The New Mexico State Transportation Commission (STC or Commission) held a regular meeting on November 21, 2019, at the Highlands University Student Union Building, Las Vegas, New Mexico. Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. He asked for a roll call to establish a quorum. Jennifer Martinez, Office of the Secretary, NMDOT, proceeded to call the roll. Commissioners Bruce Ellis, Walter G. Adams, Keith Mortensen, and Charles Lundstrom were present.

Chairman Adams asked for a moment of silence for NMDOT employee, Michael Cisneros, who recently passed away while on duty. He was a member of the Clines Corners Patrol.

Approval of the STC Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the STC Minutes

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the October 17, 2019 STC Regular Meeting minutes; Commissioner Lundstrom made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Mortensen seconded; motion carried unanimously.
Introductions

Michael Sandoval, Cabinet Secretary, NMDOT, thanked everyone in attendance at the STC meeting. He introduced the elected officials present, and asked NMDOT staff to introduce themselves.

Elected Officials and Delegations:

The Honorable Billie J.o Barnes, Mayor, Village of San Jon
Julie Kulhan, Councilor, Village of Eagle Nest
The Honorable Joseph L. Sanchez, New Mexico State Representative, District 40
The Honorable Pete Campos, New Mexico State Senator, District 8
Pedro Daumbach, Commissioner, Village of Roy
The Honorable Jack Chatfield, New Mexico State Representative, District 67

State Transportation Commissioners Present:

Jennifer Sandoval, Vice-Chair, District One (absent with notice)
Bruce Ellis, Commissioner, District Two
Keith Mortensen, Commissioner, District Three
Walter G. Adams, Chairman, District Four
Vacant, District Five
Charles Lundstrom, Secretary, District Six

NMDOT Staff Present:

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

Welcoming Remarks

Chairman Adams thanked everyone in attendance. He thanked Highlands University for the use of its facility for the meeting and Mariachi Cardenal, a local band from Robertson High School, for opening the meeting.
Public Comment

Richard Primrose, County Manager, Quay County, thanked NMDOT for all it has done with local government road funds, and for the special appropriations Quay County received to help with much needed infrastructure.

Matt Martinez, Resident, Las Vegas, welcomed the STC and NMDOT staff to Las Vegas. He expressed his gratitude for the Grand Avenue project; the improvements were truly needed. He also discussed certain project issues and thanked the NMDOT District Four Engineer and Secretary Sandoval for their willingness to confer regarding the issues.

The Honorable Pete Campos, New Mexico State Senator, District 8, thanked the STC and all NMDOT employees who put their lives on the line every day. He briefly discussed the funds coming from the oil and gas industry in the southeastern part of the state. New Mexico communities have realized the importance of improving state roads. He anticipates good things will come out of the next Legislative Session, as did this year. He also thanked the STC for inviting the public to voice their concerns. It is making a positive impact on the State.

Harold Garcia, Commissioner, San Miguel County, welcomed the STC to Las Vegas. He briefly commented about the importance of the roads and highways in New Mexico. On behalf of San Miguel County, he thanked NMDOT for the funding provided to the County.

Veronica Serna, Commissioner, Mora County, commented briefly regarding the funding NMDOT allocates to local communities and its willingness to respond to questions and provide direction. She thanked James Gallegos, P.E., District Four Engineer, NMDOT, for the good working relationship, and thanked Senator Campos for the funding Mora County received.
Joy Ansley, County Manager, Mora County, thanked NMDOT for all it does for rural New Mexico.

Mary Berglund, Administrator, Village of Eagle Nest, on behalf of Richard Cordova, Mayor, Village of Eagle Nest, and the Village Council, thanked NMDOT for funding the Village’s special project on Fisherman’s Lane. She also thanked District Four staff.

Scott Berry, City Manager, Raton, commented regarding an issue in the City of Raton regarding traffic congestion on U.S. Highway 64/87, where it intersects with I-25.

James Larry King, Mora County, commented regarding work on Road C001 in Mora County.

