



NMTA 511

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NMTA Congratulates Nevada Governor-elect Jim Gibbons

BLUE RIBBON PANEL MAKES FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGHWAYS
Paul J. Enos, CEO NMTA

Transportation funding has the potential of being the largest issue the 2007 Legislature addresses. With a \$3.8 billion deficit in the state highway fund the Legislature and State Transportation Board will be looking at various options to fund new road construction.

For the last year the Blue Ribbon Task Force to Evaluate NDOT Long Range Projects has been examining a huge array of taxes. Some of the options opposed by the NMTA that were considered, but not adopted, include: a 6 cent gallon increase to diesel fuel; a 50% increase in overweight permits; and (hold your nose folks) a weight distance tax.

On November 29th, 2006 the Blue Ribbon Task Force recommended the following options to the State Transportation Board:

- Index gas and diesel taxes to Consumer Price Index (CPI). The



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM NEVADA MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

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

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proposal would cap the increase at 4%;

- Redistribute the state's share of sales taxes from the general fund derived by the sales of vehicles and repairs to the highway fund;
- Reduce the depreciation allowance on the Governmental Services Tax by 18.65%. This would mean your vehicles would depreciate at a much slower rate and your registration fees would be higher in subsequent years than it is today;
- Increase the cost of driver's licenses and CDLs by \$20; and
- Direct at least \$160 million state's budget surplus to the highway fund.

As these proposals and others move forward through the legislative process the NMTA will keep you apprised, and may be asking for your assistance in contacting your elected officials.

The NMTA will continue to advocate for the best interests of the trucking industry so that you may operate safely and efficiently through Nevada.



THE NMTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Last Chance To Register

Register to attend the NMTA Annual General Meeting, December 13, 2006, 0800 AM to 12 Noon, at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. NMTA will have speakers including: Colonel Chris Perry from Nevada Highway Patrol; Bill Bensmiller from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; and Edgar Roberts from DMV's Motor Carrier Division.

Following our speakers, NMTA will be hosting a panel discussion on the future of Nevada highway funding. Nevada is facing a potential \$3.8 billion funding shortfall by the year 2015. Panelists will include: the Director of Nevada Department of Transportation Jeff Fontaine; President of the Nevada Taxpayers Association Carole Vilardo; Tom Skancke of the Skancke Company; and American Trucking Associations Vice President for State Laws Robert Pitcher.

A luncheon will follow the general meeting, during which the Nevada Driver of the Year will be announced and receive his award. Our keynote speaker, Patricia Wade, the newest member of the Nevada Economic Development Commission, will speak about bettering the business climate in Nevada and attracting new business to our State.

Call Jamie at NMTA, (775) 673-6111, with any questions, or fax your registration form to (775) 673-1700.



NEVADA SENATOR DENNIS NOLAN
TO CHAIR MHTA

On November 14, 2006, during the Las Vegas meeting of the Multi-State Highway Transportation Agreement (MHTA), Nevada Senator Dennis Nolan was elected to be chairman of the group. Senator Nolan will also lead the MHTA Cooperating Committee which consists of legislators from participating western states. These legislators chair their states' respective House and Senate Transportation Committees. Senator Nolan currently is Chairman of the Nevada Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee. Assemblyman Kelvin Atkinson will chair the Nevada Assembly Transportation Committee.

MHTA sponsors two conferences per year to provide information on current highway transportation issues for legislators, state officials and private industry representatives. MHTA members recommend changes in transportation law or policy, with emphasis on compatibility and uniformity amongst the western states. MHTA creates model legislation which members can use as a starting point for bill draft requests in their state legislatures. MHTA's goal is to promote effective governmental action and coordination for safe, efficient commerce on the public roads of our region.

Nevada Motor Transport Association congratulates Senator Nolan for attaining this prestigious position, and looks forward to working with him during his leadership tenure in both MHTA and the Nevada Legislature.



Senator Dennis Nolan (I) and departing Chairman Mark Larson of Colorado.



NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM NMTA

As an NMTA member, you can avail yourself of several new services offered by the association. Through the NMTA web site, you can now post your company job openings. Contact Jamie at (775) 673-6111, and she can assign you a password to get you started.

Members can also view upcoming training opportunities from PGM Safety Services and NMTA by logging on to www.nmta.com, and clicking on the upcoming events tab.

Beginning in February, members will be able to keep abreast of bill draft requests (BDR's) as they progress through the 2007 Nevada Legislature. NMTA will be tracking numerous bills, and our members can select the bills of greatest interest to them and receive automatic e-mail updates.

Finally, the beginning of 2007 will mark a significant event for NMTA. We will be moving to a larger facility in Reno, which better suits the needs of the association.

The new office will be located at 8745 Technology Way, Suite #E, Reno, NV 89521. The new facility will include a training room, which will be used by NMTA and PGM Safety Services to offer member training. The larger facility will also allow on-site storage of our No-Zone truck for the first time. More information about the move will be disseminated as it becomes available.



NMTA's New Site in South Reno (middle suite)

BUS INSPECTION VIDEO

Idaho State Police Multimedia Section personnel made a trip to Nevada on November 7, 2006 to film the bus inspection portion of a training video. The video will eventually be used to illustrate bus inspection procedures during North American Vehicle Standards training. North American Vehicle Standards training and recertification is mandatory for both law enforcement and civilian commercial vehicle inspectors. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) funds the production of the training videos.

Officers from the Nevada Highway Patrol Commercial Vehicle Section participated in making the training video. Sergeant Ken Roll coordinated the effort, while Troopers Carl Stone, Jim Brannum and Elmer Johnson demonstrated various portions of the bus inspection. Idaho State Police personnel set up the inspection scenarios and filmed the event.

NMTA member company Coach USA provided a bus and driver for the event which was filmed at the Cannery Hotel in North Las Vegas. Coach USA also provided the use of its terminal to film portions of the video.



Idaho video crew film NHP Trooper Elmer Johnson.



INTERSTATE 15 MANAGED LANES

It has become somewhat of a running joke in southern Nevada that rush hour in Las Vegas now lasts all day. But to many drivers, rush hour and road congestion are no longer laughing matters. Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is exploring the concept of managed lanes, for possible application along the I-15 resort corridor (between the southern I-215 beltway interchange and the Sahara Avenue interchange). The managed lanes proposal would transform the interior median area of I-15 into two managed lanes in each direction.

Eventually traffic volume on I-15 will force NDOT to widen this portion of the freeway, and the Regional Transportation Commission has estimated widening could cost \$1 billion. As an alternative, managed lanes would be a positive short term fix to relieve some of the current congestion, at a cost of about \$60

million. For now, using the existing interior median area would eliminate the need to physically widen the interstate or acquire/condemn additional property.

The managed lanes would be separated from the regular exterior lanes by either a painted stripe or a physical barrier. Those who have driven State Route 91 east of Los Angeles, CA have seen a currently operating example of managed lanes. For southern Nevada, this concept would most benefit the interstate driver who is making a straight shot through Las Vegas; and those locals who desire to bypass the resort corridor, and whose route does not include using any of the I-15 exits within that zone. It would also lessen the conflicts caused by merging and exiting traffic, by creating a type of express lane concept for the interior lanes.

Generally, managed lanes allow access only to certain types of vehicles, such as carpools, buses, trucks, or single occupant vehicles paying a fee. If constructed, drivers would have the choice of using the more congested regular exterior lanes, or paying for less impeded travel in the managed lanes. NDOT is exploring this proposal in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).



2007-2009 NEVADA BUDGET

Governor Guinn leaves office on January 2, 2007, but he has already made some budget recommendations for Governor Elect Jim Gibbons which could benefit Nevada's roads and infrastructure. Of the projected \$486 million state surplus, Guinn has recommended spending \$170 million on widening I-15 north of downtown. I-15 would

be widened to ten lanes between the Spaghetti Bowl and Lake Mead, and to eight lanes between Lake Mead and Craig Road. If the 2007 Nevada Legislature approves this budget item early on, the I-15 project could be put out for bids and awarded by the end of the legislative session.

