

I. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No comments were submitted.

10:00:45 AM:

II. APPROVAL OF PRECEDING MINUTES:

July 8, 2015 - Regular Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Andreozzi moved to approve the July 8, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Eklund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10:01:11 AM:

III. ELKO COUNTY REGIONAL STREET AND HIGHWAY FUND:

Review of Quarterly Financial Reports relating to Regional Street and Highway fund.

Randy Brown stated Cash Minor was unable to attend today and would submit the past reports at their next meeting

10:02:10 AM:

IV. DISCUSSION ON FUTURE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO SPRING CREEK:

Discussion on possible options regarding a future alternative route between Spring Creek and the Elko area.

Randy Brown stated there had been lots of discussion and research in the past on this issue but no recent research had been performed. He noted the conclusion was the highway was located in the best location currently. Randy Brown stated they had researched access through the backside of Spring Creek through Burner Basin. He commented they also looked at developing Hamilton Stage Road but those were costly routes because of access across the river. He stated even though there was continuous development in Spring Creek they have also seen development in a lot of areas that were taking away from the Spring Creek area such as in the Osino, Ryndon areas and north of town. Randy Brown stated there were projects in Spring Creek on table but he did not think they were near the capacity upon the Lamoille Highway.

Commissioner Andreozzi felt they should have a plan in the future. He stated they have vulnerability in the event of an emergency through limited access. He acknowledged there were other accesses which were less than ideal from the south side of Spring Creek. He noted the Burner Basin road was not an all-weather access and there was no access when the road was wet. Commissioner Andreozzi agreed that road projects were expensive if crossing

the river and water. He believed they should look at the basin and what type of water rights was available in the basin. He inquired about the density of the Spring Creek area when it would be built out. He believed that number would tell them if they would be over the capacity upon Lamoille Highway. He noted traffic was mostly bottlenecked within the Elko Community. Commissioner Andreozzi believed the Errecart extension would eliminate some of the congestion. He stated NDOT spent an enormous amount of money recently within the urban areas of the City of Elko and they appreciated that. He stated there had been some discussions about the Errecart Loop and questioned if there could be some type of trade with NDOT to move them from the City center. Commissioner Andreozzi suggested they develop a plan to discuss for the future. He reiterated the vulnerability of not having an emergency access and the capacity issue once the traffic gets to Elko.

Commissioner Eklund noted water rights were a big issue in Nevada. He stated there was a proposed legislative bill which the expansion of communities would be tied to the availability of water. He noted the Las Vegas community has outgrown its water supply. He questioned the impact upon Spring Creek and felt that would depend upon its boundaries. Commissioner Eklund agreed with Commissioner Andreozzi it was a safety issue with only one main artillery access should there be a disaster in that area. He stated the other access to the south and east were available. He believed the expenditures to build another access would be beyond the financial capabilities of Elko County.

Chairman Rice understood the Lamoille Highway was not at capacity and traffic bottlenecks when they come into Elko but that only happens during peak hours of the day. He stated they cannot compare to other areas during their peak hours. He noted bottlenecks also occur from Smiths to K-Mart for the same reason due to development up north. He believed they should discuss this regularly because in twenty years they would have to do something. Chairman Rice stated they have a road masterplan in place. He stated in the past at the college when funding became available they took the plans to the legislature and showed a need. He commented the State or County would not have the resources to do such a road project because of the bridges and water. Chairman Rice suggested they discuss this with Senator Amodei. He noted the freeway from Reno to Carson City took a long time but it was a State and Federal project.

Randy Brown stated they could do some regional planning. He noted the

Spring Creek Master Plan encompasses Errecart Boulevard. He suggested they sit down with the City's planners and NDOT and look at what was happening regionally. He stated several projects were proposed upon Elko Mountain and they had discussed parallel routes. He stated they lost Elko Summit Estate because they became a gated community so they would have to route around them. He stated the left side of the highway going out of town could be an alternate route. Randy Brown recommended they discuss this with the City and NDOT. He stated if it becomes a safety issue they may apply for TIGR funds.

Commissioner Andreozzi stated they should look at the water because it would govern the density. He stated they do not want to overbuild but they should look at different locations. He noted in the past they did a JUB regional study in the late 1990's which gave them a plan to go forward. Commissioner Andreozzi believed they could transfer rights of way with NDOT. He stated when they talk about an emergency access they should look at different locations such as Ten-Mile or Twin Bridges. He noted they get gravel or millings from some projects they may be able to create a low cost alternative for access. He believed they should identify those future accesses and have a game plan.

Chairman Rice suggested at a future meeting they discuss a regional planning session.

Randy Brown stated they could continue this topic upon subsequent meeting agendas as an action item.

Commissioner Andreozzi acknowledged there was a gap in the right of way for Errecart and inquired if there was acquisition of that right of way.

Dennis Strickland stated acquisition of that right of way was in the process.

10:17:20 AM:

V. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

Update reporting as may be available relating to traffic counts, projects, and other matters of interest.

