

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING  
TELEPHONIC/WEBEX  
9:00am, January 5, 2023**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jesse Thompson called the State Transportation Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Pledge**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Floyd Roehrich, Jr.

**Roll Call by Board Secretary, Sherry Garcia**

A quorum of the State Transportation Board was present. **In attendance (via WebEx):** Chairman Jesse Thompson, Vice Chairman Gary Knight, Board Member Richard Searle, Board Member Ted Maxwell, Board Member Jenn Daniels, Board Member Jackie Meck. There were approximately 25 members of the public in the audience on-line.

**Opening Remarks**

Chairman Thompson reminded members of the public, to keep their computer or phone muted during the meeting, unless called to speak during the Call to Audience.

**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act**

Floyd Roehrich, Jr., read the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Floyd, also reminded individuals to fill out survey cards, with link shown on the agenda.

**Call to the Audience**

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the State Transportation Board. Members of the public were requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments.

ARIZONA STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

BOARD MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BOARD MEETING

VIA WEBEX

January 5, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

REPORTED BY:  
TERESA A. WATSON, RMR  
Certified Reporter  
Certificate No. 50876

PREPARED FOR:  
ADOT - STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Perfecta Reporting  
(602) 421-3602

(Certified Copy)

1                   REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT OF ELECTRONIC  
2 PROCEEDINGS, ADOT - STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING, was  
3 reported from electronic media by TERESA A. WATSON, Registered  
4 Merit Reporter and a Certified Reporter in and for the State of  
5 Arizona.

6

7 PARTICIPANTS:

8 Board Members:

9                   Jesse Thompson, Chairman  
10                  Gary Knight, Vice Chairman  
11                  Jenn Daniels, Board Member  
12                  Jackie Meck, Board Member  
13                  Ted Maxwell, Board Member  
14                  Richard Searle, Board Member

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

<u>Virtual and Telephonic Speakers:</u>	<u>Page:</u>
Judy Mullins, Community Member, City of Buckeye.....	4
Gary Bloomstadt, Community Member, Litchfield Park.....	XX

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1	Transportation Board Organization - Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Designation for 2023.....	8
Item 2	Review of Application for Qualified Applicants for Position of ADOT Director.....	12

1 (Beginning of excerpt.)

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Floyd. And let's  
3 go to call to the audience. And again, Floyd, can you go  
4 through, you know, how we're going to move forward with people  
5 that are calling in or that will be -- if there's anybody there  
6 in person? I am assuming there's nobody -- that we'll be  
7 addressing the call to the audience. So can you go through  
8 that, the schedule for the virtual meeting, Floyd?

9 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. We have  
10 had two requests to speak, and it is all virtual. There is no  
11 public attendance here.

12 So our first speaker is Ms. Judy Mullins. And  
13 Ms. Mullins, please raise your hand. You've already raised your  
14 hand, so I would ask Bryce to please unmute her, and  
15 Ms. Mullins, you'll have three minutes to make your comments.

16 WEBEX HOST: I have requested to unmute your  
17 line. You are now unmuted.

18 MS. MULLINS: Hello.

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: You may speak.

20 MS. MULLINS: Yes. Mr. Chairman and the Board  
21 Members, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak.  
22 My name is Judy Mullins. I live in Verrado in Buckeye and  
23 commute daily on the I-10, McDowell and surrounding frontage  
24 arterial roads entering and exiting the I-10.

25 I guess my question and comment is two-part.

1 One, does ADOT's five-year transportation program have anything  
2 in it that addresses the current traffic gridlock on the I-10?  
3 Particularly, going westbound from Citrus to Perryville to  
4 Jackrabbit and the Verrado Way exit. Most days, not just on  
5 weekends and holidays, traffic is backed up now all the way to  
6 Pebble Creek Parkway in Goodyear.

7           And two, does ADOT have a copy of some type of  
8 preliminary schedule as to when the widening of the I-10 from  
9 three lanes for the westbound traffic at Jackrabbit to Verrado  
10 Way will occur? Currently, the lanes reduce from three to two  
11 lanes right at Verrado Way exit, and it is a mess, and it's a  
12 hazard for people cutting over for the exit at Verrado and those  
13 merging onto the I-10 and Jackrabbit.

14           As you may or may not know, many semi trucks  
15 can't stop fast enough for traffic cutting in front of them from  
16 the westbound traffic merging onto the I-10 at Jackrabbit. It's  
17 so very dangerous, and really, it's a traffic hazard for many  
18 that live and work in that area.

