

# WSTA 2010

## “A View From the Summit”

### 2010 Annual Report



### This Years Events

#### Summer Conference

WSTA Chairman Senator Scott Jenkins hosted the Summer Conference in Midway, Utah at the Zermatt Resort.

#### Fall Conference

A great time was had at the Hotel Andaluz in Albuquerque, NM and introduced WSTA's first Golf Event!

#### WSTA Golf

The UNM Hosted our 1st Annual Golf Event.

Multi-States Highway Transportation Agreement or MHTA through its dba Western States Transportation Alliance or WSTA continues to move forward and define its place in the western public policy discussions concerning highway transportation. WSTA during 2010 sought to address several major goals in the continuing effort to redefine WSTA and to provide tangible value to member states in these very tough economic times. WSTA sought to perform outreach efforts to all member states to engage them in frank and productive dialogues to create not only a future vision for WSTA but reconnect with all members and their various agencies and industry partners. WSTA sought to expand the audience and participants at WSTA conferences to include a wider array of highway users and policy proponents to include oil/gas industry, agricultural groups and the new emerging renewable energy groups or providers.



### Summer Conference, Zermatt Resort Midway Utah

With over 40 attendees, the summer conference provided not only a jam-packed agenda with informative presentations but an offsite trip that was quite the hit.



## 2010 In Review

WSTA had a productive year in moving both new policy and adopted past policies into the regional and national arenas and fulfilling its mission to help create regional uniformity for highway transportation and develop opportunities for greater highway transportation efficiencies. Western States Transportation Alliance continues to provide a forum for western states for the ongoing federal reauthorization

process. Member state legislators received information on the latest federal congressional actions in this area. WSTA has moved the winter meetings to New Mexico for the time being in order to create a stable scheduling environment and take advantage of great facilities and rates in that state. WSTA has implemented their reduced pricing options for WSTA associate partners who need financial assistance

in these tough times and will continue to work with the Advisory Committee in 2011 to address a possible tier dues system.

WSTA has the benefit of a very active Board of Directors in 2010. These state legislators committed time and effort in the organization to make WSTA a current and valuable resource to their states.

### Board of Directors 2010

Senator Scott Jenkins- Utah:  
Chairman

Rep. Robin Weisz- North  
Dakota: Vice Chairman

Rep. JoAnn Woods- Idaho:  
Sect/Treasurer

Rep. Phil Hart- Idaho: Board  
Member

Rep. Glenn Vaad- Colorado:  
Board Member

Senator Bruce Starr- Oregon:  
Past Chairman



# WSTA Summer Conference

WSTA conducted to very informative and productive conferences in 2010. The summer conference was in conducted in Utah and the home of Chairman Senator Scott Jenkins. The conference was set in a great location of Midway Utah at the Zermatt Resort. With over 40 attendees, the summer conference provided not only a jam-packed agenda with informative presentations but an offsite trip that was quite the hit.



## 2010 Summer Conference Presentations:

1. Panel Discussion on Federal Reauthorization. Panel members included Congressional Rep. Betsy Markey of Colorado (video presentation), Darcy Rosendahl of North Dakota Department of Transportation and Steve Keppler of CVSA.
2. Update on CSA2010 by Major Mark Savage of Colorado State Patrol and Chairman of CVSA Committee for CSA 2010 adoption.
3. Ted Scott from American Trucking Association provided an overview of ATA priorities for reauthorization and their research group priorities for the industry.
4. Jim Reed from National Committee of State Legislatures made a presentation on funding options for states to include Public/Private/ Partnerships.



Rio Tinto  
Kennecott Utah Copper

As one of the largest copper mines in the world, our desire to be the mining company of choice drives us to set and reach high environmental and safety standards that benefit our employees, our neighbors, and the community we call home.



## Continued

The Board of Directors at the Utah conference reviewed the financial statements and expenses of the organization and approved the financial report as presented. The Board did ask for several action items to include:

1. Trips by the Executive Director to member states to reengage legislative and agencies members back into WSTA. A Budget was set for these trips of \$5,000. States identified were; Wyoming, New Mexico, Montana and Idaho.
2. There was a great discussion about the status of both Nevada and Arizona in the organization as neither state paid their 2009 dues and had not paid for 2010 at the time of the conference. It was decided that staff would continue to reach out to both states and include them in all WSTA correspondence.
3. Board talked about the fall conference and the moving the location from Arizona to New Mexico for the time being. That effort was approved.
4. Board also previewed two potential 2010 resolutions;
  - a. ATA resolution for driver training to help drivers about commercial vehicles.
  - b. Resolution to support rural state funding requests in the federal reauthorization as developed by the five state coalitions in the west.
5. The Board also talked about dues and possible discussions with Advisory Committee on tier due system.



## WSTA Fall Conference

The fall conference was held after a bruising election cycle in November in Albuquerque New Mexico. We saw several new faces as the elections and our state recruiting trips had produced some new legislative players. We had an operational quorum for the meeting and had about 38 registered attendees with several more one time visitors to the meetings. Our fall meeting was kicked off by the WSTA golf outing at the University of New Mexico's golf course. All the golfers had a great time once they warmed up and the event even made money for the organization. The Mayor of Albuquerque kicked off our welcoming party and a good time was had by all

## Albuquerque, New Mexico

in great facility-Hotel Andaluz. The WSTA meet and had several discussion items to include the financial review of the organization. RJ Hicks presented the bank statements and PL statements to the Board for 2010 with projected expenditures for the remainder of the year.

- This financial report was approved by the Board.

