

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:03 A.M.

May 22, 2020

PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

**Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman – in person
Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member, Vice Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner
Oscar Delgado, Reno City Council Member
Ron Smith, Sparks City Council Member**

**Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director – in person
Dale Ferguson, Legal Counsel
Kristina Swallow, Director of NDOT**

The regular monthly meeting, held in the Chambers of the Washoe County Commission, 1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada and via Zoom meeting, was called to order by Chairman Lucey. Following the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country, the Board conducted the following business:

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Presentation report pertaining to the 2019 RTC MPO Certification Review given by Mr. Enos Han of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Being a Zoom meeting, Mr. Enos shared his screen and gave a brief overview of the certification review which is required for MPOs every four years. The focus is on compliance with federal regulations in the MPO process. The reviewers look at planning documents, agreements, studies, NYUs and bylaws. While the desk review is taking place, discussion topics are noted for follow-up at the second meeting. For the cyber review, it takes 2-3 days to meet with the MPO staff and discuss different topics of interest. Once done, a report is completed in approximately 60 days that summarizes the process used, the findings of the review and whether the MPO is certified subject to corrective actions or certified for the use of only certain construction funding categories.

There are five potential corrective actions that have to be addressed immediately or certification cannot occur. However, a contingent certification can occur until the correct actions are addressed.

He then reviewed various recommendations to be considered for action and commendations, which are noteworthy practices demonstrate innovative, highly effective, well-thought-out procedures for implementing the planning requirements.

RTC Washoe MPO Planning Process was certified with no corrective actions and a handful of commendations and recommendations as follow:

- **Commendations:**
 - Quality of 2040 regional transportation plan
 - Quality of UPWP studies
 - The direct connection from UPWP studies to Implementation
 - Use of metro quest for travel demand analysis and use in the 2050 RTP update
 - The incorporations of complete streets initiatives within projects
 - Outstanding public involvement process
 - Strong connection within the community

- **Recommendations:**
 - Recommend that RTCWA continue to look into NDOT having voting responsibility within the MPO board
 - Update CMP process to describe how regional roads and other roads are incorporated into the project selection process
 - RTCWA consider adjusting the MPO boundaries to include growth areas (i.e industrial center) with the new census
 - Incorporate fiscal constraint tables or description of how the eSTIP represents fiscal constraint for the TIP
 - Clarify how transit voting is represented on the board

Chairman Lucey then thanked Mr. Han for his presentation and the RTC's beneficial relationship with the FHWA.

Item 1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lucey announced that Item 3.9 will be pulled of the agenda for today to be considered at another meeting date.

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Mayor Smith, which motion unanimously carried, Chairman Lucey ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved with the aforementioned item removed.

Item 2.1 PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Lucey opened the meeting to public input and stated that public comment was accepted until 4:00 pm the previous evening for topics relevant to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) that are not included in the current agenda.

Mr. Jeff Church, Local Resident, submitted written comments via email on May 21, 2020, at 3:05 pm as follow:

The RTC should NOT support the 501c)(6) Reno BID/ Downtown Reno Partnership (DRP) for three main reasons:

1. Conserve funds in view of the fiscal tsunami
2. The RTC requested re-assessment as a protest to City Council: You can simply opt out! Do so.
3. It is inappropriate to voluntarily give free taxpayer money to an advocacy group (See US Supreme Court decision of “Janus” and “Fleck”.)

Source BID Plan: “According to NRS 271, properties exempt from assessment are limited to those owned by the federal government and public schools. Local governments may opt in to pay their fair share of assessment, but are not required to do so by the statute.”

As a property owner and taxpayer I object to use of my dollars to advocate for positions I may not agree with by your agency voluntarily funding the BID/ DMO 501c6 Advocacy organization.

“As Jefferson famously put it, “to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhor[s] is sinful and tyrannical,” as quoted in *Janus and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) v. Public Util. Comm.* (1986)

There are serious issues with the legality of the BID and ongoing litigation. As constituted, the BID is illegal. *Lorton vs City of Reno (CV19-01028)*. More litigation is likely.

www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/business-leagues

A 501(c) (6) one must pay dues paying members (not mandatory assessments), and a common business interest. The DRP has neither dues nor members. Clearly no common interests among with retiree condo owners, churches, vacant lots.

They are being involuntarily assessed, can't vote and can't opt-out.

And so opined the Nevada Department of Taxation via their A.G.: Copy of Taxation letter on request. “At a minimum, the Reno BID/DMO is subject to the jurisdiction of the Department pursuant to the Local Government Budget and Finance Act, pursuant to NRS 354.474(1).”

