

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

10:00 A.M.

July 21, 2023

PRESENT:

**Alexis Hill, Vice Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks, Via Zoom (Joined from 10:15 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.)
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno, Via Zoom (Joined @ 10:15 a.m.)
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner
Naomi Duerr, City of Reno (Alternate)**

**Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Darin Tedford, Deputy Director of NDOT**

ABSENT:

Devon Reese, Reno City Vice Mayor

The regular monthly meeting, held in the 1st Floor Great Room at Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Reno, Nevada, was called to order by Vice Chair Hill. The Board conducted the following business:

Item 1 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 PUBLIC INPUT

Vice Chair Hill opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on topics relevant to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) that are not included in the current agenda.

Ms. Dora Uchel-Martinez, NV Disability Peer Action Coalition Advocate and Coalition for the Blind, discussed concerns for her safety with Paratransit driver that came to pick her up for scheduled appointment who did not introduce himself as being with Paratransit and would not tell her his name. It made her feel unsafe not knowing who exactly was there and she did not get on the bus. Customer service told her they would send an Uber, then they told her they would not because the driver had been on-time, even though she explained what had happened.

Ms. Donna Clontz, local resident with the Senior Coalition, and Lead Volunteer with Age Friendly Communities Reno, who are expanding to the County and Sparks as well. We have surveys out to our seniors for what they think would make the community, County and City of Sparks more age friendly. I wanted to thank the RTC, and also let the Board know about the FlexRIDE program in Sparks/Spanish Springs. The Sparks Senior Advisory Board received the opportunity from their City Council to decide where some of their ARPA funds would go. They decided they would create a free transportation program using FlexRIDE in region of the County for one-year for seniors. I would love it if there were a way for RTC to do a press release or get out some information to let that community know that this opportunity exists for them, to try this out and

find out about this new way to get around. The Age Friendly Groups are very interested in improving transportation. It's one of the main things the seniors say they need.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Vice Chair Hill closed public input.

Item 3 *APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

On motion of Commissioner Garcia to move to approve with changes, seconded by Commissioner Duerr, which motion unanimously carried, Vice Chair Hill ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved.

Items 4 *CONSENT ITEMS*

4.1 Minutes

4.1.1 Approve minutes from 6/16/2023 Board meeting. (For Possible Action)

4.2. Reports

4.2.1 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report. (For Possible Action)

4.2.2 Acknowledge receipt of the Summary Report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees. (For Possible Action)

4.2.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report. (For Possible Action)

4.2.4 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report. (For Possible Action)

4.2.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation and Operations Activity Report. (For Possible Action)

4.2.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Outreach Report from the Communications staff. (For Possible Action)

4.3 Planning Department – (For Possible Action)

4.3.1 Approve funding for Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) projects for the federal fiscal year 2023-2024 cycle in the amount of \$1,605,000. (For Possible Action) – *Pulled for Discussion*

4.4 Engineering Department

4.4.1 Approve a contract with DOWL, LLC to provide traffic analysis and design services related to the North Valleys North Virginia Street Capacity Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,509,982. (For Possible Action)

4.4.2 Approve a Local Public Agency (LPA) Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for the use and reimbursement of federal funds on the Pyramid Highway/Sparks Boulevard Interchange and Connector Improvements Project. (For Possible Action)

4.4.3 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with the City of Reno for the reimbursement of the cost of specialized multi-use path maintenance equipment, in an amount not-to-exceed \$190,000. (For Possible Action)

4.4.4 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with the City of Sparks for the reimbursement of the cost of specialized multi-use path maintenance equipment, in an amount not-to-exceed \$190,000. (For Possible Action)

4.4.5 Approve a contract with Kimley Horn & Associates, Inc., for design and optional construction management services for the Buck Drive Circulation Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$511,164. (For Possible Action)

- 4.4.6 Approve a contract with CA Group, Inc., for professional services for the Lemmon Drive Traffic Improvements and Resiliency Project NEPA and design, in an amount not-to-exceed \$5,583,739. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.7 Approve a contract with Wood Rodgers Inc., for the preliminary and final design of the Downtown West Fourth Street Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$741,480. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.8 Approve Amendment No. 4 to the Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Atkins North America Inc., for additional engineering during construction services needed in connection with extending the contract performance period for the Sky Vista Parkway Rehabilitation Project, in the amount of \$40,000, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,500,173. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.9 Authorize staff to return \$708,938.32 of federal funds to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for certain costs that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) considers ineligible for federal participation on the Arlington Avenue Bridges Replacement Project. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Duerr would like to pull Item 4.3.1 for discussion.

