

Chapter 1: The Program Development Process - An Overview

The Program Development Process Encompasses Departmental Goals of Safety, Congestion Relief, Maintenance, and Equity

Every Year, the Nevada Department of Transportation is responsible for the programming of over \$250 million dollars in federal, state, and local funding for a wide range of projects across the state. To allocate this tremendous resource in an equitable, efficient, and responsible manner requires a range of procedures.

The Program Development Division has adopted a flexible but accountable procedure that meets the needs of the traveling public, advances the Department's goals and priorities, and addresses the needs of a myriad of constituencies across the state.

Planning and programming is accomplished following federal guidelines. The seminal document for this process is the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which must meet the federal requirements of 23 CFR 450. The STIP is a listing of individual projects and programs for which federal funding will be obligated within each referenced fiscal year. It does not represent the actual expenditures in any particular year. Obligations in one year usually generate expenditures in one or more subsequent years. One of the most salient federal requirements is that the STIP must exactly match the local Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) for projects under the jurisdiction of the four Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) in Nevada.

NDOT's Mission Statement

To efficiently plan, design, construct, and maintain a safe and effective seamless transportation system for Nevada's economic, environmental, and social needs.

This process has been developed to be consistent with the NDOT Mission Statement that links the activities of the department with the broader societal goals that transportation serves. The Program Development staff is charged with creating an open, accessible, balanced, and defensible process that enables the Department to achieve these broader public policy goals.

Structure of The Program Development Division

The Program Development Division is where policy, government relations, and economics meet for the Nevada Department of Transportation. Division staff seeks to stay abreast of broad trends with local governments, and to develop long and short-term transportation plans that are compatible with that "big picture" perspective. The division tracks land-use planning, economic development, environmental, and political issues in local government and advises other divisions on these matters when appropriate.

History

The Program Development Division (PDD) was first created at the Nevada Department of Transportation in the summer of 1995. The division was carved out of the Transportation Planning Division to establish a more visible and proactive presence with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) in Clark and Washoe Counties. The original name given was the Metropolitan Planning Division and for approximately six months operated unofficially. However, in January of 1996 the Program Development Division became official.

The number one responsibility delegated to the PDD upon its inception was to maintain and administer the federally mandated Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This federal process involved coordinating with the MPO's in creating their Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

Other responsibilities delegated to the division include coordination of traffic modeling and transportation planning studies with the MPO's. Also assigned to the division in 1995 was the State requirement (set forward in NRS 408.203) to create and maintain the Annual Work Program (AWP), short-range element, and long-range element listing transportation projects that the Department intends to work on during the current fiscal year and proposed projects for the succeeding nine years.