

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

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

The Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security was called to order by Chair Dennis Nolan at 1:35 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, in Room 1214 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Dennis Nolan, Chair
Senator Joseph J. Heck, Vice Chair
Senator Maurice E. Washington
Senator Mark E. Amodei
Senator Maggie Carlton
Senator John J. Lee
Senator Joyce Woodhouse

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matt Szudajski, Committee Policy Analyst
Donna Esposito, Committee Manager
Elana Graham, Assistant Committee Manager
Lynette M. Johnson, Committee Secretary
Dan Lindholm, Committee Intern
Nicholas Marquart, Committee Intern
Josh Selleck, Assistant to Senator Nolan
Carolyn Allfree, Committee Secretary

CHAIR NOLAN:

This is the first meeting of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security. Our new members are Senator John J. Lee (Clark County Senatorial District No. 1) and Senator Joyce Woodhouse (Clark County Senatorial District No. 5). I would like to recognize all Committee Staff.

Mr. Szudajski will provide us with a brief overview of the bill draft requests (BDRs) and what we can look forward to this Session.

MATT SZUDAJSKI (Committee Policy Analyst):

The Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) is nonpartisan. As a nonpartisan staff person, I neither advocate nor oppose legislation. My role is to assist the Committee and its members in finding information necessary to make informed decisions.

The Committee Brief ([Exhibit C](#), original is on file in the Research Library) is prepared each Session to review the Committee's jurisdiction, recap legislation from the last Session, alert members to potential issues which may come before the Committee and provide other reference materials that may be of use during the course of the Session.

You have been provided with a BDR list ([Exhibit D](#)), which is a selection of bills that may come before the Committee this Legislative Session. Last Session this Committee considered 74 measures. This speculative BDR list contains 106 bills.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask. Even if your question is not related to transportation or homeland security, I can take the request and relay it to the appropriate staff member so you can receive the best response.

CHAIR NOLAN:

We have many prefiled bills this Session. The transportation issues are fairly broad. Relative to the homeland security issues, a number of organizations within the State had ongoing meetings during the interim to try to improve our ability to detect and defend against any type of domestic or foreign threat within the State. Some of those organizations are: the State Emergency Response Commission; the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security; and the Office of Homeland Security. When those issues come before us, I ask the Committee members to keep in mind their importance.

Committee Rules, 74th Legislative Session, Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security ([Exhibit E](#)), must be adopted by our Committee.

SENATOR LEE MOVED TO ADOPT THE COMMITTEE RULES, 74TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION, SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND HOMELAND SECURITY.

SENATOR HECK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR NOLAN:

Next Tuesday we will have a joint meeting with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). During the interim, Governor Kenny Guinn, as chair of the Department of Transportation Board of Directors, created a task force to evaluate the NDOT's long-range projects and needs. The task force, chaired by Phillip C. Peckman, Chief Executive Officer, The Greenspun Corporation, also studied transportation issues within the State. The panel developed recommendations to present to current Governor Jim Gibbons on how to offset some of the unfunded liability issues facing the NDOT. Those recommendations will be received by the Legislature.

SENATOR WASHINGTON:

Will the Blue Ribbon Task Force be giving an overview of its recommendations?

CHAIR NOLAN:

Yes, we asked them to tell us how they processed the information they garnered and why they made their recommendations. The meeting is open to the public.

SENATOR WASHINGTON:

We should ask the NDOT Board of Directors to explain how they prioritize projects and what formulas they use for funding the projects.

CHAIR NOLAN:

We may be able to include it with the presentation next Tuesday by the NDOT.

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There being no further business, the meeting of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security was recessed at 1:55 p.m. and adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Carolyn Allfree,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Dennis Nolan, Chair

DATE: _____