For northern Nevada, the State Transportation Board also voted funding to finish the last phases of the I-580/ U.S. 395 freeway between Reno and Carson City. This would include completing the controversial Galena Creek Bridge. The entire cost for the I-580 route is projected to exceed \$440 million, with a best case scenario completion date of 2011. The new contractor for the I-580 freeway and bridge is Fisher Sand & Gravel Company, which will replace Edward Kramer & Sons.



Note: In case you missed it, we wanted to make sure that you are aware of what the mainstream press is saying about our industry.

REPRINTED FROM THE LAS VEGAS SUN

November 21, 2006

More Overweight Trucks Cited By Highway Patrol

By Ed Koch <koch@lasvegassun.com>
Las Vegas Sun

Two of every five tractor-trailers stopped on city and county streets this year by the Nevada Highway Patrol have been cited as being overweight, the agency's commercial enforcement division says.

That is up from one in three in 2005, the Highway Patrol says. Overweight violations on roads and streets have been three times greater than those on highways the last two years even though five times more trucks were weighed on the highways than on secondary streets during that period.

By year's end, the Highway Patrol will have stopped and cited nearly twice as many trucks for being overweight than in 2005, in part because of

additional scales purchased for the agency with an additional \$545,000 allocated by the 2005 Legislature.

Last year, the Highway Patrol's Southern Nevada division owned five sets of portable scales for use in roving inspections and one semiportable scale. Today, the agency has 12 sets of portable scales and two semiportable sets, Sgt. J.A. Smith of the Highway Patrol's commercial enforcement division said.

Through October, 1,052 tractor-trailers have been stopped by the Highway Patrol on secondary streets and 419 of them - 39.8 percent - were cited for being overweight. For all of last year, 267 of 801 trucks stopped on local streets - 33.3 percent - were cited as overweight, Smith said.

On both streets and highways this year, the Highway Patrol's Southern Nevada office has stopped 7,626 tractor-trailers and found 7.7 percent overweight, Smith said. That is up from 7 percent of the 4,464 trucks pulled over in 2005.

Fines issued through October of this year to overloaded trucks total \$757,257 or \$1,294 per violation compared with \$399,419 or \$1,276 per violation last year.

In 2004 about 8 percent of the nearly 5,000 commercial vehicles weighed by troopers in the Las Vegas Valley were overweight, resulting in more than \$428,000 in fines.

Such statistics are disturbing but not surprising to trucking safety reform advocates such as Angela Ipock, whose 19-year-old daughter, Ashley Swain, was killed the day after Christmas in 2004 when an overweight Republic Services garbage truck tipped over onto her vehicle in North Las Vegas.

"People call all the time about unsafe trucks, and we (she and ex-husband Thomas Swain) have spent two years taking photos of them and gathering information," Ipock said. "There has to be a better system established for checking truck safety."

In the wake of Swain's death, Republic Services says it has beefed up its procedures for keeping garbage trucks within the legal limits of 9- to 10-ton payloads.

"We have taken a proactive approach to ensure the safety of the general public and our employees," Republic Area President Bob Coyle said.

Changes, he said, include stressing to drivers at weekly safety meetings that they can refuse any load they feel is unsafe.

Coyle said Republic has asked its larger customers, including Strip resorts, to prevent water from getting into Republic's compactor units during the cleaning of trash bins. Excess water shifting in the garbage container is believed to have been a factor in making the truck that killed Swain overweight and unbalanced.

Also, Coyle said, truck loads emptied at transfer stations are weighed to determine if some customers on that particular route need additional pickups during the week to avoid overloading Republic's trucks.

Ed Koch can be reached at 259-4090 or at koch@lasvegassun.com.



**New NMTA Members
November 2006**

- H2O Water Trucking**
- M S & L, LLC**
- Chinese Host Inc.**
- Earth First Recycling, Inc.**
- Julie's Sign Shoppe Inc.**
- Lone Mountain Excavation & Utilities**
- Mesa Mechanical, Inc.**



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