

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Seventy-Fourth Session
February 6, 2007**

The Committee on Transportation was called to order by Chair Kelvin Atkinson at 1:31 p.m., on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, in Room 3143 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/committees/. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kelvin Atkinson, Chair
Mr. Mark Manendo, Vice Chair
Mr. David Bobzien
Mr. John C. Carpenter
Mr. Jerry D. Claborn
Mr. Ty Cobb
Ms. Susan Gerhardt
Mr. Ed Goedhart
Mr. Pete Goicoechea
Mr. Joseph Hogan
Mrs. RoseMary Womack

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marjorie Paslov Thomas, Committee Policy Analyst
Sharon Wilkinson, Committee Counsel
Victoria Thompson, Committee Manager
Christine Henriksen, Committee Secretary
Kelly Troescher, Committee Secretary



Chair Atkinson:

[Meeting called to order. Roll called]. [Introductions were read from prepared text [Exhibit C.](#)] I am looking forward to working with all of you this session, and I know that we have ahead of us many interesting days of testimony, deliberation, and action. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and courtesy. I will now have the members make their own introductions and tell us what District they represent, and what they expect to get out of this committee. We will start with Mr. Claborn.

Assemblyman Claborn:

Thank you, Chair Atkinson. It is a pleasure to be working with you. I know you will do a fine job as Chairman. I worked with you in Natural Resources as my Vice Chairman, and you did an excellent job. You are going to be a very good Chairman, and I am looking forward to working with you. This is my fifth term on this committee, and we have seen a lot of bills come and go. I am looking forward to working with the new committee. We have new members on our committee, and it will be enlightening because they will see that we all work together, and if we do work together, we can get something accomplished. If we do not, our bills will not get passed.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you, Mr. Claborn. Assemblywoman Gerhardt?

Assemblywoman Gerhardt:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to offer my congratulations on your Chairmanship. I am pleased to be back for my second session and to serve on the Transportation Committee. We have important work to do this session, and I look forward to working with you. I appreciate your leadership.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you, Ms. Gerhardt. Mr. Manendo?

Assemblyman Manendo:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is a pleasure to serve as your Vice Chair this session. I know you are going to do a fabulous job. We have great counsel and research, which helps us. We utilize them to the full extent and sincerely appreciate their work. Our committee secretaries, staff, and runners do a great job. This is my seventh session, and it is a pleasure to work on the committee again.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you, Mr. Manendo. Mr. Goicoechea?

Assemblyman Goicoechea:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, my congratulations to you. I know you will do a great job. I represent Assembly District 35 which starts at the Utah border and comes into Washoe County, consisting of all or part of eight counties. This is my third session on Transportation. It is a good committee; we get some good bills here, and only pass the best.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you. Mr. Carpenter?

Assemblyman Carpenter:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is my twenty-first session. I have been on Transportation almost every session. I am looking forward to working with you and Mr. Manendo. Hopefully, we will get some good legislation out of here and help everyone.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you, Mr. Carpenter. Mr. Goedhart?

Assemblyman Goedhart:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Congratulations, Mr. Atkinson. From what I hear, you are going to do a very good job being the Chairman of this committee. I am from rural Nevada. My little district covers 36,000 square miles. Both infrastructure and transportation are very near and dear to my heart. In one of the businesses I was managing, we had 15 trucks rolling up and down the highways. We have a little bit of that background in common. In the southern part of my district, in Pahrump, we looked at the flip side of growth. We are running into challenges with highway improvements going through the town of Pahrump, when trying to get some funding for traffic signals. I am delighted to serve on this committee and can be a strong vocal proponent for traffic signals along Highways 160 and 372 in the Pahrump area. I guess I do have an agenda.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you, Mr. Goedhart. Mr. Hogan?

Assemblyman Hogan:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am in my second term and on the Transportation Committee for the second time. I congratulate the newly appointed Chair and Vice Chair, and let them know I appreciate the opportunity to work with them once again. I represent District 10, which includes and is located around the Las Vegas Strip, where we see a little traffic. I am looking forward to an active session.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you, Mr. Hogan. Mrs. Womack?

Assemblywoman Womack:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am looking forward to working with you and Mr. Manendo. Transportation is important to me because I represent Henderson and the new Spaghetti Bowl area. Assemblywoman Gerhardt and I share the border at the Henderson Spaghetti Bowl. The traffic that will be coming over the Hoover Dam Bridge, once it [the bridge] is completed, will impact the Bowl. I am here, ready to work, and, as a freshman, I look forward to the session.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you, Mrs. Womack. Mr. Bobzien?

Assemblyman Bobzien:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Congratulations on your chairmanship, and congratulations also to Vice Chair Manendo. I represent District 24 in Washoe County, which is the old northwest Reno and northeast [Reno] and part of the North Valleys. Being bordered by Interstate 80, McCarran Blvd., and Highway 395, the traffic issues we face in Washoe County are going to be front and center on my mind. I certainly recognize that there are statewide transportation needs and issues. I look forward to working with everyone to address all those issues.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you, Mr. Bobzien. Mr. Cobb?