Boyd Ratliff, NDOT Assistant District III Engineer, gave a traffic count update from August. He stated on US Highway 93 north of Wells showed the biggest increase of ten percent. He stated there had been increases upon that portion of the highway all summer long from the previous year. He commented the remaining highways were showing either a 5% to 1% increase. Boyd Ratliff stated there were traffic loops torn out.

Chairman Rice inquired if the increase on Highway 93 due to more truck traffic.

Boyd Ratliff believed lots of people were going north for health care. He reported construction projects completed included the I-80 Carlin tunnels, Emigrant Summit, the concrete at Dunphy, South of Wells additional passing lanes, safety slopes, and seeding slopes. He stated their new projects were the wildlife undercrossing north of Wells on US Highway 93, the urban project was getting close but they have a couple of bid items. He noted most of the paving was completed and there were punch-list items. Boyd Ratliff stated they would be completing the landscaping. He reported the Wells by-pass on I-80 from Welcome to east of Wells was out to bid for re-pavement. He stated there would be another wildlife crossing on I-80 on Pequops Summit. Boyd Ratliff believed they were two to five years out for more passing lanes north of Wells. He reported that was a five phase project on Highway 93 and they have three of those five phases completed.

Boyd Ratliff introduced their new traffic engineer, Karim Yousuf from the Las Vegas District who had twenty years of experience.

Karim Yousuf stated he looked forward to working with them.

Boyd Ratliff welcomed the discussion on potential routes and the potential of trading rights of way with regards to the prior agenda item. He stated legislation had changed on how NDOT transfer/relinquish rights of way. Boyd Ratliff stated with regards to talking about the capacities and needs their planning division could help to try and find funding. Boyd Ratliff stated they were getting ready for the snow season and there were last minute maintenance items. He stated they felt it would be a heavier winter this year;

Chairman Rice inquired if they would be putting up orange extensions on the t-posts;

Boyd Ratliff stated temporary staff put up the snow poles at night because of lower traffic volumes.

Chairman Rice commented upon the increase in traffic upon the Tuscarora Road specifically trucks hauling ore from the Starvation Canyon site to Jerritt for milling. He understood those were permitted loads and there was a fee to pay for heavier loads for maintenance. He commented the trucks were destroying that road.

Boyd Ratliff stated they were currently reducing the weight limits on that route because of that reason. He believed they would get some opposition to that from the mines. He stated several times the Nevada Highway Patrol have

verified what weights they were running and ticketed the heavier trucks. He stated they cannot be there every day. Boyd Ratliff stated in the spring thaw they would lower the weight limits on that route based upon engineering and the damage to the road. He stated that would impact the local economy but they have responsibility for the safety of everyone on that route. He commented yesterday they did a three hour review with divisions from Carson City on that road. Boyd Ratliff stated the road had been prioritized for restoration, rehabilitation and repair. He stated they would try to get funding to overlay the sixteen miles to the turn off at Starvation Canyon. Boyd Ratliff stated that road was an old cold-in-place, replace, recycle road. He noted on those types of roads the shoulders were thinner and they were disintegrating. Boyd Ratliff stated along with SR 278 that road was their top priorities in District Three for their RRR future attention.

Chairman Rice stated they have done so well with so little for so long but they cannot afford to live off the gaming industry. He suggested letters be sent to the mines and NHP. He noted the trucks were also speeding which contributes to the road deterioration.

Boyd Ratliff stated they have been trying to work with them because they don't have the resources either. He stated they had some storm water issues at Starvation Canyon and under the Clean Water Act NDOT had to shut down that approach. He reported they did the required upgrades upon that approach.

Chairman Rice state some of that road deterioration was in blind spots and people were driving on the wrong side of the road so it was a safety issue.

Boyd Ratliff stated there had been repairs done to that road. He stated with regards to State routes when there was that type of increase and usage they have to address it.

Commissioner Eklund inquired about the Jiggs Highway to South Fork residential and the State Park. He noted the County road crews were busy trying to keep it passable and it had a heavy traffic count. Commissioner Eklund believed the majority of the traffic count comes from park but the expense of maintaining that portion of the road lay with the County. He inquired if NDOT could partner with the County to pave that road.

Boyd Ratliff agreed they could resolve some of the issues through partnership and believed it was worth a conversation. He noted their Planning Division Project Initiation Form was on line for NDOT projects for off system roads.

[10:34:35 AM](#)

VI. ENTITY PROJECTS REPORTS:

Report on status of entity projects financed by Regional Street and Highway Fund apportionments.

A. **City of Carlin:**

No report.

B. **City of Elko**

Dennis Strickland, Public Works Director, reported the City took action to remove some parking on a portion of Silver Street and 12th Street. He stated they implemented dedicated turn lanes on Fifth and 12th Street. He reported there was re-figuration of 12th Street and Idaho in an effort to free up the right hand turn movement coming north into town from Spring Creek onto Idaho. He noted traffic was flowing better than it has. Dennis Strickland stated the same thing occurred at 5th Street and Silver Street. He noted between 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. traffic was flowing better with the dedicated turning lane. Dennis Strickland stated Silver Street would be extended past the Igloo and they were in the process of acquiring an easement or right-of-way from the Union Pacific Railroad to extend Silver Street to Manzanita. He believed that may be another regional issue resolved.