19           It's also just as bad going eastbound, as traffic  
20 exits the I-10 at Jackrabbit and has to make a left turn at that  
21 exit or for southbound Jackrabbit traffic trying to get onto the  
22 I-10 via the left turn lane headed eastbound. I know that  
23 sounds kind of confusing, but I'm sure you can follow all that.  
24 The left turn lane is way too short, basically, for current  
25 traffic, from all of the residential/commercial commuters that

1 get on that freeway every day.

2 There is no turn signals at this intersection,  
3 which is highly congested and very unsafe and will only get  
4 worse with more accidents as employees for all of the increased  
5 commercial and industrial warehouse facilities and stuff going  
6 up in the Buckeye area and the thousands of multi-family  
7 residential housing. And most of those houses have on average  
8 two-and-a-half cars per household. So it's only going to impact  
9 worse and have further problems as we go forward.

10 So I implore ADOT director and all of the board  
11 members to give this their utmost attention in terms of any  
12 funding and bonds, contract approvals, and a sense of urgency to  
13 get the work commenced and completed. It will only get worse as  
14 traffic increases on surrounding arterial streets, frontage  
15 roads, and now is the time to be proactive versus reactive and  
16 not wait for the impact to happen before coming up with a  
17 solution. It is of major importance to the employee/employer  
18 commuter market to stop the gridlock in and around that area of  
19 the I-10. And one --

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Excuse me. Excuse me,  
21 Ms. Mullins. Excuse me, Ms. Mullins.

22 MS. MULLINS: Yes.

23 MR. ROEHRICH: You have exceeded your three  
24 minutes. Can you please complete your comments?

25 MS. MULLINS: Oh, okay. Well, I know there are

1 other jurisdictional responsibilities here, like MCDOT, City of  
2 Buckeye and the flood district, so forth, to get the  
3 infrastructure done, but, you know, you folks really need to get  
4 it together and get it done now, not later. People are really  
5 frustrated, and I just feel you need to be accountable to the  
6 people. Thank you very much.

7 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you, Ms. Mullins.

8 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, ma'am.

9 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, I will talk with our  
10 project management staff and have them respond back to  
11 Ms. Mullins on specifically what -- the questions she's asked  
12 about on I-10. They will provide that information directly to  
13 her.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you very much for doing  
15 that.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you.

17 Our next speaker is Mr. Barry -- is Mr. Gary  
18 Bloomstadt. Mr. Bloomstadt, please raise your hand.

19 WEBEX HOST: Again, Gary, press star three to  
20 raise your hand.

21 I do not see a hand raised.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you.

23 Mr. Chairman, it looks like Mr. Bloomstadt may  
24 not be available. Those are the only two requests to speak I  
25 have. So that will end call the audience.



1                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you very much.  
2 Will we be able to get back on later during this meeting if that  
3 person, Gary, calls in?

4                   MR. ROEHRICH: It will be up to the Chairman if  
5 you want to open it again later on. Yes.

6                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. We'll leave it up to  
7 Gary.

8                   Let's go to Item 1. Has to do with the  
9 Transportation Board organization. Board chairman and vice  
10 chairman designation for 2023 in accordance with A.R.S.  
11 Section 28-303(B). So at this time what we probably need is a  
12 motion and second to designate the chairman and the vice  
13 chairman for the coming year.

14                   Is that in order, Floyd?

15                   MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, yes, and it is  
16 statutorily set up that the chairman would be the member with  
17 basically one year left on their -- on their term, and then the  
18 vice chair would be the member with two years left on their  
19 term. And by that designation, Mr. Gary Knight would be the  
20 chairman, and Mr. Richard Searle would be the vice chairman, and  
21 that would meet the conditions of the statute.

22                   So at this time, pending discussion by the  
23 Board -- the statute also says, though, if any member does not  
24 want to accept these positions, they can stay as a member, but  
25 then the Board would pick from the rest of the members to fill

1 those positions. So at this time --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chair --

3 MR. ROEHRICH: -- staff is recommending that  
4 Mr. Gary Knight be designated as chairman, and Mr. Richard  
5 Searle will be designated as vice chairman, and that we would  
6 ask the Board to motion that or to deliberate.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion to appoint  
8 the chairman and vice chairman for next year?

9 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair, I move that Gary Knight  
10 assumes the role of chair, and in the same motion would like to  
11 nominate Richard Searle as the motion -- as the vice chair for  
12 the following year.

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a second?

14 MR. MECK: Mr. Chairman, Jackie Meck. I would  
15 second that.

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: There's a motion by Board  
17 Member Maxwell and also a second by Board Member Meck to appoint  
18 Gary Knight as the chairman and also Richard Searle as the vice  
19 chairman for the coming year. Do I hear any further comments?

20 If nothing else, all those in favor say aye.

21 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Do we need a roll call?

