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ELKO COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**ELKO COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,
COUNTY OF ELKO, STATE OF NEVADA, REGULAR MEETING TO BE HELD IN
THE ELKO COUNTY COURTHOUSE ROOM 105, 571 IDAHO STREET, ELKO,
NEVADA, BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M., PACIFIC TIME.**

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The Regional Transportation Commission, County of Elko, State of Nevada, met in a regular session on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 in Room 105 of the Elko County Courthouse, 571 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada beginning at 10:00 A.M. (PST).

Commissioner Members Present: CHARLIE MYERS, Chair
MIKE FRANZOIA
WARREN RUSSELL

Others Present:	ROBERT STOKES	County Mgr.
	DEBBIE ARMUTH	Deputy Comptroller
	MARILYN TIPTON	Deputy County Clerk
	CHUCK RICKER	NEAT Bus
	RAY JONES	NEAT Bus
	OTIS TIPTON	County Road Supervisor
	DENNIS STRICKLAND	Elko City Public Works Dir.
	MICHAEL MURPHY	Ast. District Engineer
	PAM BORDA	Spring Creek Assoc. Pres.
	BRYCE KIMBER, JR.	W. Wendover Public Works

The following proceedings were held:

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Myers led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

No public comments were submitted at this time.

APPROVAL OF PRECEDING MINUTES:

April 4, 2007 - Regular Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Franzoia moved to approve the April 4, 2007 minutes for the regular meeting. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

ELKO COUNTY REGIONAL STREET AND HIGHWAY FUND:

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

Debbie Armuth commented that they did not receive their Third Quarterly Report at their last meeting so she submitted the Third and Fourth Quarterly Reports today. She reviewed the Fourth Quarterly Financial Report relating to the Regional Street and Highway Fund. She noted there was a correction to the total revenue received of \$30,000 based on auditor adjustments. Debbie Armuth gave an overview of page 3 of the report wherein their interest was raised to \$189,000 based on the fair market value. She cautioned that number could fluctuate. Commissioner Myers clarified that funding was for 2005-06. Debbie Armuth noted that would be the funding to be spent in 2006-2007. She commented that the Midas project was over \$153,000 which was initially appropriated. Commissioner Myers asked if FEMA had reimbursed the County on that project. Robert Stokes replied that FEMA had approved \$120,000 for that project and they were still negotiating for an additional amount. Debbie Armuth commented that there were several projects that no funding was expended on. Otis Tipton stated the \$44,000 on the O'Neil Basin Project could be taken out because that project was completed.

Debbie Armuth noted at the April meeting they appropriated more toward the NEAT Bus. Commissioner Myers inquired if NEAT had to send in a request for payment and received an affirmative response. He inquired about the SR 227 turn lanes. Otis Tipton did not believe that NDOT had completed their audit

to send the County an invoice on that project. Debbie Armuth inquired about the allocation for the RTC Technical Committee. Commissioner Myers noted that they now had a County Road Committee. Debbie Armuth stated that there was \$30,000 appropriated. Commissioner Myers felt that should go back into the regular funding. Debbie Armuth noted that she had included the Wendover Airport for the \$80,000.

Debbie Armuth submitted written updates on the entities' apportionments for the additional funding received from 2005-06.

MOTION: Commissioner Franzoia moved to approve the Quarterly Financial Report. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Discussion of Commission's direction with regards to the disbursement of an entity's distribution of funds between RTC meetings.

Robert Stokes stated Cash Minor suggested the entity put the request for their share of the apportionment in a letter on their letterhead to have a trail of paperwork. He stated that letter then could be submitted to the Board at the next meeting so the Board would be aware of how the entity spent their RTC funding apportionment. Commissioner Russell clarified that this was just a policy matter. He recommended that when an entity advanced beyond their allocation; the entity should have to come before the Board with their request. Robert Stokes stated that was his understanding of the policy. Commissioner Myers stated that at the beginning of each fiscal year the Board accepts the entities upcoming projects. He felt that if that project was included within their road plan and their funding was needed during the time the Board was not in session; then those entities should be able to withdraw their allocation. Commissioner Russell clarified that the Board could approve their entity plans for the fiscal year then it would be an issue of the funding being awarded. Debbie Armuth noted that the RTC Commission spent the funds accumulated from the prior year so the entities were aware of the amount in their allocation at the beginning of each fiscal year. Commissioner Franzoia agreed that a written letter was the easier route for the entities to request their allocation. Commissioner Myers noted that they could look at the written request and see if that was upon their scope of the submitted RTC plans. Commissioner Franzoia felt that it should be clarified to the entities that this authorization was only for RTC projects. Commissioner Russell felt the entity should contact the Chairman of the RTC and send a copy of the letter to the Chairman when it was sent to Cash Minor requesting the allocation.

