

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Myers led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

No public comments were submitted at this time.

APPROVAL OF PRECEDING MINUTES:

January 3, 2007 - Regular Meeting

January 20, 2007 – Special Meeting – Spring Creek

MOTION: Commissioner Franzoia moved to approve the January 3, and the January 20, 2007 meeting minutes. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

ELKO COUNTY REGIONAL STREET AND HIGHWAY FUND:

Chairman Myers stated Cash Minor would not review the Quarterly Financial Reports relating to the Regional Street and Highway Fund today.

2007 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

The Board considered legislative issues related to the RTC or road/highway funding issues.

A. AB 467 – Funding of Rural Transportation.

Chuck Ricker, representing the Northern Nevada Transit Coalition, stated some of the reasons they attended the legislative session asking for funding was because they did not have enough money to get their seniors and low income residents to and from the grocery store and medical appointments. He stated AARP had determined that it would cost the state more to institutionalize those people than to provide that person transportation access to necessary services. Chuck Ricker noted that if the low income citizens could not get to work then the state welfare budget would suffer. He reported that the U.S. Census Bureau projected that the senior population growth in Nevada was the highest in the nation. He stated the level of the transit funding was the lowest in the nation. Chuck Ricker provided charts supporting those statements. He submitted documentation showing that most people approve initiatives and legislation that support mass transit. Chuck Ricker noted the Federal Transit Administration this year would allocate more than five million dollars to the State of Nevada Rural Transit Program. However, those funds were subject to

conditions that those federal funds had to be matched dollar for dollar. Chuck Ricker stated they had gone before the legislature with AB 467. He reviewed the various cosponsors on this Assembly Bill. He stated they were asking for five million from the state fees to match the federal funding. Chuck Ricker stated the benefits to Elko County would be six new jobs; he would not request the \$25,000 which was normally contributed to Neat Bus by the RTC annually; and five to ten new busses depending upon the Nevada Department of Transportation's allocation.

Commissioner Russell felt they should do a Resolution supporting this legislative action. Robert Stokes stated the County had supported this bill.

MOTION: Commissioner Russell moved to do a Resolution from RTC to support AB 467 funding of rural transportation. Commissioner Franzoia seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chuck Ricker stated the Assembly Bill would be in the Ways and Means Committee on April 9, 2007. Commissioner Myers stated they may not be able to attend but they could submit something in writing to be read at the legislature.

B. SB 147 – RTC Use of Fuel Tax – Population Change 50,000 to 100,000.

Commissioner Myers explained this bill was to adjust the population in order that the monies could be used for not only new construction but for maintenance also. Robert Stokes commented that Carson City had reached the population cap of 50,000 but they still supported this bill. Commissioner Franzoia commented that if there was that amount of population they would have more restrictive laws so they need to increase that threshold to 100,000. He asked that they focus on these types of population thresholds and support the bill.

MOTION: Commissioner Russell moved to support SB 147 which would raise the population cap from 50,000 to 100,000 in using RTC funds for maintenance. Commissioner Franzoia seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Russell suggested they encourage cities to send support documents on this legislative action.

C. Other legislative issues.

Robert Stokes commented that there had been a lot of ongoing discussion at the legislature regarding the 3.8 million dollars short fall identified by the previous Blue Ribbon Transportation Task Force in the transportation budget.

Commissioner Myers noted that in the Congress or in the Senate there was a bill sponsored by Senator Rhoads or Assemblyman Carpenter for air transportation subsidy. He felt RTC should take a stand on this to support air transportation. He believed that they should issue a supportive Resolution.

MOTION: Commissioner Franzoia moved to support the airport transportation subsidy bill (SB 283) providing air service between Elko and Reno at the legislature. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Russell suggested they contact their lobbyists to inform them that the RTC was supporting these bill drafts.

ELKO COUNTY:

Spring Creek Area Intersections:

Traffic Signals, Roundabouts or other Options:

The Board discussed possible options to address traffic management issues at intersections in the Spring Creek area. Representatives from Elko County, NDOT, Spring Creek Association, the Elko County School District, Assemblyman John Carpenter, Spring Creek area residents and other interested parties attended a January meeting in Spring Creek in which NDOT Officials discussed possible options or solutions to traffic issues in the Spring Creek area. A late spring or early summer date was suggested for the next meeting.

