



# NMTA 511

January 2007\* David L. Ipson, President \* Paul J. Enos, CEO  
Dial 511 for Travelers Information in Your State

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NMTA No-Zone Truck

## THE NMTA ANNUAL MEETING

The NMTA Annual Meeting kicked off with a well attended Ice Breaker reception on Tuesday evening, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The next morning, NMTA President Dave Ipson of DATS Trucking started the general session with his opening comments. President Ipson gave recognition to the fact that 2007 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NMTA. NMTA currently has 484 members, and 380 of those members belong to the Nevada Transportation Network Self Insured Group (NTNSIG).

Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) was well represented at the annual meeting. Speakers included NHP Colonel Chris Perry, Major Tony Almaraz and Major Brian Sanchez. NHP commercial enforcement personnel attending the meeting included Lieutenants Harvey Weatherford (LV commercial commander), Bill Bainter (legislative liaison) and Gina Johnson (statewide commercial coordinator). All NHP personnel expressed a desire to partner with the trucking industry through shared training opportunities, the No-Zone program and joint legislative efforts.

The Nevada Administrator for Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Bill Bensmiller spoke to the assembled group on

**Managing Editor, Amy Levine, Special Programs  
Manager Nevada Motor Transport Association, Inc.**

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the most recent hours of service rules; the new entrant safety audit for carriers in their first 18 months of operation; several planned compliance strike forces scheduled for Las Vegas in 2007; and an audit preparedness class which FMCSA will teach for industry members. Mr. Bensmiller also reminded attendees to visit the FMCSA web site at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov).

Nevada DMV, Motor Carrier Division Administrator Edgar Roberts addressed the meeting attendees to inform them about the development of a web based motor carrier registration system, to be fielded within the

next two years. Mr. Roberts also briefed the members on the proposed staggered registration bill for 100% Nevada based vehicles. DMV will be sponsoring this bill, with NMTA's support, during the 2007 legislature.

Mr. Roberts offered the following DMV points of contact for upcoming federal rule reviews: the point of contact for information about future changes to the CDL medical qualification process and for the Real I.D. Act is Debbie Wilson at (775) 684-4689; and the point of contact for Nevada CDL medical waivers is Bernadette Markussen at (775) 684-4689. Mr. Roberts can be reached at (775) 684-4613.

For the second year, NMTA sponsored a panel discussion on a topic critical to the transportation industry. This year the topic was future Nevada highway funding, and the panelists were outgoing Nevada DOT Director Jeff Fontaine, Nevada Taxpayers Association President Carole Vilardo, Tom Skancke of the Skancke Company in Las Vegas, and our special guest Robert Pitcher, VP for State Laws for American Trucking Associations (ATA).

Director Fontaine reviewed the recommendations recently made by the Blue Ribbon Panel (see the December NMTA newsletter), and emphasized the importance of improving strategic multimodal corridors. Director Fontaine identified the Canamex trade route which enters Nevada along the US 93/95 corridor, as a critical route for improvements, including the current Hoover Dam bypass project and the proposed Boulder City bypass. Fontaine explained the importance of funding the planned supermega road projects in order to ameliorate stop-and-go traffic in Nevada. Fontaine related how the prices of building materials and land for right of way have increased to drive up highway construction costs.

Carole Vilardo of the Nevada Taxpayers Association pointed out that the proposed

indexing of fuel taxes, with an established cap, was beginning to look like a more desirable option. In light of the fact that raising fuel taxes by a flat rate per gallon can no longer generate the necessary revenue, because of increased vehicle fuel efficiency as well as greater use of hybrids. Ms. Vilardo also expressed her opposition to the Nevada PISTOL initiative which specifies land acquired through the condemnation process be sold back to property owners at the same price, if not used within five years for the public project. This could further inflate highway construction costs.

ATA Vice President for State Laws, Robert Pitcher addressed the issues of tolls and privatization as sources of highway funding. ATA has consistently taken the position that tolls are only acceptable to the industry if levied on newly constructed highways or lanes. In addition, there must be safe, alternate routes for vehicles choosing not to use a tollway, and there should never be a mandate for commercial vehicles to use a tollway. Pitcher stated there are numerous downsides to tolling including the uncontrolled raising of fees; long lag times to build and staff toll plazas; and disparate treatment of interstate motor carriers versus the often exempt treatment received by intrastate carriers. ATA has come down squarely against privatization, and opposes the use of state fuel taxes to fund private toll roads.

