for plowing soon. Deputy Director Tedford informed the Board in the previous winter, northern Nevada saw record levels of precipitation. Deputy Director Tedford indicated that NDOT's maintenance team performs nearly 75 different types of work throughout the year, including incident response, roadway patching and repairs, drainage and slope enhancements, and snow and ice removal. Deputy Director Tedford reported maintenance workers are currently prepping snowplows and other pieces of equipment, as well as stockpiling salt and sand for better winter roadway traction. Deputy Director Tedford explained many of the NDOT maintenance staff members are actually doing the work of two to three people to ensure that Nevadans stay safe and connected on winter highways. Deputy Director Tedford thanked the Governor for his executive order regarding minimum qualifications and auto-progression, noting this will help NDOT to fill many of its vacant positions and will give current workers an additional incentive to stay on with the department.

Deputy Director Tedford announced a virtual public meeting for NDOT's Transportation Emission Reduction Program taking place from October 18, 2023, through November 1, 2023. Deputy Director Tedford explained a Carbon Reduction Study is being developed and must be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration in November, this requirement is paired with a new category of federal funding. Deputy Director Tedford indicated the plan will include strategies, projects, and performance metrics to reduce transportation emissions. Deputy Director Tedford indicated NDOT is interested in hearing what is most important to Nevadans as part of the plan, and can provide feedback at www.nvcleantravel.com.



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

9:30 AM

Deputy Director Tedford next announced NDOT will host an online public meeting followed by an in-person public meeting to gather input on improvements coming to I-80 east of Reno, a widening project between Vista Boulevard and USA Parkway. Deputy Director Tedford explained the project is in the environmental or NEPA phase. Deputy Director Tedford indicated in addition to adding lanes, existing interstate bridges will be widened, and interchange improvements and other enhancements will be made to improve traffic mobility and safety. Deputy Director Tedford mentioned the in-person meeting will take place on November 7, 2023, at the Lockwood Community Center from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, and the website is available for the virtual meeting at www.I80eastNV.com.

Governor Lombardo asked for clarification on the shoulder improvement on the I-80.

Deputy Director Tedford clarified that with the widening of shoulders, there is legislation available in certain areas allowing transit to run on those shoulders and clarified that the project for running regular traffic on I-15 South is south of the state line into California, and it is only in California that the shoulder running is being used and has been for approximately a month now.

Governor Lombardo asked when the shoulder running would be open.

Deputy Director Tedford replied he believes they have been using it for about a month noting Deputy Director Jeff Lerud can confirm.

Deputy Director Jeff Lerud confirmed it has been used for about a month with static signs in place that allows them to run in the shoulders from 10:00 AM until 8:00 PM on Sundays and Mondays. Their master plan will take place in the springtime, putting cantilever signs over the shoulders, and then they'll be able to dynamically say that the shoulders open to use for general-purpose traffic.

Governor Lombardo asked if it's only for four miles.

Deputy Director Lerud replied stating that was correct going all the way to the Axe Station.

Deputy Director Tedford indicated the last public meeting announcement is for the US 395 Southern Sierra Corridor Study. Deputy Director Tedford explained NDOT is gathering public feedback to develop a vision and action plan for potential future highway improvements along 395 between East Clearview Drive and Southern Carson City and the Nevada-California border at Topaz Lake. Deputy Director Tedford mentioned the online public meeting runs from October 23, 2023, through November 22, 2023, with two in-person opportunities for



Nevada Department of Transportation
Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023
9:30 AM

participation on November 6, 2023, and November 8, 2023. Deputy Director Tedford indicated more information including the meeting locations, is available at www.ndotUS395.com.

Deputy Director Tedford provided an update on construction on the US 395 Downtown Gardnerville corridor, noting NDOT recently launched construction of a yearlong project to reconstruct and repave two miles of US 395 through downtown Gardnerville in Douglas County. Deputy Director Tedford indicated the improvements will include minor drainage, sidewalk, and curb and gutter improvements with major highway reconstruction scheduled to launch in spring of 2024, making a safer and smoother drive for the approximately 20,000 people who travel that road daily. Deputy Director Tedford indicated the second phase of improvements in future years will include additional sidewalk and accessibility improvements, as well as remaining roadway drainage signals and lighting enhancements.

Deputy Director Tedford concluded the Director's Report with the recognition of 2 of the 19 NDOT retirees from the last quarter: Kenneth Green, who retired on June 1, 2023, and Julie Martinez, who retired on June 30, 2023. Deputy Director Tedford read the specialty plaque made for the retirees, which says welcome to retirement, followed by the employee's name, year of retirement, and years of service.