MOTION: Commissioner Russell moved that disbursement would be made upon request on projects that have been approved for funding at the first of each fiscal year, with the request being upon official letterhead; with notice given; and consultation with the Chairman of the RTC. Commissioner Franzoia seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and consideration of approval of the disbursement of the City of Wells RTC apportionment to the City of Wells.

Robert Stokes noted the Board just addressed this request in the last motion.

MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL TAX DISCUSSION:

The Board considered setting up a public hearing to evaluate interest in a motor vehicle fuel tax increase to be used for road maintenance and improvements by various local governmental entities.

Commissioner Russell stated he had asked this to be on the agenda. He requested the RTC to send a recommendation to the County Commission that a hearing be held regarding the development of a two and one-half cents fuel tax addition on the RTC portion. He requested that it be allocated according to the RTC assessed evaluation as the remainder of the RTC funds was being done.

MOTION: Commissioner Russell moved that RTC send a recommendation to the County Commission that a hearing be held regarding the development of a 2.5 cents fuel tax addition under the RTC portion and that it be allocated according to the assessed evaluation as the remainder of the RTC funds was being allocated. Commissioner Franzoia seconded the motion.

Commissioner Russell clarified that this was not a decision to be made by the RTC but it was a recommendation to the County Commission to hold a public hearing regarding application of an additional fuel tax of two and one-half cents. He noted in the City of Elko one of the citizens' primary concern was with their streets. He stated that Cash Minor estimated the two and one-half cents would mean the City of Elko would receive approximately an additional \$236,016 in the fiscal year of 2006-07. He noted that amount of funding was equivalent to the portion that the RTC had paid on the improvement to Silver Street. He stated that the City of West Wendover would receive \$83,576 for

each year. Commissioner Russell stated it would be \$374,623 for the County of Elko for the projects throughout the County. Commissioner Russell stated there had been some discussion how this funding could be used. He would encourage the County to set aside \$100,000 for the Spring Creek intersection. Over a period of time, they would have funding for that intersection. Commissioner Russell noted there was a Road Committee who would make recommendations to the County. He suggested that \$100,000 may go toward those recommendations. He stated the \$174,623 would be going to the Road Department for maintenance. Commissioner Russell believed it had been over 8 years since they had a fuel tax increase. He commented that the gas prices had almost doubled but he felt they could justify this gas tax. He stated the only other option was to cut maintenance and road projects. Commissioner Russell believed there may be some objections that it would impact businesses. However, he noted some counties were at the 9 cent tax, the full allocation amount. He stated Elko County was the only County along the I-80 corridor with the lowest fuel tax rate and with the 2 1/2 cent increase in gas tax; Elko still has one of the lowest rates. He stated there was inflation on their road projects and this tax increase may let them look less to the State for additional funding. Commissioner Russell asked the members to support bringing this before the County Commission. Commissioner Franzoia stated the gas tax would not affect the businesses because the wage law went up and it had no affect. He noted that economy was strong and there was a labor shortage. Commissioner Franzoia supported this gas tax increase. He suggested that they go with the 5 cents because with the 2 1/2 cents they were looking at a short time fix for long time problems. Commissioner Franzoia stated with the additional funding Elko could fix Silver Street; they could bond to reconstruct Idaho Street; or may be able to build the Errecart Road without waiting for the private sector development. He stated they had been avoiding this raise in fuel taxes for years. Commissioner Franzoia believed they could justify the need for the 5 cent gas tax. He stated for the last ten years the revenues have been flat but they have more cars in the community. He commented that the newer cars get better mileage which meant less gas consumption but that meant less revenue for road maintenance. He stated there were more diesel vehicles on the roads. However, the diesel tax went to the State. Commissioner Myers would like to see verbiage in the motion, if the Mayor was approving 5 cents; they could request 5 cents. He felt they had more County Commission support for the 2.5 cents increase. He did not believe it would be a ballot question; it would have to

be a County Commission vote. Commissioner Myers believed they could sell the 2.5 tax increase but they would try to sell the 5 cent tax increase. Commissioner Myers believed that if they wait for the 5 cents increase, the road situations would get worse. He felt that the County Commission would vote to increase the rate to 2 1/2 cents. Commissioner Franzoia stated based on that, he felt they should keep the motion that was on the floor. Commissioner Russell stated this was one of few taxes wherein the money could not be spent, except as designated.

The motion was passed unanimously.

ELKO COUNTY:

Spring Creek Area Intersections:

Traffic Signals, Roundabouts or other Options:

The Board discussed a Study Committee Meeting to be held 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 and Assemblyman John Carpenter have been contacted. Spring Creek area residents and other interested parties were welcome to attend.