In view of the above, all government agencies should cease supporting the Reno BID/ DRP.

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

Item 2.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES SUMMARY REPORT

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Mayor Smith, which motion unanimously carried, Chairman Lucey ordered that receipt of the monthly Summary Report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees be acknowledged..

Item 3.1 thru 3.20 CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

- 3.1 Approve the minutes of the April 15, 2020, meeting (For Possible Action)**

Engineering

- 3.2 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.3 Acknowledge receipt of the Virginia Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Extension monthly progress report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.4 Acknowledge receipt of the Lemmon Valley monthly progress report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.5 Acknowledge receipt of the Sun Valley Boulevard Project progress report (*For Possible Action*)**

Public Transportation/Operations

- 3.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation/Operations Report (*For Possible Action*)**

Planning

- 3.7 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.8 Approve the FY 2021 Shared Work Program with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.9 Approve 2050 RTP project evaluation criteria and receive report regarding RTP development process (*For Possible Action*) *Pulled from agenda per Item 1.***

Administration

- 3.10 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.11 Approve the RTC Safety Management System Plan (Safety Management Plan) as required by 49 C.F.R. Part 673 (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.12 Approve the renewal of a 12-month service agreement with RFI Communications & Security Systems for maintenance and repair of RTC security systems not to exceed \$112,548. Authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the service agreement renewal (*For Possible Action*)**

Procurement and Contracts

- 3.13 Approve the agreement for four years plus two, three-year option terms with Enterprise Leasing Company-West, LLC (Enterprise) to provide vehicles, maintenance, insurance, marketing, and customer service in support of the RTC VANPOOL program; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.14 Authorize the RTC Executive Director to finalize and execute this utility relocation and reimbursement agreement with Charter Communications Inc. for construction work on the Sun Valley Boulevard Improvements Project (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.15 Authorize the RTC Executive Director to finalize and execute the utility relocation and reimbursement agreement with Nevada Bell Telephone for**

construction work on the Sun Valley Boulevard Improvements Project (*For Possible Action*)

- 3.16 Authorize the RTC Executive Director to finalize and execute this utility relocation and reimbursement agreement with Sierra Pacific Power Company dba NV Energy for construction work on the Sun Valley Boulevard Improvements Project (*For Possible Action*)
- 3.17 Approve Change Order (CO) No. 15 in the amount of \$204,747 for additional work associated with traffic signal systems, ADA compliance, and tree substitutions requested by the RTC on the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit (BRT) Extension Project; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute CO No. 15 (*For Possible Action*)
- 3.18 Approve an agreement with Cardinal Infrastructure, LLC for federal advisory services in the amount of \$84,000; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)

Request for Proposal (RFP)

- 3.18 Authorize the Qualifications Based Request for Proposal (RFP) for the selection of Professional Services for the Electric and Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure and Advanced Mobility Plan (*For Possible Action*)

Property Actions

- 3.19 Approve a transfer of APN 032-171-35 to the City of Sparks pursuant to the March 24, 2003, FONSI for the Centennial Plaza Project; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute a quitclaim deed and/or all other documents necessary to consummate the transfer of APN 032-171-35 to the City of Sparks (*For Possible Action*)
- 3.20 Approve a resolution regarding the disposition of a remnant parcel acquired in connection with the construction of the Pyramid Highway/La Posada-Eagle Canyon Intersection Improvement Project, affirming that the parcel is not required for public use, and directing staff to dispose of the remnant parcel consistent with the terms set forth in the related resolution; authorize the RTC Chairman to execute the resolution on behalf of the Commission (*For Possible Action*)

On motion of Mayor Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that Consent Items 3.1 through 3.20 be approved, excluding Item 3.9 which was pulled from the agenda under Item 1.

Item 4.1 thru 4.3 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- 4.1 Acknowledge receipt of the RTC 2019 Annual Report (*For Possible Action*)

Executive Director Thomas noted that this item is linked to Item 4.2 for consideration during the evaluation of the RTC by the Board. He then introduced Amy Cummings, RTC Deputy Executive Director and Planning Director.

Ms. Cummings joined via Zoom and explained that this document is used to share with the community how the RTC is doing with their performance measures as well as to report back on the investments being made in the community. This provides a fully transparent process.

She continued, stating that there have been a number of significant accomplishments which she then showed in a video shared from her screen. The video may be viewed on www.RTCWashoe.com.