Commissioner Myers stated the RTC held a meeting with the Spring Creek Association, the Spring Creek residents, and the Nevada Division of Transportation. Commissioner Russell stated when they looked at the situation in Spring Creek there were several problems with various solutions. He noted the major problem was the traffic issue in peak hours. Commissioner Russell stated there was a problem for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the Lamoille Highway. He commented that signalization at that intersection was an alternative. Commissioner Russell noted that NDOT stated that intersection did not warrant a traffic signal. He stated if the County put in a signal, then the County had to bear the burden of installation and maintenance. Commissioner Russell stated the estimate of costs for signalization would be \$350,000 to \$450,000 dollars. He noted there would be additional costs for maintenance of the light. Commissioner Russell believed another solution for the pedestrians would be an elevated walkway. He stated that cost of placement would be \$300,000 to \$400,000 and borne by Elko County. He commented that it would

solve the pedestrian issues but did not solve the traffic flow issues. Commissioner Russell reported there was a good presentation given on roundabouts which would cost approximately \$700,000 to 1.1 million dollars. He stated that amount could be reduced because to a limited degree NDOT could participate with the design and construction phase. He stated maintenance that would occur at the intersection would be the responsibility of the Nevada Division of Transportation. He felt the roundabout would take care of the traffic and pedestrian concerns about safety. Commissioner Russell stated the design of the roundabout would reduce speed which would reduce the severity of accidents at that approach. A roundabout would accommodate traffic counts without modification of traffic design. He stated the fourth alternative would be no action. Commissioner Russell stated they could wait for the warrants to increase to such a degree which meant significant increase in traffic counts and fatalities at that intersection for a signal. Commissioner Russell proposed that the 3.3 alternative (roundabout) be chosen for medium to long range cost benefits for Elko County. He anticipated that NDOT would be involved in the design, planning and financing of the project. He believed there would be enhanced safety features to handle the problems with the pedestrians and the traffic. Commissioner Russell suggested a 5 year financing plan in the amount of \$650,000 be implemented for the project through the Elko County's RTC funding with the balance of the project's cost to come from NDOT. He suggested that the Spring Creek Association be approached to design and implement a gateway feature at the center of the proposed roundabout for an estimated value of \$15,000 to \$25,000 with approval and design advice from NDOT. Commissioner Russell proposed that the planning design work begin in FY 2007 and 2008. He stated if the proposal was accepted then immediate negotiations should begin with NDOT for their commitment to this project. Commissioner Russell recommended commitment to the project by RTC and the County Commission before the conclusion of their budget processes. Commissioner Russell noted that these ballpark figures were the results of discussions with NDOT. He stated this would have to be supported by the Elko County Commission. He anticipated that there would be additional community participation and requested that it be on the next meeting agenda for the RTC.

Commissioner Myers suggested that they need to establish a meeting with the NDOT to find out what their willingness was and what their ability was to put this project into their long range programs. Commissioner Myers noted that there was a huge budget shortfall in the state and in the County. He stated there may be some commitment of funds in the design process. He commented

that for 2007-2008 there were no new construction projects in Elko County through NDOT. Commissioner Myers believed they needed a closer estimate of the costs. He felt they needed to determine whether there could be an RTC, County, Spring Creek and NDOT partnership. He asked that it be placed on the RTC's July agenda and on the Elko County Commission's agenda in April or May for discussion. He noted there would be a budget impact. Robert Stokes commented that at the meeting in Spring Creek Fred Drees of NDOT stated they would come back with a second meeting in Spring Creek sometime in May. He stated in speaking with Mike Murphy, it may actually be in June before they could come back. He stated NDOT wanted to review the input from the last meeting and get firm numbers on the costs. Robert Stokes suggested that they designate some amount if they want to start that process. He stated six years ago there was more than one million dollars in the RTC safety funds for Elko County but now it was down to \$63,000. Commissioner Myers noted they had used that on large projects. He did not see this project taking off until 2008.

Delmo Andreozzi arrived at 10:30 a.m.

Commissioner Myers did not believe they would see where NDOT's budget sat for a couple of more months. Commissioner Russell noted he had a conversation with Mike Murphy and Kevin Lee and the only informal commitment was NDOT would be involved in the planning stages. He stated on some projects those designing and planning amounts may run 30% of the cost of the project. Commissioner Russell believed NDOT would monitor the project upon their highway. Commissioner Franzonia commented that he used roundabouts in California and noted the amount of traffic going through the Truckee roundabout. Commissioner Russell noted he went through the Fernley roundabout during a peak traffic time.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

Commissioner Myers commented that there was no one present from NDOT today to submit a report.

ENTITY PROJECTS REPORTING:

The Board received status reports on entity projects being financed by Regional Street and Highway Fund apportionments.

City of Carlin:

No one was present to submit a report.

