

**NEW MEXICO STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

**Special Teleconference Meeting
February 13, 2020**

The New Mexico State Transportation Commission (STC or Commission) held a special teleconference meeting on February 13, 2020. Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Chairman Adams asked for a roll call to establish a quorum. Jennifer Martinez, Office of the Secretary, NMDOT, proceeded to call the roll. Commissioners Jennifer Sandoval, Bruce Ellis, Hilma Chynoweth, Walter G. Adams, and Thomas Taylor were present.

Approval of the STC Meeting Agenda

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the STC meeting agenda; Commissioner Ellis made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Sandoval seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the STC Minutes

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 STC regular meeting minutes; Commissioner Taylor made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Chynoweth seconded; motion carried unanimously.

State Transportation Commissioners Present:

Jennifer Sandoval, Vice-Chair, District One
Bruce Ellis, Commissioner, District Two

Hilma Chynoweth District Three
Walter G. Adams, Chairman, District Four
Thomas Taylor, District Five
Charles Lundstrom, Secretary, District Six (absent with notice)

NMDOT Staff Present:

Michael Sandoval, Cabinet Secretary
Justin Reese, Deputy Secretary
Kenneth B. Baca, General Counsel
NMDOT Staff

Elected Officials Present

The Honorable Candy Spence Ezzell, New Mexico State Representative, District 58
T. Calder Ezzell, Chaves County, Commissioner

**Approval to Dedicate the Entirety of State Road #2 from West of Midway to its Intersection
at US 285 as the “Mike Smith Highway”**

Michael Sandoval, Cabinet Secretary, NMDOT, informed the STC all the proper notifications have been made for the Special Meeting. The Secretary’s Office received a request from the Honorable Candy Spence Ezzell, New Mexico State Representative, District 58, and others for this dedication. Chaves County will hold a dedication ceremony on February 18, 2020, before the STC March 19, 2020 meeting, therefore the Special meeting was requested to accommodate Representative Ezzell’s request.

Representative Ezzell proceeded to read her letter of request to the STC as follows:

“With the full concurrence of the Chaves County Board of Commissioners, the municipalities of Dexter, Hagerman and Lake Arthur, and the citizens of Chaves County, I respectfully request that the entirety of State Road #2, from west of Midway to its intersection with US 285, north of Artesia, be designated the “Mike Smith Highway”. Mike Smith, a native of

Dexter, New Mexico, is one of the best jockeys in all of Thoroughbred Horse Racing History. Having won more Grade 1 Races and more Breeders Cup Races than any other jockey in history, Mike achieved the rarest of all racing accomplishments, the 2018 Triple Crown aboard Justify. Inducted into the National Racing Hall of Fame in 2003, Mike continues to make the best rides on the world's best horses. Mike is proud of his New Mexico roots and returns often to the Pecos Valley to visit family and friends. This is a fitting honor for one of our most famous and loyal citizens.”

T. Calder Ezzell, Commissioner, Chaves County, read a letter addressed to the STC dated February 12, 2020 from William E. Cavin, Chairman, Chaves County, as follows:

“Chaves County is pleased to endorse the dedication of State Road #2 from west of midway to its intersection at US 285 as the “Mike Smith Highway”. Chaves County is very proud of Mike Smith and all of his accomplishments. Mike has never forgotten where he came from and the citizens of Chaves County will always be proud to call him one of us. On Thursday, February 20, 2020, the Chaves County Board of Commissioners will formally adopt a resolution supporting this effort to rename a portion of State Road #2 the “Mike Smith Highway”. On behalf of the citizens of Chaves County, I strongly encourage the New Mexico State Transportation Commission to approve this dedication.

Signed, William Cavin, Chairman, Chaves County Commission.”

Secretary Sandoval stated he is in support of the dedication to Mike Smith. Commissioner Ellis is also in support of this dedication within his district, and as a lifelong resident of Chaves County, stating he appreciated Representative Ezzell and the Chaves County Commission's efforts concerning the dedication.

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve dedicating the entirety of State Road #2 from West of Midway to its intersection at US 285, North of Artesia as the “Mike Smith Highway”; Commissioner Taylor made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Ellis seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:18 a.m.; Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting; Commissioner Chynoweth seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



Chairman

Walter Adams



Secretary

Charles Lundstrom