23 MR. ROEHRICH: Well, I would like to do a roll  
24 call vote just to make sure we have it recorded specifically for  
25 each member on the audio. So if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman,

1 I'd just like to go down and do our normal roll call.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Please do that.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Knight.

4 VICE CHAIR KNIGHT: Aye.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Searle.

6 MR. SEARLE: Aye.

7 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

8 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

9 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

10 MR. MECK: Aye.

11 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Maxwell.

12 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

13 MR. ROEHRICH: And Board Member Thompson.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Aye.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chair, the motion passes, and  
16 unfortunately, you are no longer the chair. Thank you for your  
17 service.

18 Mr. Knight, you are now the chair, and you will  
19 go ahead and lead the rest of the meeting.

20 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much. I'm going to  
21 hand over -- if I had the gavel, I'd hand it over to you, but I  
22 guess this will do, Gary.

23 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: We can do that at the January  
24 meeting, Jesse. I'll be there if you show up, and you can do  
25 that then. That will be great.

1 MR. THOMPSON: Okay, Gary.

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you. And I -- Jesse  
3 thank you for your -- for your service for the past six years.  
4 Thank you for your -- for your exemplary service as chairman for  
5 this past year. We all certainly appreciate you, and we're  
6 looking forward to you remaining on the Board until a  
7 replacement is appointed.

8 That being said, I think I would just like to say  
9 that moving forward, now that we're past the COVID thing and  
10 everything's more back to normal, it would be great if we could  
11 get back to where we were all able to go to the meetings and  
12 attend the meetings in person unless there's a medical problem  
13 or something of that nature.

14 I think it's -- as Jesse pointed out, it's so  
15 important to be at each location to see what the problems are  
16 there, things that they can tell us about at call to the  
17 audience, but when you're actually there and you can see the  
18 problems and the traffic solutions that they're -- that they're  
19 asking for, we have a much better idea of what the problem  
20 actually is.

21 It's much better than just hearing it at call to  
22 the audience, and I think it's -- so I think it's extremely  
23 important, and I know Board Member Maxwell has expressed the  
24 same -- the same thing is it's extremely important for us to go  
25 to these different locations throughout the state, throughout

1 the year at our -- at our board meetings.

2           They enjoy for us to come there. It gives them a  
3 chance to actually speak with us in person, and so I would  
4 strongly urge our board members to attend the meetings in person  
5 if at all possible. And I understand there are going to be  
6 situations where there are medical issues or whatever that won't  
7 allow that, but I think if at all possible, we should make an  
8 effort to attend the -- as many meetings as we can in person,  
9 and so I'd like to see -- going forward with 2023, I'd like to  
10 see us get back into that -- into that groove. That's how we  
11 did it for the first four years that I was on the Board, and  
12 then COVID came along. And these virtual meetings are great for  
13 something like what we're doing right now, a special meeting or  
14 whatever, but there's just no substitute for actually going to  
15 our board meetings and seeing -- and having an interface with  
16 the -- with the residents and elected officials of the area so  
17 that we -- we know exactly what their problems are, and they can  
18 see that we are doing our best to find solutions.

19           So that being said, if Vice Chair Searle has any  
20 remarks he would like to make, go right ahead, Richard.

21           VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Thank you, Gary. No, no  
22 comments. Let's move on.

23           CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. I think the next item,  
24 Number 2, is the -- for discussion and possible action, and I  
25 think since -- since I've been on the Board, I think this is

1 probably one of the most important things that the  
2 Transportation Board does. It doesn't get to do it on a regular  
3 basis, but in this case it falls on us, and I think it's  
4 extremely important to look over the applications that were --  
5 the resumes that were sent forward to us. And we're looking at  
6 sending names to the Governor for Director Halikowski's  
7 replacement, and this is going to be a person that is going to  
8 be in charge of ADOT, and so I think it's extremely important  
9 what we do this morning. And so I think we do need to speak  
10 with -- we do need probably some legal advice --

11 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Gary --

12 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: -- moving forward with this, so  
13 I would -- I would entertain a motion to recess to an executive  
14 session.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Gary, I'll make a motion  
16 that we go into executive session.

17 MR. MAXWELL: Second.

18 MS. KUNZMAN: I'd like to just interrupt for one  
19 moment, and Gary, if I could share, I would suggest that the  
20 motion include the specific statutory provisions, because  
21 there's actually two bases for going into executive session, one  
22 being for legal advice, and the other to discuss personnel  
23 matters.

24 So you -- the motion could be something like: I  
25 move to convene in an executive session to discuss personnel

1 matters pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) and for the purpose  
2 of obtaining legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3).

3 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: That's exactly what I --  
4 my motion was.

5 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. Then I have a motion  
6 from Board Member Maxwell and a second by Board Member Searle;  
7 is that correct?

