

PSC DEPARTMENT DIGEST

Nebraska Public Service Commission

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PSC Transportation Department

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) was initially created by the Unicameral in 1885 to regulate railroads. So, to say the Transportation Department of the PSC has a long standing history would be an understatement.

Today, railroad safety still remains a part of the Transportation Department's duties, but the main focus these days, is on for-hire motor carriers of passengers and household goods on public highways in Nebraska.

The department regulates rates, services and safety of all intrastate for hire motor carriers transporting passengers to include, taxicabs, open class, special party, charter and limousines. Permits of authority are also issued for Transportation Network Companies (TNC's) such as Uber & Lyft.



“The goal of the transportation department is to promote and encourage safe, dependable, responsive, and adequate transportation across the state of Nebraska,” Jamie Reyes, Director, PSC Transportation Department.

In addition to motor carriers, the transportation department regulates rates, and services of carriers transporting household good within the state of Nebraska.

It also conducts safety inspections as a part of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) state rail safety participation program.

Read more about the [PSC Transportation Department](#) and its mission on the PSC website.



MEET YOUR TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TEAM

The PSC Transportation Department team is comprised of five full-time employees. The department is led by attorney Jamie Reyes. Ms. Reyes, began her career at the PSC as an attorney in the 911, Natural Gas & Transportation departments. She was named Transportation Director and State Rail Safety Program manager in November of 2016.

Working with Ms. Reyes, is an administrative assistant, and three inspector/investigators, two assigned to motor carriers/household goods and one assigned to railroad safety.



Transportation Dept. Director Jamie Reyes looks over a posting with Administrative Assistant Stasha Oborny

Susan Lamborn Retires after 42-years at the PSC

After 42- years of service to the State of Nebraska Susan Lamborn has retired.

Susan began her career with the PSC in July of 1977 as a secretary and the Commission's main court reporter. In 1995, she became the Administrative Assistant and court reporter for the Transportation Department.

Susan spent 24-years with the Transportation Department before retiring in August of 2019.



PSC Opens Docket, Seeks Comment on Motor Carrier Rules & Regulations



On October 29, the PSC entered an Order opening a docket and seeking comment in the matter of Rule & Regulations No. 203. The Order seeks to amend Title 291, Chapter 3, on Motor Carrier Rules & Regulations.

The Commission proposed to amend Title 291 by: (1) adding a new service classification, (2) incorporating rules pertaining to taxi soft meters, (3) updating language to reflect changes adopted in 2017 by the Legislature concerning hours of service, (4) clarifying federal logbook compliance, (5) updating minimum insurance requirements, and (6) updating rules regarding vehicle safety.

A PDF version of the proposed rule is available on the Commission's website @ <https://psc.nebraska.gov/administration/proposed-rules-regulations>

The PSC accepted comments from interested parties through November 29. An Order setting a hearing date should be opened by early next year.

TNC Annual Report to be filed in December

By the end of December the Transportation Department will file its annual Transportation Network Company (TNC) report to the Legislature.

The report, created by statute in 2015 with the passage of LB 629, contains information related to the regulation of TNCs by the PSC as well as data collected from taxicab carriers and TNCs operating in the state.

"We look forward to filing our annual TNC report with the legislature and hope that others within the transportation community across the state will find value in the information," said Transportation Department Director, Jamie Reyes.

LB 629 established a new classification of transportation service providers called TNCs, and allowed for the regulation of TNCs by the PSC. Per state statute, TNCs must apply with the PSC for permits to operate in Nebraska. Currently, two TNCs, Uber & Lyft, have authority to operate in the state.

Once filed, the 2019 TNC annual report will be available under the Transportation tab on the [TNC page](#) of the [PSC website](#).



Blocked Railroad Crossings Web Portal Launched by Federal Railroad Administration

The PSC Transportation Department is helping to raise awareness of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) new web page dedicated for the public and law enforcement to report blocked highway-rail grade crossings.

In announcing the new web portal in a late December [news release](#) the FRA said it expects the data gathered by the new site to aid in identifying where persistent problems exist.

Blocked crossings occur when a stopped train impedes the flow of motor vehicle or pedestrian traffic for an extended period of time. The FRA's new web portal requests specific information from users reporting blocked crossings to include date, time, locations and duration.

"We are pleased the FRA has taken this step to better understand the problem and identify possible solutions," said PSC Transportation Dept. Director Jamie Reyes. "We would encourage travelers who encounter blocked crossings to use this new tool.

You can access the FRA Blocked Crossing Webpage <https://www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings/> >.



FRA Launches New Railroad Crossing Safety & Trespass Prevention Website

We invite you to connect with the PSC by liking us on [Facebook](#) or following us on [Twitter](#) as we work to share important public safety and industry information.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission regulates telecommunications carriers, natural gas jurisdictional utilities, major oil pipeline, railroad safety, household goods movers and passenger carriers, grain warehouses and dealers, construction of manufactured and modular homes and recreation vehicles, high voltage electric transmission lines, and private water company rates.



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