Tom Skancke of the Skancke Company in Las Vegas spoke about the efforts of the National Surface Transportation Policy Committee, of which he is a member. The four major west coast ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Seattle and Oakland use the two major west/east freight corridors of I-10 and I-80. Mr. Skancke identified I-15 as being the "backbone" between these two corridors, and as such, a critical logistical linkage and an essential route to keep highly maintained and improved.

After the panel discussion, the meeting attendees adjourned to lunch and were

treated to an informative keynote speaker. Patty Wade of Wade Development Company related her experiences in residential, commercial and industrial development; with emphasis on her company's development of the successful Fernley industrial park, which added 3,700 jobs to the area. Ms. Wade sits on the Nevada Economic Development Commission and is a co-director of Governor Gibbons' transition team.

**A highlight of the luncheon was the announcement of the Nevada Driver of the Year Award. The 2006 award went to Manuel Leal of FedEx Freight. Mr. Leal has 40 years of commercial driving experience and four million total miles behind the wheel. He has worked for Viking/ FedEx for the past 30 years**

**See below pictures of the presentation of the 2006 Driver of the Year Award, and of the guest speakers.**

**Additional pictures from the Convention and Ice Breaker can be viewed on our website under the Annual Convention Tab!**



**NEVADA MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION MEMBERS' CORNER**

NMTA Members' Corner is a feature designed to showcase our association member companies and the services they provide.

WERDCO BC, INC. was founded in 1995 with the merger of two existing companies; Werdco, Inc. run by Werdna Conrad and BC Transportation run by Werdna's son Brent Conrad. CEO Werdna Conrad is one of the still rare breed of women motor carrier owners. She is a hands-on business woman who controls the administrative functions of Werdco BC, Inc. Werdna is a current board member, and past president of the NMTA Board of Directors.

Werdco BC is a family affair. President Brent Conrad deals with customer relations, driver supervision, and equipment maintenance.

Brent serves as an officer on the board of the Nevada Contractors Association (NCA), and recently won the NCA Recruiter of the Year Award. Werdna's grandson Brandon Conrad is actively involved in the company, and Werdna's great-grandson Issac also assists her when he is not in school.

Werdco BC currently runs 18 company owned tractors and numerous trailers. In addition to the company owned equipment, Werdco BC dispatches over 100 owner/ operators. The Conrad family companies have been hauling aggregate, asphalt and heavy equipment in the Las Vegas area since 1983. Werdco BC offers a wide range of different style aggregate and heavy haul trailers, sure to meet the needs of contractors and project managers. Werdco BC has been an NMTA member for eleven years, and is an original member of the Pro Group administered workers' compensation program (NTNSIG).



**Werdco BC**



**CASHMAN EQUIPMENT PLANS HENDERSON LOCATION**

Cashman Equipment plans to move its corporate headquarters from the current 25 acre, I-15 and Craig Road location to

Henderson. The future Henderson location will consist of 53 acres on St. Rose Parkway, between Spencer Street and Maryland Parkway. The 53 acre industrial parcel was previously owned by the City of Henderson.

Cashman Equipment expects to break ground on the 200,000 square foot project in 2007, with a planned completion date of late 2008 or early 2009. The Henderson complex will provide rental equipment, power generating equipment sales, earth moving equipment sales, parts warehousing, service facilities, and corporate offices. It will employ 200 existing workers and 50 new employees.

Cashman Equipment is an NMTA member company and has been operating in Nevada since 1931, when it supplied Caterpillar tractors to the Boulder Dam (Hoover Dam) project. Cashman has nine locations, including one in California, and it employs 750 people at its facilities.



**LVRCCC HOSTS LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON**

On November 30, 2006, the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition (LVRCCC) hosted an alternative fuels and vehicles briefing and luncheon for Nevada legislators. The event was held at the Orleans Hotel and Convention Center, and featured topics such as the status of the existing alternative fuel vehicle fleets and how various stakeholders got their start in the alternative fuels arena; the challenges to increasing the use of alternative fuels in Nevada; alternative fuel vehicles incentives which were created in the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and the role the Nevada Legislature can play in facilitating increased use of alternative fuels.