8 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, it was a motion  
9 by --

10 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I got a motion from --

11 MR. ROEHRICH: -- Vice Chair Searle and a second  
12 by Board Member Maxwell.

13 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Right. I got a Board Member --  
14 I got a motion from Board Member Searle and a second from Board  
15 Member Maxwell.

16 So all those in favor of going into executive  
17 session, signify by saying aye.

18 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: And if you -- Floyd, if you  
20 think you need to take a roll call vote, go right ahead.

21 MR. ROEHRICH: Was there any nays? If there's no  
22 nays, I'd say -- it sounds as if everybody else said aye, so I'd  
23 say you can go ahead and go into it.

24 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Yes. Are there any nays? No  
25 nays.

1                   MR. ROEHRICH: Okay. Yes, sir. Now,  
2 operationally, the board members have to do nothing. What's  
3 going to happen is the Webex host is going to move all six board  
4 members, Sherry Garcia, the Board Secretary, and Michelle  
5 Kunzman, the Board's legal counsel, she's going to move you into  
6 what's called a practice session. So she is going to action  
7 that.

8                   Once you're in there, she is going to turn over  
9 the duties to Sherry, and then she's going to leave. So you  
10 will only be the board members, the board secretary and the  
11 board legal counsel in this session. And you will have your  
12 deliberation. You will ask questions. You will do whatever.

13                   At the end of that, again, you will have to do  
14 nothing. At the end of the session, Mr. Chairman, when you're  
15 ready to come back, the board secretary will go ahead and start  
16 the action to bring you back and get Bryce back on board as the  
17 host, and then she will make sure everybody's back into the  
18 meeting. So it will all be handled between the board secretary  
19 and the Webex host. Board members have to do nothing.

20                   So at this time, I would ask Bryce and Sherry,  
21 please go ahead and do the action to establish the executive  
22 session.

23                   WEBEX HOST: Okay. I'm bringing everyone into  
24 the session right now.

25                   CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.



1 (Whereupon, the Board met in Executive Session  
2 9:30 a.m. to 9:58 a.m.)

3 MS. GARCIA: Bryce, I believe I've gave you back  
4 the responsibility of the host position now.

5 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. We're --

6 MS. GARCIA: Are you there?

7 WEBEX HOST: Yep. I am here, and then let me  
8 bring Floyd back over, and we are recording again as well.

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. We're back in regular  
10 session.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Gary, let's wait for  
12 Floyd.

13 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. I see his name up there.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: There he is. You back  
15 with us, Floyd?

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. We're back in -- we're  
18 back in regular session.

19 That being said, do I have a motion to forward  
20 the names discussed in executive session to the Governor for the  
21 ADOT director?

22 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I'll make a motion to  
23 forward Jennifer Toth and Kismet Weiss to the Governor for -- as  
24 applicants for ADOT director.

25 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Do I have a second?

1 MR. MECK: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board  
3 Member Searle to forward the names of Kismet Weiss and Jennifer  
4 Toth to the Governor for her consideration for ADOT director,  
5 and I have a second from Board Member Meck.

6 Any further discussion?

7 I think probably, Floyd, it would be best if  
8 you did a roll call.

9 MR. ROEHRICH: I agree, Mr. Chairman, so we'll  
10 go ahead and start.

11 Vice Chairman Searle.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Aye.

13 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

14 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

16 MR. MECK: Aye.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Maxwell.

18 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

19 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Thompson.

20 MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

21 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman Knight.

22 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Aye.

23 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

24 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

25 That being the last agenda item on our agenda,

1 do I hear a motion to adjourn?

2 MR. THOMPSON: I'll go ahead and motion. Board  
3 Member Thompson.

4 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board  
5 Member Thompson to adjourn. Do I have a second?

6 MR. MAXWELL: I'll second it.

7 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. Ted seconded it.  
8 All in favor.

9 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: We're adjourned. Thank you.

11 (Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.)

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 STATE OF ARIZONA     )  
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA }     ss.

3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were reported by me, TERESA A. WATSON, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Reporter, Certificate No. 50876, State of Arizona, from an electronic recording and were reduced to written form under my direction; that the foregoing 18 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of said electronic recording, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto, nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 6th day of February 2023.

          /s/ Teresa A. Watson          

TERESA A. WATSON, RMR  
Certified Reporter  
Certificate No. 50876

**Adjournment**

***A motion to adjourn the January 5, 2023, State Transportation Board Meeting was made by Board Member Jesse Thompson and seconded by Board Member Ted Maxwell. In a voice vote, the motion carried.***

**Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m. PST.**

Not Available for Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Gary Knight, Chairman  
State Transportation Board

Not Available for Signature \_\_\_\_\_

John S. Halikowski, Director  
Arizona Department of Transportation