City of Elko:

Delmo Andreozzi reported that they were collaboratively working with the

Elko County School District, RTC and Elko County on Montrose Lane. Delmo Andreozzi stated there was some question on the ownership of the Montrose Lane. He stated County staff was working on that issue. He stated when they have an idea of what the status of the ownership was then the Elko County School District had a consultant ready to help design some type of improvements on Montrose Lane. Delmo Andreozzi noted the City and County would be busy soon with the better weather so timing may be an issue. He noted on their joint project on Silver Street there were some reflective cracking and that was to be expected with overlays. He stated they would stay on top of that with crack sealing and slurry sealing. Delmo Andreozzi stated that they had worked with their consultant and contractor regarding the stripping that was occurring. He stated everything was in specifications but they had pushed the weather envelope. He felt that if they put a slurry seal on that project it would hold the longevity of the improvements on that project.

Delmo Andreozzi noted they were making their annual street inventory. He stated as they go through their budget process they would identify their priorities. He stated once that process was completed they would have their streets projects listing completed and would provide the RTC with a copy of that list.

City of Wells:

Jolene Supp, Wells City Manager, stated they were thawing out and the streets were holding up very well this spring. She stated they were requesting funding from their RTC allocation to help remove the Western Pacific railroad bridge over US 40. She noted that was a concrete structure that was narrow and low. She stated removal of the bridge would facilitate the traffic and remove the barriers between those parts of the town. She noted removal of that bridge created one acre of developmental property and there may be some land sales on that property. She noted the bridge had become a maintenance issue in the winter time.

Jolene Supp stated they had completed their 2 million dollars worth of airport improvement in terms of an overlay and drainage. She stated they had developed helicopter pads and added an electronic card system for fuel sales. She stated there was new lighting to accommodate the new runway width. Jolene Supp noted they get the overflow from Elko when Elko was fogged in. She noted NDOT had fast tracked their permit for the Love's Truck Stop on US 93. She noted that would add to more traffic issues at that intersection. They would monitor Cobre Street because some of those property owners have requested to be annexed into the City limits. Jolene Supp stated one of the

property owners on Shoshone asked that they deed back some of that property. Jolene Supp felt the City Council would not grant that because the traffic was growing in that area. She commented that there were two subdivisions going in that Shoshone area. Jolene Supp understood that Road and Highway Builders were the low bidders on the Pequop project. She stated they were encouraging them to get the batch plant on the West side of Pequop so they may have access to some asphalt for summer projects.

Robert Stokes stated they received a letter from the City of Wells asking to be on the agenda for approval to spend a portion of their allocation. He stated due to an oversight it was omitted from the agenda and they would do it administratively because it was less than \$35,000 and Wells could move along with their projects. It would be on the next agenda for ratification.

City of West Wendover:

Commissioner Myers noted he had received an e-mail from Bryce Kimber reporting upon the Wendover Blvd/Wells Avenue Project and the Wendover Blvd/Red Garter Project.

Wendover Blvd/Wells Avenue Project: The sidewalk, curb and gutter had been completed and all conduits had been installed for the street lighting. The contractor was waiting for the hot plants to get into production in Utah to finish that project.

Wendover Blvd/Red Garter Project: The City of West Wendover in conjunction with CDBG and the Red Garter Casino were going out for bids at the end of April for another phase of sidewalk, curb and gutter, and street lighting along the South side of Wendover Blvd then the entire south side of Wendover Boulevard would be completed.

Town of Jackpot:

Robert Stokes stated their big project was the US 93 Highway widening project and most of that was completed. Lynn Forsberg was looking at grants for the lighting and they were considering solar lighting. Commissioner Russell noted there had been concern expressed about the people falling in the ditches. Robert Stokes stated that there was an issue in front of the Covered Wagon Hotel but they had put up retaining walls and there was a sidewalk now.

Spring Creek Association:

Pam Borda thanked Commissioner Russell for taking the initiative on the intersection project. She stated the 2007 SCA Road Maintenance Plan was approved by her board last week. Pam Borda stated they awarded a contract this morning to do a cold recycle in place for the rest of the Spring Valley Parkway. However, they lost portions of two roads, and one was a section of

the Spring Valley Parkway due to a water leak for the utilities. Pam Borda stated they were still in negotiation with the utilities because that section would have to be dug out and rebuilt. She stated they would try to do 30 miles of chip seal over their existing roads. Commissioner Myers asked what portions of Spring Valley Parkway had they lost. Pam Borda replied sections of Hayland and Logan. She noted there was no alternative route to Logan. She reported that they had also lost a section of Dove Creek previously.

Elko County School District:

No one was present to submit a report.

Elko County:

Otis Tipton reported on the Bullion Bridge project. He stated they were pouring the deck on it now. He stated the flood damage was not completed but they did fix the section below Midas. He commented that they started on those repairs last New Year's and finished the project right before Xmas. Otis Tipton stated the contractor was evaluating a counter offer submitted by the County on the Jiggs overlay project. He stated with regards to the California Trails Interpretive Center they were waiting for the building construction to be completed before they could finish the road with asphalt.