Governor Lombardo inquired about the retirees' plans following retirement.

Deputy Director Tedford indicated that Ms. Martinez has already begun vacationing, and Mr. Green will be returning to NDOT to snowplow as a result of the shortage.

The Governor congratulated the retirees.

4. Consideration of approval of the September 11, 2023, Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – *For possible action*

Motion: Approve the August 4, 2023, NDOT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
By: Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony
Second: Member Virginia Valentine
Vote: Passed unanimously

SEC .2. CONSENT AGENDA: Items No. 5 through No. 9

Governor Lombardo explained that items 5 through 9 will be taken together unless any of the Board members wish to hear an item separately.



Nevada Department of Transportation
Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023
9:30 AM

Agreements over \$300,000 from August 11, 2023, through September 7, 2023

5. Amendment 01, Agreement 567-21-050 with ATKINS, for continued on-call engineering and design services, statewide Nevada. – *For possible action*
6. Amendment 01, Agreement 568-21-050, with HORROCKS ENGINEERS, LLC, for continued on-call engineering and design services, statewide, Nevada. – *For possible action*
7. Amendment 01, Agreement 569-21-050, with KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC., for continued on call engineering and design services, statewide, Nevada. – *For possible action*

Right-of-Way

8. REL 23-06 - Relinquishment of the Boulder City Rest Area, Clark County, Nevada. – *For possible action*

General Administration

9. 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 9
By: Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony
Second: Member Stephen Ascuaga
Vote: Passed unanimously

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

SEC. 3. ITEMS TAKEN SEPARATELY FROM CONSENT AGENDA

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS ITEMS

10. 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



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

9:30 AM

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.

11. 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 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.

Deputy Director Darin Tedford explained that nine (9) public comments were submitted before Friday at 4:00 pm and will be included in the minutes for the Board members.

Member Gary Perea indicated his disappointment in some of the Highway 50 corridor comments attacking Board Members and NDOT employees in the September 11, 2023, Board meeting. Member Perea indicated most people believe there are some dangerous issues to be addressed on that stretch of highway, and the problem at hand is how best to tackle those issues. Member Perea noted the only way those will be solved is with open and honest conversations and open exchange of ideas, rather than by attacking and vilifying each other. As such, Member Perea requested that future public commenters who are disrespectful or impolite be asked to sit down and end their public comment. Member Perea asked all to use courteous language, and to avoid insults, name calling, and personal attacks.

Governor Lombardo thanked Member Perea and concurred with his comments.

Ellie Waller, Douglas County, thanked Member Perea for bringing forth the need for all to be mindful of each other. Ms. Waller explained many of those that utilize that corridor still do not believe the plan is as good as it can be, and more work is needed. Ms. Waller thanked Deputy Director Tedford for addressing her questions regarding where to obtain information on the corridor. Ms. Waller indicated the website has been addressed for the 511, then went on to say she is criticizing the plan, not anyone in general, but the plan itself because it is unrealistic and shows a belief that things can be improved with a lane reduction. Ms. Waller indicated her hope that no lane reduction with future striping would remain the final outcome, and requested to have staff revisit the plan she believes is flawed and could easily be the next Maui or Paradise tragedy. Ms. Waller indicated her belief that evacuation modeling and analysis should be completed along with the plan that was not presented to the public, and that the Tahoe Transportation District plans from TRPA also did not take into consideration many of the issues that the public has brought forth at several meetings. Ms. Waller indicated



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

9:30 AM

she is including her 11-page comment along with some of the plans linked to those plans for NDOT's review again, noting this was from November of 2022. Ms. Waller noted that NDOT staff and the consultants have been given a unique opportunity to work with the public, and she hopes this can continue. Ms. Waller concluded by questioning why the Governor has not replaced the Sisolak appointee to TRPA as it is the Governor's right to represent the state through an appointment.

Dana Tibbitts, Cave Rock, explained her belief that some of what comes across as very strong language is often because of the frustration of the lake residents at their belief that they are not being heard on this evacuation route in which they have a lot at stake. Ms. Tibbitts suggested this time would be well used to create a serious model and simulation that actually demonstrates what has been promised in terms of safety and noted the people's definition of safety may be different than that of NDOT. Ms. Tibbitts explained the people's frustration is significant, as can be seen by the large number of public comments, 87 percent of which are opposed to lane reduction down to two lanes. Ms. Tibbitts reiterated that the residents want safety, and have been asking for safety modifications for years, but not through the removal of two lanes.