Vice Chair Hill asked for a motion to approve Consent items, minus 4.3.1. On motion of Commissioner Garcia to move to approve Consent items, seconded by Commissioner Duerr, which motion unanimously carried, Vice Chair Hill order that Consent Items, minus 4.3.1, be approved.

For the record Mayor Lawson and Mayor Schieve voted yes, for approval of Consent Items, minus 4.3.1.

4.3.1 Approve funding for Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) projects for the federal fiscal year 2023-2024 cycle in the amount of \$1,605,000. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Duerr said she pulled this item because both Madam Vice Chair and myself sponsored one of these items, which is to address sidewalk issues along Plumas and Urban, near the Washoe County Golf Course. I wanted to thank the RTC Staff Review Committee for prioritizing this item. This is the kind of project we all love to see, where we are enhancing pedestrian safety in particular.

On motion of Commissioner Duerr to move to approve Item 4.3.1, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion unanimously carried, Vice Chair Hill ordered that Item 4.3.1 be approved.

For the record Mayor Lawson and Mayor Schieve voted yes, for approval of Item 4.3.1.

Item 5 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1. Presentation regarding final summary of discussions and actions at the 82nd (2023) Session of the Nevada Legislature. (No Action Required)

Michael Hillerby with Kaempfer Crowell gave a summary of the Legislative Session and stated he would be happy to answer any questions after the summary.

The Legislature completed their 120-day regular session and promptly when into two special sessions, one would become the shortest session on record to pass the Capital Improvement Project bill that had failed on the last night of the session. The bill ultimately passed that talked about the State Funding portion of what would be a public stadium for a Major League Baseball team, in this case the Oakland A's.

In terms of RTC, first I want to thank the Board for the opportunity to continue to represent you. It is a job that I enjoy a great deal and our firm is very pleased with, so thank you and thank you to your staff, Paul Nelson, Amber Bowsmith, all of the Director's and Bill Thomas. Appreciate the regular meetings and quick responses we received from everyone.

Bill AB93 would have allowed school zone speed enforcement cameras, which was a bill the Board decided to support. This bill didn't do very well and was never heard. That remains a subject that is really difficult for the Legislature.

AB14 was sponsored by Assemblywoman Natha Anderson and co-sponsored by Senator Skip Daly, both from Sparks. That bill was brought up on behalf of the Teamsters and really dealt with the relationship between Keolis, the Teamsters and us on a handful of issues.

We spent a lot of time on that bill and I'd like to acknowledge the work that Assemblywoman Anderson did. She worked very hard and we had a number of meetings with Mr. Thomas, myself, staff with representatives of a variety of Labor Locals here, including the Teamsters. I think those went well and spoke well of what I hope is a good future for that relationship. In the end, counties with more than 700,000 in population, which now applies to Washoe County, needs to have a Bench, Bus Stop and Shelter Advisory Committee. Two members of that committee would be appointed by you. Those need to be employees of the Contractor that runs the Transit System. That can either be a stand-alone committee or the law allows those duties to be assigned to another Advisory Committee that you may have. This is something to consider as the effective date if October 1, 2023, and I know staff is working on some recommendations, so we can be ready to meet the deadline.

The bill also has some specific language about retention of video events that happen on the buses and how that can be accessed by representatives of employees and the time limit involved. As newer buses come into the freight, I think it will be easier to do that.

Another bill, AB184, was by Assemblyman Howard Watts. That bill provides an incentive program for hydrogen and electric medium and heavy-duty vehicles. RTC is listed as one of the organizations that would qualify for those. We are also one of the organizations that would get a bump on the incentive of an extra 10% for vehicles that qualified.

The gas tax holiday bill, to get some money back to Nevadan's, became a bit of a political football and it did not go through.

I want to thank your staff who are great and provide considerable assistance in reviewing these bills and getting us information and guidance from those of you on the Legislative Committee at the Board level makes our representation much easier.

Commissioner Duerr asked about AB93, the automated enforcement and speed cameras. One of the biggest complaints I get as a Councilmember is people speeding. A number of people have written in asking if we can have camera automated enforcement? What do you think would be the future for this? Do you think this is dead in the water for a decade, or do you think there is any interest in moving forward with that?