The Honorable Jack Chatfield, New Mexico State Representative, District 67, presented the STC with a handout regarding Highway 39. He stated that the highway is in desperate need of repairs and would like NMDOT to consider making those repairs. He also expressed his appreciation to NMDOT for its work.

The Honorable Joseph Sanchez, New Mexico State Representative, District 40, commended Secretary Sandoval and the STC, and thanked NMDOT and James Gallegos, P.E., District Four Engineer, NMDOT, for the amazing work everyone does. He informed Secretary Sandoval he will support NMDCT any way he can as a State Representative.

Secretary Sandoval commented regarding funding and projects. He stressed the importance for small communities to do everything possible to get their projects shovel ready.
NMDOT was awarded $400 million in the 2019 Legislative Session to do projects, but many projects were not shovel ready. There is money NMDOT can use to help communities ready designs for projects.

**District Four Presentation and Employee Recognition**

James Gallegos, P.E., District Four Engineer, NMDOT, introduced the District Four staff members in attendance at the STC meeting. He followed with a presentation regarding District Four activities, during which he discussed the District’s various projects and maintenance accomplishments. He also reported on the District’s Employee Recognition Program and acknowledged recent award winners.

**District Four Best Practice**

James Gallegos, P.E., District Four Engineer, NMDOT, presented the District Four Best Practice Award to the Des Moines Patrol for its guard rail snow fence. A video was shown to demonstrate its use.

**District Five Best Practice**

Paul Brasher, P.E., District Five Engineer, NMDOT, presented the District Five Best Practice Award to the Mountainair Patrol for its asphalt screed rake.
Staff Briefings

FHWA Report

John Don Martinez, Division Administrator, FHWA, reported that NMDOT may have funds for the next 30 days. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a funding bill; the Senate is supposed to act on it today, and it is anticipated the President will sign it before midnight. If that does not happen, there will be a federal government shut down.

Secretary Report

Michael Sandoval, Cabinet Secretary, NMDOT, commented regarding funding, grants, major capital outlay projects, and the importance of the federal program. He thanked Chairman Adams for the moment of silence for District Five employee, Michael Cisneros, who recently lost his life. Secretary Sandoval also reported that NMDOT’s meeting with the Legislative Finance Committee is scheduled for December 10, 2019. The Commissioners are welcome to attend. There will be an overview of NMDOT’s budget for the next fiscal year, a status update regarding the $400 million NMDOT received from the Legislature, and a report on NMDOT’s top 10 unfunded projects.

NMDOT is conducting a pay study on mechanics’ positions and hopes to elevate compensation for those positions. Beginning December 1 through 5, 2019, and thereafter, the 1st through 5th of every month, supervisors will be able to submit in-band pay requests.

Secretary Sandoval also reported that the Governor has authorized departments to allow employees to use 2 hours a week for exercise and fitness. Accordingly, a new fitness and exercise policy is being developed and will soon be put into effect.
Lastly, he commented concerning the U.S. 550 project and informed the STC that Commissioner Mortensen, who has been a Commissioner for the past 10 years, will be stepping down. He thanked Commissioner Mortensen for his dedicated service.

**Communications Update**

Marisa Maez, Communications Director, NMDOT, provided an update regarding the progress of the new communications program. She introduced Miguel Fierro, NMDOT’s new photojournalist, and Travis Martinez, NMDOT’s new District Four Public Information Officer.

**Finance Reports**

**NMDOT Monthly Financial Report**

Mallery Manzenares, Budget Director and Acting ASD Director, NMDOT, presented the NMDOT operating budget and financial report as of November 1, 2019. Current program vacancy rates are as follows: District One, 12.6%; District Two, 18.9%; District Three, 17.9%; District Four, 22.3%; District Five, 15%; District Six, 12.5%; Highway Operations, 17%; Project Design and Construction, 23.4%; Business Support, 17.7%; and Modal, 13.1%. The current budget for Project Design and Construction is $557.5 million, with a remaining balance of $305.5 million; Highway Operations, $251.5 million, with a remaining balance of $149 million; Business Support, $43.6 million, with a remaining balance of $35.2 million; and Modal, $67.6 million, with a remaining balance of $30 million. Mrs. Manzenares also discussed NMDOT cash balances and restricted fund balances.
Approval of FY 2019 Local Government Transportation Project Fund (LGTPF) Financial Hardship Match Waiver Program