Assemblyman Cobb:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to echo all the remarks of congratulations, and state that it is an honor to be a part of this committee. In the short time that we have had a few committee meetings, I found the leadership of this committee, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, to both be open to ideas and

approachable. Transportation is a crucial area for a state that exists on tourism. The economy that develops around it is not a partisan issue. I am sure we will be able to work well across party lines, even though we are from different parts of the state. That is my hope for this session.

Chair Atkinson:

Thank you, Mr. Cobb. Now that the committee members have introduced themselves, I am going to take a moment to introduce the staff, and go over the Committee Procedures and Informational Items.[Read from prepared text, [Exhibit C.](#)] The committee will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and I ask that all the members and staff, unless excused in advance by me, be in attendance at all meetings from the time the meeting begins until the meeting is adjourned, possibly late in the afternoon. I want to emphasize the importance of courtesy in dealing with other members of the committee, staff, and all the persons who testify before us. I expect all of us to use respect with each other, even if we do not agree with the other person's position. I want to emphasize the importance of providing a fair hearing to all parties on all bills that are scheduled for hearing. I also want to point out the importance of public testimony at all of our meetings. We must never forget that we are here to serve the public; their testimony deserves our respect. I will ask the committee members to pay attention during testimony, not to be redundant in making remarks or asking questions, and not to be argumentative with witnesses or committee members. Later this afternoon, we will receive an overview of the Department of Motor Vehicles from the Deputy Director and a presentation by the Transportation Services Authority. We will end the day with overviews from the Regional Transportation Commissions of Southern Nevada and Washoe County.

On Thursday, we will hold a joint hearing with the Assembly Committee on Taxation, at which time we will hear from the Blue Ribbon Task Force Committee to evaluate Nevada Department of Transportation's (NDOT) long-range transportation projects. I would like to note that the meeting will be held in room 4100, beginning at 1:30 in the afternoon. The following Tuesday, we will hear an overview from NDOT and take a tour of the I-580 extension and the Galena Creek Bridge. After all of the presentations, we will begin hearing several bills. We have nine and will get started after the presentations. You should have most of them; if you do not, they will be on the web. Please take the opportunity to read them. I am looking forward to working with all of you this session and I know we have a large task ahead of us. We have all heard about what we need to do in this State for transportation and how many

transportation dollars we need. We are going to hear a lot about it this session. I know you would not be on this Committee if you did not have some interest in it [transportation] and some type of expertise. I will be asking for your thoughts on some of these issues. Please feel free to participate in these meetings because, as I said, we are going to need your input.

As you are aware, we will now hold a joint hearing with the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security in Room 1214. The Department of Motor Vehicles, The Transportation Services authority, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, and the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County will provide presentations to the Joint Committees.

In your folders you have the Standing Committee Rules ([Exhibit D.](#)) I direct your attention to two of them: Number 6 and Number 17. Number 6 is under the section "Quorum, Voting, Motions, and Final Action." [It deals with notifying the chairman to change a vote.] I do know that, at times, members receive information that may cause them to change their vote before they go on the floor. I ask that if you do decide to change your vote from the way you voted in committee, that you advise me. We would like the courtesy to know that you changed your vote. Most of the time it does not happen, but on rare occasions, members do receive information that may cause them to change their mind. You are entitled to do that. You are here to represent your districts and not the Chairman. Again, please let me know if you have to change your vote on any items. Number 17 is under the section "Coordination of Information." [All directions, assignments, or requests on behalf of the committee must be communicated by way of the Chair....] We are asking this because, in the past, I know we have had members ask Marjorie Paslov-Thomas (Marji) or Legal Research directly for information they may have needed for this committee. I ask that you run them through me before going to Marji or Sharon Wilkinson, so that they know that I am apprised of it. On every occasion, they will contact me and ask if I am aware of it. We need to take a motion on the Standing Rules. Comments?

Assemblyman Manendo:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. On Number 6, this committee or any committee, we do not want to embarrass anybody, nor do we want to embarrass our committee. That is the reason the rules are that we should go to the Chairman of the committee. You may obtain some information that might be helpful [to the committee] for the Chairman to place the bill on the desk for the day to see if he can get clarification. If it is a bill that was sponsored by a member of the

committee or someone in our house, it is protocol to go to that person and let them know that you have changed their vote, especially if it came out of committee. If there are no other comments, Mr. Chair, I make a motion to approve the rules.

ASSEMBLYMAN MANENDO MOVED TO APPROVE THE
STANDING RULES.

ASSEMBLYMAN GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Atkinson:

All in favor. Any opposed? [There were none].

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

We need to get down to the Senate. They are in Room 1214. [Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Christine Henricksen
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assembly Member Kelvin Atkinson, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Transportation

Date: February 6, 2007

Time of Meeting: 1:30 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
	C		Opening Remarks
	D		Standing Rules