Michael Hillerby, I'll talk a little bit about the past and to the extent that would be something that guides on our thoughts for the future. One of the things that lead to this proposal from the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and others was; in a number of locales including Washoe County, we think we've done just about everything we can do to make those better. We've re-engineered them,

we've moved things around, we've increased signage and patrols. You see law enforcement working with the school district. Given the limited resources to have patrols out in front of every school all the time, we think we've done everything we can to make those areas as safe as possible, given the resources and was certainly something that this Board was supportive of. The history has been that there has always been a concern that those cameras might inordinately target minority communities and that is what has killed those bills in the past.

Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director wanted to take this opportunity to specifically thank Michael and his firm. They did a really good job of representing us this year. Great guidance, definitely dedicated and committed and responsive, so I wanted to thank you publicly on behalf of our staff and the Board.

5.2. Quarterly report from Keolis Transit Services, LLC regarding fixed-route operations and maintenance performance measures. (No Action Required)

Phil Pumphrey, General Manager for Keolis and Karin Pinkerton, Customer Service Manager for Keolis, presented a slide show and gave the quarterly update on Keolis Transit Services.

5.3. Approve the Verdi Area Multimodal Transportation Study. (For Possible Action)

Bill Thomas, Executive Director, started by giving some background on this item. This particular study was initiated by the former Chair, so this is an example of situations where the Board members have the opportunity to collectively agree on providing us direction on areas where we need to do some analysis. A lot of people, including NDOT, participated in this study, and we're hoping this can provide guidance going forward for the community and RTC.

Xuan Wang, RTC Senior Technical Planner, presented a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the Verdi Area Multimodal Transportation Study.

We focused on the Regional Roads and also coordinated with NDOT to look into the freeways and interchanges. This study is to engage the public stakeholders and our partner agencies to identify a list of potential improvements.

The first step in the Planning stage is to identify needs and after this study is completed. The recommended improvements will be prioritized in RTC's Regional Transportation Plan and NDOT's One Nevada Plan. When the improvements are ready to go, they will go through environmental analysis, design and construction.

We had two public meetings and multiple Technical Advisory Committee meetings to discuss the study with local agencies and NDOT. We also had an online survey, which received 273 responses.

Based upon the analysis and public input, we developed recommendations. The slide shows improvements for freeways, which are divided into three (3) time frames and are already working on the near-term improvements to install wildlife fencing and the removal of the rumble strips, because of the noise complaints. The near-term improvements include median cable barrier installation and the improvements for several bridges. The long-term improvements include the widening of I-80 to accommodate the growth and the construction of the Gold Ranch interchange.

For Regional Roads, community members expressed their concerns about South Verdi Road. This road is currently two-lanes with steep slopes on both sides and it poses safety concerns when the road is icy. A portion of the road is within the UPRR Right-of-Way and the current volume is about 420

vehicles per day, making the benefit cost ratio low. During the study, we looked at different options for improving the road. As I said, this study is to identify the needs, so once we are ready to move forward with the improvements, we will do a more focused public outreach and a more detailed investigation to identify the best improvement concept.

We also recommended improvements for bike and pedestrians, which include the improvement at the Edinburgh roundabout and also to provide shared use paths along 3rd Street and Bridge Avenue. We recommended installing shared use paths under I-80 along Crystal Park Road to improve the sight distance.

Other areas we looked at concerned truck parking during winter weather when I-80 is closed, as semi-trucks park along local roads. We would work continuously with NDOT on the State Freight Plan to address truck parking and advanced notification along I-80. Also, identifying private parcels near Gold Ranch, Mogul and 4th Street for additional truck parking.

The RTC is also moving forward with the Regional Freight Study, which will address freight planning in the region. We also recommended Park and Ride locations near the Gold Ranch Interchange and partnership with the Boomtown Casino to develop Park and Ride lots. The community also requested transit. The RTC already has the FlexRIDE On Demand Transit Services in Verdi, but many residents don't know about this service. During our public meetings we demonstrated how to use the service and they were very interested in it. We still need to continue the educational effort on this.

The study included a speed analysis using Connected Vehicle Data through UNR's research. The speed data showed that the compliances are generally good in Verdi, but if in the future we need to do speed management, we can consider reducing the lanes on 3rd Street to 11' and also work with the law enforcement to reinforce the speed.

The last slide shows a summary of all recommended improvements, and we also have the Draft Report on our website with all of the details.

Chad Anson, Project Manager with CA Group Inc., is our consultant who is also here, and we are happy to answer any questions.