Clarissa Martinez, Statewide Local Government Road Fund, Capital Outlay Manage, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of the FY19 LGTPF financial hardship match waiver program. The LGTPF authorizes NMDOT to distribute a portion of LGTPF money to municipalities and counties that can demonstrate financial hardship, for use as the municipality or county’s 5% match fund requirement. NMDOT will be distributing $572,414.86 to requesting entities.

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the FY19 LGTPF financial hardship match waiver program; Commissioner Mortensen made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded; motion carried unanimously.

NMFA Report

Mark Lovato, Investment Manager, NMFA, provided an update regarding NMDOT’s investment portfolio funds under NMFA management and NMDOT/NMFA’s outstanding bond debt service as of October 31, 2019. The current total of NMDOT’s debt service being held is $60 million. On December 15, 2019, a debt service payment in the amount of $33.3 million will be made. Currently, there is $228,871 in the arbitrage rebate account and $6.6 million in the project account. The balance in NMDOT’s taxable line of credit at Wells Fargo for the BNSF requirement is $50 million. A commitment fee in the amount of $24,430 was paid in June. The total debt service due on December 15, 2019, is a principal payment of $9.2 million, plus interest of $24.1 million, for a total of $33.3 million.
Approval of Resolution No. 2019-06 (NOV) Extending the Term of Use of the “Jal Route” and Establishing the “Hobbs Route” as Temporary, Negotiated, Alternate Southern WIPP Routes

Rick Padilla, P.E., State Maintenance Engineer, NMDOT, introduced and requested approval of Resolution No. 2019-06 (NOV) Extending the Term of Use of the “Jal Route” and Establishing the “Hobbs Route” as Temporary, Negotiated, Alternate Southern WIPP Routes. He explained that on November 5, 2019, the Department of Energy – Carlsbad Field Office (DOE-CBFO) requested NMDOT to extend the term of use of the temporary, negotiated, alternate Southern WIPP route (“Jal Route”) beyond the termination date of December 31, 2019, which was established by the STC in Resolution No. 2019-03 (MAY). As justification for continued use of the Jal Route instead of the existing, designated Southern WIPP route (US 285 to US 61/18), the DOE-CBFO identified on-going safety concerns related to portions of US 285, as well as anticipated impacts, including lane shifts and detours, during a planned, multi-year sink-hole remediation project south of Carlsbad, adjacent to the Southern route. DOE-CBFO also requested NMDOT to establish a Hobbs Route as a temporary, negotiated alternate Southern WIPP route for use limited to circumstances of safety concerns that render the Jal Route unavailable, such as closures, lane shifts and detours. NMDOT suggested establishing the Hobbs Route for limited use and allowing DOE-CFBO the use of the Jal and Hobbs routes as temporary alternates to the designated Southern Route until June 30, 2020, unless terminated earlier by notice.

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve STC Resolution No. 2019-06 (NOV) Extending the Term of Use of the “Jal Route” and Establishing the “Hobbs Route” as Temporary, Negotiated Alternate Southern WIPP Routes; Commissioner Ellis made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded; motion carried unanimously.
Approval of Proposed 2020 STC Meeting Schedule

Michael Sandcval, Cabinet Secretary, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of the proposed 2020 STC meeting schedule. Proposed meetings are as follows: January in Española, at the Santa Claran Hotel; March in Carlsbad; May in Truth or Consequences; July in Angel Fire; September at Acoma Pueblo; and November in Los Lunas. Each of Districts will host an STC meeting. Chairman Adams stated that any of the municipalities within the Districts, may host a meeting; all proposals will be considered by the STC.

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the proposed 2020 STC meeting schedule; Commissioner Lundstrom 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 11:34 a.m.; Commissioner Mortensen made a motion to so adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman

Walter Adams

Secretary

Charles Lundstrom