C. **City of Wells**

No report was submitted.

D. **City of West Wendover**

No report was submitted.

E. **Town of Jackpot**

Randy Brown stated they were looking at putting up lighting upon Highway 93 and he would like traffic counts from NDOT within Jackpot. He stated they were trying to do so community development and promotion for Jackpot.

F. **Spring Creek Association**

No report was submitted.

G. **Elko County School District**

No report was submitted.

H. **GET MY Ride (formerly Elko Area Transit System)**

Abigail Wheeler, Elko County Transit Coordinator stated they have had lots of maintenance issues. She stated there were more LogistiCare Medicaid transports between here and Salt Lake City, Reno, Twin Falls and Ely. She stated if they continue to have vehicle problems they would have to take care of

local trips first. She stated they were trying to partner with the School District for repair/maintenance. Abigail Wheeler reported a bus accident due to brakes.

Commissioner Eklund thanked Abigail Wheeler for acquiring busses from Utah and commended her for getting the program started.

Commissioner Andreozzi inquired if the accident was due to brakes because of lack of preventative maintenance on a vehicle. He asked if anyone was injured.

Abigail Wheeler reported an employee was injured on her arm. She commented there was a separation of liability because of their contract so the contractor had the liability. She stated the accident happened three weeks ago and she would get a copy of the Police reports and pass that on to Kristin McQueary. She noted the bus hit the back quarter panel of an SUV and the driver of that vehicle was not hurt. Abigail Wheeler stated they do not have dedicated mechanics of their own. She commented they do not share mechanics with the County so they have to work with vendors. Abigail Wheeler stated this vehicle had a brake incident in Starr Valley doing a LogistiCare trip and was returning home. She stated they took it to the mechanic who stated there was nothing wrong with the brakes and two weeks later they had an accident in Spring Creek at the Lamoille Highway and Jiggs traffic signal. She reported one bus went in for service in June and it lost its brakes last week. She believed the vender did not look at brakes thoroughly but she did not have control over the maintenance due to the contract.

Chairman Rice acknowledged maintenance was costly and suggested looking at maintenance with the County in the future. He noted that was a serious intersection and felt the accident could have been worse.

Commissioner Andreozzi stated a month ago they were looking at reorganization and had made a recommendation that the transportation fall under roads and highways because it was a form of transportation service but it gets grant money and was currently administered through the Assistant County Manager on the financial side. Commissioner Andreozzi stated there may be an opportunity to have an interlocal agreement with the School District. He noted the service provided to the school age children for transport to the school.

Abby Wheeler reported they saved \$5,000 in fuel costs going through the School rather than through a vender. She stated yesterday they took a bus to Bill Micheli at the School District to get an estimate from their inspection.

Commissioner Eklund inquired if the employees were doing a safety check

before going on shift with the buses due to the past brake issues. He noted there may be issues with record keeping by the employees. Commissioner Eklund stated the employees could help with maintenance issues through record keeping.

Abigail Wheeler stated the requirements were that they have to follow the federal requirements for a pre-trip and post trip include a log and brake checks. She stated they were not in charge of the employees.

Commissioner Eklund stated partnering with the School District was good as long as the School District had the manpower and time to do the maintenance.

I. Elko County

Terry Lister, Road Supervisor reported upon the chip seal projects on Coal Mine Canyon, Kittridge Canyon and the Jiggs Highway. He stated they had to perform repairs to the base on a portion of the Jiggs Highway which created a 4% overrun on new asphalt but they had the funding to cover it. Terry Lister stated they would begin engineering on the South Fork Road 1.7 miles toward the causeway for their next asphalt project.

Chairman Rice was impressed with the mag/chloride on that South Fork Road.

Terry Lister reported in March that road had deteriorated so they put mag chloride a month and a half early then that deteriorated and in May they put another layer on it so it doubled their costs. He stated they had some lig left over so they put 1.7 miles of lig on top of that mag last month. Terry Lister stated some areas of the road base would not bind with those products. He reported they had four times the cost this year for that road

[10:51:34 AM](#)

VII. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ROUTINE RTC ISSUES:

Commissioner Andreozzi requested continued discussion upon the alternative route to the Spring Creek area and a possible meeting with NDOT and the stakeholders.

[10:52:15 AM](#)

IX. JANUARY 2016 RTC MEETING:

Chairman Rice commented the next regularly scheduled RTC Meeting was scheduled for January 6, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

[10:52:28 AM](#)

X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Boyd Ratliff, a member of the public, suggested a Kit Carson Committee or a Path Finder Committee to look at alternate routes to Spring Creek.

[10:53:21 AM](#)

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Rice adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

APPROVED,

JOHN PATRICK RICE, Chairman

ATTEST:

MARILYN TIPTON, Deputy Clerk