Commissioner Duerr said she is so pleased we are doing this study and is looking forward to see the road improvements and bike and pedestrian safety improvements.

Vice Chair Hill is also looking forward to seeing all of the improvements for roads and safety.

Vice Chair Hill called for public comment.

Ms. Dee Ann Radcliffe, long time Verdi resident, wanted to talk a little about the roads and brought along pictures that were passed out to all Board members. Wrong way crashes, Garson Interchange, Garson Overpass, safety issues for bikes and pedestrians. Traffic increases in the area, narrow roads for trucks, no striping.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia to approve Item 5.3, seconded by Commissioner Duerr, which motion carried unanimously.

6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

1. We are extremely happy to receive two very important federal grants. The Federal Highway Administration has awarded a 25-million-dollar RAISE Grant to the RTC for the Lemmon Drive Improvements and Resiliency Project. The project makes some key environmental and safety improvements to 3.7 miles of Lemmon Drive. This is one of the projects that the board identified as a federal priority.
2. The other grant is the Low or No Emission Vehicle Program from the Federal Transit Agency. The RTC will receive 8.78 million dollars to support the purchase of six additional hydrogen fuel cell buses and the expansion of hydrogen fueling infrastructure. It will pay for an innovative virtual reality program to train bus mechanics to use this cutting-edge technology. As you know, 100 percent of our fleet uses alternative fuel. This grant will help increase sustainability.
3. I would like to welcome our two newest employees. Eliseo Garcia Cruz is our Engineering Intern who started on June 5th. James Okorochoa is our new Planning Intern. He started on June 23rd.
4. Xuan Wang celebrated her 10-year anniversary with RTC, July 8th. Judy Tortelli and Mark Schlador both celebrated their five-year anniversary, July 9. John Ponzo celebrates his 25th anniversary, July 27. Congratulations to all four of you and thank you for your hard work here.
5. Congratulations to Amanda Callegari on her promotion to Engineering Manager. Amanda has proven to be a very valuable asset to the RTC, so this is very well-deserved. She is replacing Doug Maloy who retired this month.
6. The Hubbard Way bus station is substantially complete and in operation across the street from the Peppermill. The new Virginia Line RAPID station is one of the busiest stops along the corridor. I want to thank Ian Chamberlain for his leadership on this project, along with Kimley-Horn and Associates – and Q & D Construction. The 1.7 million-dollar investment makes this BRT stop much safer and more comfortable for our customers. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard on this important project.
7. For the second year in a row, the RTC Finance Department has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award comes from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This is for our annual financial report for Fiscal Year '22. This is the highest form of recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting. Congratulations to Christian Schonlau and his team for a job well-done.
8. Once again, the RTC will provide free bus rides on our RAPID Virginia and Lincoln Lines – Routes one and 11 – and ACCESS for Hot August Nights. The free service will be all day, each day from August 1st through August 6th.
9. Congratulations to the Keolis Driver of the month – Timothy Radley. Tim has worked as a bus operator for RTC RIDE since January of 2002. Tim is known as a gentle giant and as the kindest individual. He treats the passengers with respect and dignity. Tim is such a good employee that sometimes we forget he works there. He's also quite the car enthusiast. His pride and joy in his '67 Volkswagen Beetle.
10. Please join us in congratulating Byron Mac-chi-etto as the MTM Employee of the Month. Byron has been an employee since 2005, back when it was Citilift. He's known by his co-workers as Bronco because of his love for the Denver Broncos. He appreciates his co-workers, gets along well with passengers, and gets a lot of positive remarks from both. Outside of work he is the family repair man with 8 kids and 12 grandkids. He keeps busy with toys and appliances alike, and he enjoys bowling. Bronco is a great example of MTM Transit's core values – and embodies our vision that every trip is important.

6.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Office, the Senate THUD bill passed in committee with no opposition. There is \$2.5 million for the Sun Valley Boulevard project, and that is one of the priorities that the Board laid out for us last December. Regionally, there is also funding for Pyramid Way and SR28 at Lake Tahoe. There are also several other projects throughout the State that are included in this bill. The bill provides additional funding for the Low No Program and Bus and Bus Facilities Grants and it provides \$16.8 billion for the FTA.