Commissioner Myers asked about the bridge replacement in Jarbidge. Otis Tipton stated the Forest Service took the lead with the funding and they worked all winter north of town. He stated the Bailey Bridge would be placed at Deer Creek as the temporary bridge. Robert Stokes stated the Forest Service tap danced through the regulatory mandates. He stated on the Deer Creek Bridge there was only a 30 foot easement through the area but they need a 60 feet easement. They expect to have Deer Creek Bridge done this fall. He stated Mike Balen already had a good relationship with the private couple who owns the easement across the bridge. He noted the Nature Conservancy had property in that region.

Otis Tipton stated that they were sent constant reports from Jim Osborne at the Nevada Department of Transportation on their projects. He noted on their listing of projects it went from Clark County to Eureka with no projects scheduled in Elko County. He explained in the early 1980's they started a program called the Rural Road Program (RRR Program) which required them to put a certain amount of money into rural roads. He stated that money was sent to Clark County from the RRR Program so there would be a different level of maintenance on the rural roads in northern Nevada. Otis Tipton stated the Elko County Highway Commission was very active with NDOT and Carson City in the 1980's. He noted in 1979 they got the by-pass. He suggested they start

attending some of those NDOT meetings again and talking to those people. Otis Tipton commented that Susan Martinovich, NDOT Director, would be here next month. He noted the construction jobs brought in a tremendous amount of money to the communities and pay taxes upon their supplies. Commissioner Myers believed that all of rural Nevada was concerned.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ROUTINE RTC ISSUES:

Commissioner Myers felt they should send a letter to the Nevada Department of Transportation and specifically to Tom Gust, their rural representative for Nevada, demonstrating their concern that there were no projects in rural Nevada during this upcoming budget season. He stated they could not ignore northeastern Nevada because the cost would be much greater down the road then continually taking some corrective action now.

Otis Tipton stated their average road project brought in around 75 construction workers into town. Commissioner Myers noted he had not received an NDOT meeting package for over a year. Robert Stokes stated they usually get a notice a couple of months in advance of the meeting. Commissioner Myers felt the RTC Commissioners should receive that notice and maybe at least one or all three could attend those meetings or teleconference to interact with that board. Robert Stokes noted they had an agenda on the internet. Commissioner Russell suggested that Tom Gust come to the next RTC meeting to give them his prospective.

Commissioner Russell inquired about NDOT trying to give roads to Elko County. Otis Tipton felt rather than NDOT abandoning roads they would see a different level of road in Elko County. He believed they would see roads deteriorate to the level to where they would start the RRR Program again. He stated they could not skip maintenance for three years and then try to catch up. Commissioner Myers noted Starr Valley and Ruby Valley was a good example of that because of the reduction in the level of maintenance. Commissioner Myers stated the County did not have the funding to take over maintenance on those roads.

Otis Tipton suggested that they discuss the rural roads with the NDOT Transportation Committee and get support from the other rural counties. Commissioner Myers felt they should have a rural county caucus because the Governor stated there would be no new taxes. He stated they already have a 3.4 billion shortfall in road construction needs. He did not believe they should isolate them. Commissioner Russell suggested that NACO form a committee for rural roads. Robert Stokes stated NACO represented all seventeen counties

including Clark County. Commissioner Russell noted Elko County could sponsor it and they could ask the NACO Director to become involved. Commissioner Myers suggested that they develop a list of the rural counties that would impact and host a rural road summit. Commissioner Franzoia noted Washoe County may be included because they have rural roads. He believed all rural roads were being impacted. He noted that all funding was going to the interstate demands in the south. Otis Tipton commented that even a 40 million dollar project would have an economic impact upon the rural cities. Commissioner Myers stated he was looking at the long term impact because tourism and economic develop would be impacted if the roads were bad.

Commissioner Russell inquired if they wanted a legislative objective or should they just gather a consensus. Commissioner Franzoia noted that this was an internal issue because they were shifting funding from the rural to urban and they were talking about an established policy. Commissioner Myers noted in the State of Nevada that information would get out. He believed that NDOT would be aware that they were looking into that. Commissioner Russell suggested they hold a meeting in May. He suggested that Commissioner Franzoia speak to the municipalities.

JULY 2007 RTC MEETING:

Chairman Myers noted the next RTC regular meeting was scheduled for July 5, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Commissioner Russell moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Franzoia seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED,
CHARLIE MYERS, Chairman

ATTEST:

MARILYN TIPTON, Deputy Clerk