The Board also approved two resolutions for Cooperating Committee approval:



2010 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf  
Outing- University of  
New Mexico Golf  
Course.

No Hole In One Prizes  
Given Away This  
Year!



This Course Made  
Everyone a Great  
Golfer!



Sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Annual Event!

## Continued

1. ATA Highway Safety Resolution for training drivers.
2. Rural western states resolution for federal funding in the reauthorization bill.

There was a discussion about AASHTO's letter to WGA on the 2009 WSTA resolution dealing with lifting the federal freeze on LCV. The Board requested that a letter be drafted for Cooperating Committee approval that would restate WSTA's desire to see the federal legislation allow western states to conduct pilot projects to lift the LCV freeze in the west. This 2009 resolution has since been presented to the Western Governors Association and approved by WGA.

The Board also talked about continuing travel assistance for legislators where needed and requested staff to work with the Advisory Committee in 2011 on the dues issues.

The presentations at the Fall Conference in New Mexico included:

1. FMCSA presentation of updates on federal rules done by New Mexico office of FMCSA, D. Geasland.
2. WGA presentation by Alex Schroder on transportation fuels of the future.
3. 2010 Election results and their impact on highway transportation funding and policy- Dave Miller.
4. Farm Bureau presentation on AG industry priorities in federal legislation- Elizabeth Jones
5. Truck Research presentation – ATA Research Institute- Rebecca Brewster
6. WASHTO Presentation- Highway Committee- Carol Davis Texas DOT

These presentations are linked with this report or are available on WSTA website at [www.mhta2.org](http://www.mhta2.org).

The Cooperating Committee actions at the Fall Conference:

- Rep. Robin Weisz of North Dakota was nominated and elected new Chairman of the Board for WSTA.
- Rep. JoAnn Woods agreed to stay on as Sect/Treasurer of WSTA Board
- Rep. Phil Hart was nominated and elected to be Vice Chair of WSTA Board.
- Senator Lee from North Dakota and Senator Van Tassell of Utah were elected to the Board of Directors of WSTA.
- Senator Jenkins now serves as the past Chairman of WSTA.
- The ATA resolution for Safe Highways Driver Education was approved
- Rural western states resolution for federal funding was



## From the Executive Director

I wish to express my deep appreciation for Anne O'Neill and Jay Hicks. These two staff persons work for WSTA on 3<sup>rd</sup> party contracts, not only do they have the dedication and professionalism but their passion has been there to make WSTA a relevant organization in these trying times. Both have performed above the call and the price for their services have been more than reasonable. This has enabled WSTA to regroup both operationally and financially to meet its current and future goals.

Continued

approved.

- WSTA response to AASHTO on the freeze for LCV in western states was approved.
- Summer conference will be held in Bismarck North Dakota in June, 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>.
- Fall conference site of Albuquerque New Mexico was approved by the Committee.
- Executive Director RJ Hicks gave the Committee a report on the state visits. North Dakota trip was a huge success with senator Lee-Chair Senate Transportation now engaged in WSTA and support from NDDOT, State Patrol and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. The Wyoming trip was also very successful as we were able to recruit Senator Von Flatern- Senate Chair of Transportation is attending fall meeting. Meet with Patrol and WYDOT officials as well.
- Vic Sheppard and Clay Wheytsine made great strides in getting chairs and Patrol of New Mexico to fall meeting.
- ***Many thanks to Rep. Weisz and Sheila Fortetch for their efforts in the Wyoming and North Dakota trips.*** Hicks will be planning trips to Montana and Idaho with another stop in Wyoming this spring.
- It was agreed that the states of Nebraska and South Dakota be invited to attend the summer conference in North Dakota to see if there is any interest in getting these two states to join. Texas was added to the list and staff will contact Ms. Davis of Texas DOT on the matter.
- It was agreed that federal legislation would be sought to deal with 2009 WSTA resolution on Interstate trucking taxation issues in each state. Newly elected Congressman Cory Gardner is now looking to introduce such legislation in DC.
- WSTA web site is being reviewed for increasing the functionality of the site to include a message board for state legislators/agencies/partners to communicate on legislative issues going on in each WSTA state. WSTA contractor Eye9 is looking into the enhancements and to the costs that will be incurred. By the summer meeting the website will have been updated and a possible training class for all members may be given by our contractor.

All adopted resolutions have a link to this report or can be found at the website [www.mhta2.org](http://www.mhta2.org)

Please see the links provided for the Utah Conference presentations or go to the WSTA/MHTA website at [www.mhta2.org](http://www.mhta2.org) for these presentations and other information about the conference. Copies of WSTA resolutions can be found at the website as well or by contacting WSTA staff members.

WSTA staff members for 2010 were:

R J Hicks- Executive Director

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Anne O'Neill- Events and Organization Management

The Meeting Edge

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The preparations for Summer Conference are proceeding and the facilities have been placed under contract. Dates are June 17<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> in Bismarck North Dakota. Tentative agendas will sent out in February with invited speakers. The fall conference will be in October with the same site as last fall, Albuquerque New Mexico.

Executive Director Hicks has spoken to a number of AG industry groups about their participation in WSTA and joining the organization. Farm Bureau and Western Dairy Farmers have been approached and Hicks will make presentations to these groups this winter or spring.

Many thanks go out to all the agency personnel, state legislators and industry partners for their support and attendance to our group's functions and goals. We look forward to possibly adding new states to WSTA in the near future and bringing back all member states into active participation.

Yours

RJ Hicks

Executive Director

Western States Transportation Alliance

Multi-State Transportation Agreement