Phil Schloss, State Line, began with an analogy, comparing the lane reduction to an airline that has announced that it is going to demonstrate the safety of its flights with only one pilot and that your flight has been selected as the demonstration flight. Mr. Schloss equated NDOT to the FAA, trying to assure people this is safe and the engineers have figured it all out. Mr. Schloss questioned how many times NDOT has been told no and at what point does no mean no to NDOT. As such, Mr. Schloss noted his disbelief at the callousness of the NDOT Board of Directors and division of road diets to the residents that live along the Highway 50 fire escape, heavy snow buffer corridor. Mr. Schloss explained that residents are here at today's meeting again to urge the Board to just say no to the NDOT division of road diets. Mr. Schloss indicated the respondents to the survey were outsiders with no skin in the game that do not own the \$2 to \$20 million homes, pets, and personal items that would go up in flames, they are merely observers. Mr. Schloss indicated his belief that the real safety issue of the road diet is an incident that would prevent the emergency responders from getting to the \$2 to \$20 million homes that are up in flames, treating the victims of smoke inhalation and its effect on the resident and vacationer evacuations. Mr. Schloss opined that these outsiders are influencing this decision so they can have a bike lane that would serve as a value-added attraction. Mr. Schloss indicated his belief the NDOT division of road diets has given flawed surveys, then cherry picked and manipulated the data to get the results they want, making it more difficult for the NDOT Board to say no, whereas the residents take this to mean that speed reduction of the Highway 50 road diet outweighs the 2 to \$20 million homes, pets, irreplaceable personal items going up in flames, and described this as callous thinking.

Elisabeth Lernhardt, Zephyr Cove, informed the Board it has now been an entire year since she's been coming here along with all of these other people to plead with the Board to put this on the agenda and discuss it openly



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

9:30 AM

rather than having it addressed in public comment. Ms. Lernhardt indicated that Lake Tahoe has been subject to exploitation since its discovery in the 1840s, first by the logger baron, then for commercial overfishing, then to destination tourism, followed by the individual mass tourist by car. Ms. Lernhardt indicated all of these have used the natural beauty to extract financial gain from the lake, and all did so in the name of progress. Ms. Lernhardt suggested that now the bicycle manufacturers and their supporters have decided it is their turn to monetize Lake Tahoe and declare their economic benefit is equivalent with the environmental wellbeing of the lake. Ms. Lernhardt pointed out that despite their claim of preserving the natural beauty, they intend to blast a half-tunnel bike trail into the granite above Emerald Bay, as well as ignore the sensitive breeding grounds for rare birds in Meeks Bay because it is in the way of the bike path. Ms. Lernhardt indicated her belief that TRPA will push high-intensity town centers and ugly high-rise buildings under the belief that it will decrease vehicle miles traveled. Ms. Lernhardt requested the Board take off the blinders and see them for what they are: a minority forcing the residents to submit to their shortsighted and infantile desires. Ms. Lernhardt implored the Board to stop the Highway 50 lane reduction and not fall for the hype that has no scientific facts backing it. Ms. Lernhardt noted fewer lanes aren't safer and closed by stating science established that dinosaurs went extinct because they refused to relinquish their internal combustion engines.

William Cobb, Marla Bay Pine Wild resident, explained his grandfather, Will Cobb, used to drive the V&T Stage Line bus line from Virginia City to Carson to Glenbrook, then to Zephyr Cove, Bijou, and Camp Richardson. Mr. Cobb indicated he is appearing today in favor of the lane reduction, noting it would only affect 35 percent of the corridor with a projection of a 20-50 percent reduction in traffic accidents. Mr. Cobb explained he and his family have been fortunate to avoid the near misses when trying to make a left turn on Highway 50 into Marla Bay. Mr. Cobb conceded that this will result in some time constraints for people traveling that roadway but noted his belief that the benefits of road safety outweigh that objection.

There was no additional public comment.

12. Adjournment – For possible action

Motion: To adjourn the October 9, 2023, NDOT Board of Directors Meeting
By: Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony
Second: Controller Andy Matthews

Governor Lombardo adjourned the October 9, 2023, Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting.



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

9:30 AM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sajid Sulahria', is written over a horizontal line.

Sajid Sulahria, Deputy Director
Secretary to the Board of Directors