Michael Murphy, NDOT Assistant District III Engineer, stated that they tried to schedule a date with the two options being August 11th or August 18, 2007. He stated they would schedule the meeting on a Saturday, at the request of the public in attendance at their last meeting. Michael Murphy reported that NDOT was performing a Safety Audit which was the final phase of the study. He noted they had input at the last public meeting and would look at those suggestions and recommendations. Commissioner Russell noted they could not find funding for this project within the regular budget but the gas tax increase might fund this project. Mike Murphy noted the State was facing similar funding challenges for their road projects.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

Mike Murphy noted that the Traffic Engineer was out and he did not have the traffic counts. He stated they were doing their chip seal projects and were currently working on the Pequop Summit project. He believed that project would be a two season project. Mike Murphy noted there would be a road race on SR 225 with a road closure on Saturday, which the County Commissioners had approved. He stated that the permittee had worked with the fire agencies regarding the possibility of emergency vehicles going through. Michael Murphy

noted there had been four major shut downs on the Interstate related to the fires. He stated NDOT met with the BLM, the Division of Forestry, and the Forest Service to improve their communications. Michael Murphy stated they tried to coordinate with the law enforcement agencies on the fire situations. He stated sometimes it took hours to organize so that they may be able to pilot vehicles through the fire areas. He stated they did the pilot vehicles mostly in the evenings. Michael Murphy reported that last night there was a semi truck on fire in the Ryndon area which impacted one lane of traffic on the Interstate. He noted these were major inconveniences for the traveling public but the alternate route may be 100 miles around. Commissioner Myers stated that they were dissatisfied with the decision to remove Tom Gust from the State Transportation Board. He felt that the Director should have personally contacted those Board Members and informed them of the decision to replace them. Commissioner Myers felt the County Commissioners' letter would not be accepted well by the Governor regarding the replacement of the Board Members. He believed the Board replacement would be detrimental to the rural areas. Michael Murphy did not know the new representative for the area. He stated Tom Gust tried to do the right thing for this district and was very proactive. He noted they, the staff, found out about this through the news media also.

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:

Dennis Strickland reported upon the surface treatment projects and the bridge joint replacement on Errecart Bridge which was done in cooperation with the NDOT project. He stated Silver Street was being considered a capital project for the City of Elko this year but there was a utility issue on that road. Dennis Strickland stated they were now considering Fifth Street to Willow as their capital project which will include a new pedestrian ramp from Cedar to Willow. He stated there would be sidewalks along that route on both sides. He stated they were waiting for an engineering proposal on the costs. He felt they would go to bid for the project by late fall. Commissioner Myers inquired what the schedule was for repair to their utility lines. Dennis Strickland noted they had upgraded a section of Fourth Street between Silver and Idaho Streets. Dennis Strickland stated once they get the utility upgrades completed; the City

may look further at the Silver Street project. Dennis Strickland commented that the additional 2 1/2 cents would help the City fund some of their projects.

City of Wells:

No report was submitted.

City of West Wendover:

Bryce Kimber, Public Works Director, reported that the Wells Avenue/Wendover Boulevard project was 99% finished. He stated they let out the bid for their next project, but the bids came in over the engineer's estimate so they went back out to bid.

Town of Jackpot:

Robert Stokes stated most of the funding had been allocated to the highway widening project. He stated there was a chip seal project which did not involve RTC funding wherein the bids had come in higher than estimated. He stated they had to make adjustments to the project. Mike Murphy noted NDOT Project 3305, the widening/upgrade of two miles south of Jackpot was complete and the open grade surface was put on. He stated there would be clean up work done and the District would probably accept it within the next twenty days.

Spring Creek Association:

Pam Borda reported they had completed the Spring Valley Parkway with the last cold recycle in place of 3.6 miles. She noted they had worked on that road for the past seven years. She stated they would start their annual chip seal project on Monday. Pam Borda reported they had acquired a fourth truck to get more projects completed efficiently. She noted they had lost four sections of road this winter. She commented that Mike and the City had come to their aid. She reported they had completed the repair on those four sections.

Elko County School District:

No report was submitted.

Elko County:

Otis Tipton reported that the Bullion Bridge was completed and opened up to the public. He stated they finished the warranty work on the Jiggs Highway. He hoped to have sufficient funding to put on the second chip seal next year. Otis Tipton stated they would begin on the chip seal project in Kittridge Canyon.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ROUTINE RTC ISSUES:

Commissioner Myers felt the two and one-half cent tax was a huge step for the Elko County Commission. He believed it would be approved.

OCTOBER 2007 RTC MEETING:

Chairman Myers noted the next RTC regular meeting was scheduled for October 3, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Commissioner Franzoia moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Russell 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