LVRCCC Coordinator Dan Hyde presented highlights of some of the key outreach programs sponsored by the coalition, and he outlined a \$1 million legislative proposal

called the Clean Transportation Education Initiative. With legislative support, this initiative would provide public education and awareness programs intended to increase alternative fuels and vehicles use during 2007 and 2008.



**NDOT LAUNCHES NEW 511 NEVADA TRAVEL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) has launched a new 511 travel information system offering instant, free road information by phone and internet. The new system posts current weather, construction, traffic and road incident reports to a new 511 phone number and web site at [www.nevadadot.com](http://www.nevadadot.com). "511 puts road, weather and construction information all together at the touch of a button," NDOT Director Jeff Fontaine explained. "It's an invaluable tool for the most up to date state road conditions, and we will continue to improve upon the system to provide the safest travel options for all Nevada drivers."

The service allows Nevada motorists to dial 511 toll-free, 24 hours a day. Designated by major section of state road, callers select their route number for automated road conditions, weather forecasts, scheduled event road closures and construction updates, as well as lane reductions when available. Hands-free interactive voice recognition allows voice commands without the hazard of pushing number selections while driving, so callers can navigate the system through their phone. Out of state callers can dial 1-877-NV-ROADS (1-877-687-6237) to receive the same information.

The road listings are also available under

“511 Travel Info” at NDOT’s web site, [www.nevadadot.com](http://www.nevadadot.com). On the site, a Nevada road map zooms into the user’s desired state travel route with different icons detailing construction, accidents, scheduled road closure events and specific snow chain requirements. Similar information is also available in easy to read text format. On-line and by phone, users simply select their chosen road by state route number.

Nevada Highway Patrol, NDOT construction/maintenance and other reports are automatically entered into the 511 phone and web system by NDOT district operation centers, to provide up to the minute information. Amber, national security and informational alerts can be broadcast on the system. In the future, NDOT looks to the potential of broadcasting additional tourism, mass transit and travel information.

The \$168,000 system start-up costs, as well as ongoing maintenance and long distance charges, will be funded by federal grants and NDOT’s roadside logo sign program. The 511 system was developed by transportation and meteorological technology company, Meridian Environmental Technology. “Meridian works with six other states as well as an established long distance carrier, so our fees will be less through use of volume discounts and lower interstate phone charges,” NDOT 511 project manager Denise Inda said. “We can offer a high level of service at a small fraction of what we would pay as an individual state.”

The 511 number was established in 2000 after the United States Department of Transportation requested a national, consistent three-digit travel information phone number from the Federal Communications Commission. As the 27<sup>th</sup> state to deploy 511 technology, Nevada is well in advance of the 2010 implementation date requested by the federal 511 Deployment Coalition.

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**NMTA New Members**  
**Blue Diamond Heavy Haul, Inc.**  
**Harris Drop Box, Inc.**

❖   ❖   ❖  
 Special Thanks to our  
 ❖ Ice Breaker Hosts ❖

**Silver State International**

**Selec Trucks of Las Vegas**

**Reeve Trucking co., Inc.**

**Bulk Carrier Services, Inc.**

**Ready Mix, Inc.**

**John Davis Trucking Co.**

**DATS Trucking, Inc.**

**Werdeco BC, Inc.**

**Truline Corporation**

**SelecTrucks Freightliners**

**Peterbilt**

**Cummins Rocky Mountain LLC**

**Puliz Moving & Storage**

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**2006 Driver of the Year**  
**Manuel J. Leal**  
**FedEx Freight**



**Colonel Chris Perry, NHP**



**Other Speakers**  
**Not pictured:**

**Edgar Roberts**  
Department of Motor Vehicles

**William Bensmiller**  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

**NMTA Guest Speakers**

**Jeff Fontaine**  
NDOT



**Patricia Wade**  
Wade Development Company  
Commissioner, Nevada Economic  
Development Commission  
Co-Director, Gibbons Transition Team

**Tom Skanke**  
Skancke Company

**Robert Pitcher, American Trucking Associations**



**Carole Vilardo, NV Taxpayers Association**

**Thank you to all  
Members, Sponsors, and  
Speakers for participating  
In our 2006 Annual Convention!**