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White Pine County Board of County Commissioners

July 23th, 2014

Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors
1263 South Stewart Street
Third Floor Conference Room
Carson City, Nevada 89712

RE: Notice of Public Meeting
I-11 Intermountain West Corridor Discussion

Honorable Governor Sandoval and Board:

White Pine County would like to thank NDOT Federal Program Manager Sondra Rosenberg and her team for the work completed in conducting the Evaluation Assessment Study undertaken per the I-11 Intermountain West Corridor Initiative. Nevada will see a great benefit to the State's economy with the implementation of a new federal designated highway.

Comments have been provided by our Commission in regards to the possible comparison of highway US-93 to US-95 for the potential Northern Nevada alignment for preliminary review. Both avenues provide benefits for Nevada. It has been stated that cluster markets aligned with the Governor's Office of Economic Development's State Plan should be the driving focus behind Nevada's participation in the right of way designated.

It is our understanding Eastern Nevada will play a huge role in diversifying the State's economy with renewable energy projects; i.e. Pattern Energy – Spring Valley Wind 150 mW wind farm development, juniper biomass utilization for biofuels conversion into diesel additives for mining operations, Gridflex Energy 750 mW water pump storage facility, and a conceptual 120 mW photovoltaic solar farm development on Nevada's oldest air field, Yelland Field. Mining is not a stand alone industry.

Agriculture has always been a good way of life for Eastern Nevadans. White Pine is working with the Nevada Institute of Autonomous Systems (NIAS) to approve Yelland Field and a 2,000 acre public land parcel for utilization. The Oil and Gas Industry have leased over 1.25M acres of public lands for exploration and/or extraction. The growth of these Industries will prove to diversify Nevada's economy, creating new jobs, sale tax revenues and royalties for the State.

The White Pine County Commission is asking the Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors to consider US-93 in all future NDOT studies to be conducted per the I-11 Intermountain West Corridor Initiative related to Cost Benefit Analysis, Economic Benefit Analysis, Environmental Studies, Multi-modal Utilization, Right of Way Feasibilities, etc.

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Based on our initial data collection on costs provided to Sondra Rosenberg through public comment, White Pine County believes US-93 will cost an estimated 40% less (\$7.24B) than US-95 to improve.

Secondly, US-93 allows two Canadian destination points for termination of transported goods by heavy tractor trailer traffic into Vancouver and Calgary. Heavy truck traffic between Las Vegas and Chubbuck, Idaho may prefer to travel on US-93 over I-15 now as per the CANAMEX Initiative based on only a 22 mile difference rather than fighting heavy traffic from Provo, through Salt Lake City, then into Ogden, Utah.


Wells and Ely, Nevada both have 160 acre Industrial Parks ready for occupancy. I-80 provides east – west transportation of goods as well as the City of Ely owned 128 mile-short-line rail with a Union Pacific and BNSF terminal rail yard in Elko County. The designation of I-11 will inspire I-70 to be considered for extension from I-15 in Cove Fort, Utah, along the Delta Highway into Ely, Nevada, continuing west on US-6 into Tonopah, then into Bishop, CA.

There are many pro's and con's to both Northern Nevada avenues for consideration. We ask that US-93 be considered for further study based on many opportunities for federal dollars that may request applications for funding availability in future U.S. Transportation bills.


We encourage your Board to request written comments from the Oregon Department of Transportation and Idaho Transportation Department before identifying any Northern Nevada Alternative as priority.

By analyzing both avenues, their costs, benefits, and how each align with a true Mexico to Canada supported federal highway system, we have full confidence the right choice for future designation will have been thoroughly reviewed and the final designation will be what's not only best for Nevada, but for our neighboring states as well. It may take a multi-state collaborative effort to apply for federal funding to take on this capital improvement project, based on segments of phases of development.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow White Pine Board of County Commissioners to submit this written comment for the record.


Chairman – John S. Lampros


Mike Coster - Commissioner


Mike Lemich - Commissioner


Vice-Chairwoman Laurie Carson


Richard Howe - Commissioner