The House of Appropriations THUD bill looks quite a bit different. The good news is the Transit Formula Funds match the IJA reauthorization levels of \$13.9 billion, so most agencies are very unlikely to see any kind of significant loss of formula funding, especially those who have fewer miles traveled and a slower population growth. The bill would cut transportation funding for RAISE, Mega, Capital Investment Grants and Bus and Bus Facilities Grants. This is just the starting point for the negotiations between the House and Senate, so we have quite a way to go. Talking to our partners in Washington, D.C., they say that it's pretty unlikely that any of our projects would be affected by the negotiations, as it's more of a policy.

We also submitted our application for the Safe Streets and Roads For All Grant a couple weeks ago and we're hoping for some good news. We're asking for \$9 million. We learned a lot from the last go around where we asked for money for several projects, so we narrowed this one down to 6th Street in Reno.

6.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Deputy Director Darin Tedford started off with a couple of informal responses to questions that were raised during the meeting.

In the Bipartisan Infrastructural Law Funding, there was specific funding designated for structures. That is a huge increase to what we would typically get for Federal Funding, which amounts to about \$45 million per year. Part of that money goes to off system bridges, which we are working on with RTC for several bridges in Washoe County. The bulk of that money will be used on State maintained bridges and we've identified two sections. Garson Road is one of the bridges in the seven-bridge package. The rest of the bridges come back towards Keystone Avenue, and we're going to put out a design build project to replace those. There will be between \$100 million and \$200 million design build project coming up in the next couple of years.

We are setting up the Garson Bridge to be replaced and widened in the best manner possible. We are working with RTC on this now.

There was legislation that was issued for a \$5 million earmark to work towards the State match for Federal Grants for Wildlife Crossings. So, along with that legislation comes the requirement for an implementation of a plan, appointment of Board members for making those decisions and where they should be done. NDOT has done a lot of work Statewide looking at where we have issues because we track every type of crash that happens in the State, including crashes with wildlife. So, we have that data and the ability to inform the decision on priorities of crossings and we're going to go after Grants. The \$5 million typically would end up being 5% of a Grant match, it depends on the grant, but that \$5 million could turn into \$100 million easily and let us put wildlife crossings where they are needed and prioritized. We will be working on that in the future.

For our official report, we will start with our safety improvements update. The RTC is working with NDOT to install a roundabout at Woodland and Mesa Park to improve safety on 4th Street. That will improve safety for not just the traffic traveling on 4th Street, but coming in from both of those access roads. We are also working on concepts for roundabouts to improve safety further to the east on 4th Street.

As far as the Covid-19 funding recession update, we did not lose any of those funds that were offered to the States previously.

Project updates on Mt. Rose Highway Safety Improvements, two of the main things is drainage going along Mt. Rose Highway to come down from about Thomas Creek down about a mile where there is an open ditch. We're putting some of that drainage in pipes, so we can have a multi-use path that goes from Thomas Creek down to the neighborhood that is less than ¼ mile down that leads to the school. Those improvements are expected to be completed in the fall.

We will also be doing some lane closures on I-80 West for emergency surface repairs.

Our last major Reno I-580 marathon weekend will be this weekend. Starting this evening, July 21st, traffic control is already being set out and the message boards are up all the way down to Washoe Valley. We put 5 million pounds of new polymer concrete on redoing the surface on the bridge via duct over the top of the RTC bus station.

Commissioner Duerr had a follow up question on the Garson overpass. Are you going to keep it one lane each way instead of two lanes? Also, if it will be one lane each way, can you add the pedestrian bike lane now?

Darin Tedford, correct that it will be one lane each way. We believe we can add the bike lane, because that's not adding capacity in terms of vehicles, but we're double checking and we realize that is a valuable component to have.

Item 7 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Schieve would like to have conversations with the Board and have the following items put on the next Board agenda:

- Paving and lighting the Truckee River.
- 4th Street safety, lighting and crosswalk flashers.
- Street lights in general and replacing them on a regular schedule, rather than only when a project comes up in an area.
- Pilot for transportation up to Lake Tahoe.

Item 8 PUBLIC INPUT

Vice Chair Hill opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on topics relevant to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) that are not included in the current agenda.

Ms. Dora Uchel-Martinez, NV Disability Peer Action Coalition Advocate and Coalition for the Blind, wanted everyone to know that July is Disability Awareness Month. I wanted to thank Bill Thomas, Mark Maloney and Susi Trinidad for all of their help. Mayor Schieve and everyone for their continued work in helping make our area ADA safe.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the Vice Chair Hill closed public input.

Item 9 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Vice Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

****Copies of all presentations are available by contacting Michelle Kraus at mkraus@rtcwashoe.com.**