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Vice Chair Jardon, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that receipt of the RTC 2019 Annual Report be acknowledged.

4.2 Rate the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) overall agency performance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020); temporarily suspend RTC Personnel Rule 5.7 – Salary Adjustments and Pay-for-Performance and approve an alternative approach to potential salary adjustments for FY 2021 as recommended by the RTC Executive Director or as otherwise directed by the Board (*For Possible Action*)

E.D. Thomas said this item consists of two specific actions; the first being the completion of the overall agency performance review for fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020). The second is to temporarily suspend RTC's personnel rule 5.7 pertaining to the agency's pay for performance program which is historically linked to the agency review by the Board. He then introduced Angela Reich, Director of Administrative Services, who joined via Zoom.

Ms. Reich said that in response to the current situation with COVID-19 and the uncertainty of impacts on the FY 2021 revenues and fund balances, an alternative approach is being recommended to the annual pay for performance which includes a temporary suspension of salary adjustments and the pay for performance pool. The recommended alternative approach includes the following:

1. The agency rating will not be a factor in any salary adjustment for staff.
2. A potential 2.5% across the board increase for eligible employees in the place of a pay for performance pool that would have no adverse impacts on RTC's service or any other funds.
3. E.D. Thomas would be authorized to apply all or a portion of the funds on or after July 1st if and when he determines that productive revenues and fund balances are sufficient.

As has occurred since 2013, staff recommends that the Board rate the agency based on the FY 2020 goals, between a .6 and a 1.5, with 1.5 being the highest possible rating. Additional alternatives will be followed if directed by the Board.

Ms. Cummings then presented the agency's FY 2020 goals via Zoom screen share, while emphasizing the following:

Safety has been the primary focus of the RTC Board who approved the Vision Zero action plan in the past year and which continues to be updated on a regular basis.

ADA Accessibility is also a primary objective and the first round of ADA fixed route bus stop improvements are now under construction.

Another priority is to bring in as many federal dollars to the region as possible so the RTC applied for five competitive discretionary grants which staff is now waiting to hear back on.

She then mentioned the major projects under construction or that are continuing in an ongoing basis, as well as the multiple planning studies, including South Meadows and the UNR Study.

There have been multiple accomplishments in the transit program, such as the implementation of micro transit and the U-Pass, as well as multiple facilities projects that are either under way or have been completed.

She then thanked Director Swallow and NDOT for their partnership on the Spaghetti Bowl Xpress project.

E.D. Thomas then mentioned his short tenure as executive director and said he was impressed by how much was accomplished in just a year and gave credit to the Board, the previous executive director and staff, and looks forward to the Board's thoughts on performance over the past year.

Vice Chair Jardon said she would like to hear input from the executive director on the direction and rationale he would like to see going forward.

E.D. Thomas explained that although the RTC is local government, they are not the same as the cities and the county. Different revenue sources are obtained for the RTC, but sales tax is a shared revenue source. He believes reward is given for good performance and that is typically done with some type of salary adjustment. However, he is asking the Board to give him some time and authorize him based on the judgement of how people have performed in the organization as a whole, as well as by what is found out in July. Most revenue numbers lag by a few months.

He added that the budget is very conservative, travel has been greatly limited and positions have been frozen until more information is known. At the same time, he doesn't want to totally ignore the performance of staff.

Chairman Lucey recommended that the Board move forward with the approach put forward by the executive director being that we are in uncertain times. There have not been major declines in fuel or sales taxes yet, but they may still come and it would be cognizant to remember that and to be as conservative as possible moving forward.

Commissioner Hartung thinks it's wise to conserve the RTC cash in this way.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hartung giving the RTC Executive Director the authority to utilize an alternative approach to potential staff salary adjustments for FY 2021. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jardon and upon a vote, passed unanimously.

Mayor Smith asked if that motion also included the suspension of RTC Personnel Rule 5.7 and Chairman Lucey confirmed that it does.

Commissioner Hartung confirmed that it was the intention of his motion.

E.D. Thomas asked if the Board would still provide an agency rating or even feedback on the agency's performance, although it is not connected to a salary increase.

Mayor Smith said that based on the previous year's rating, and no obvious decline in performance, he would like to make a motion to rate the agency with a 1.5. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Delgado and upon a vote, passed unanimously.

This presentation may be viewed on www.RTCWashoe.com.

4.3 Discussion and direction to the RTC Executive Director regarding the evaluation and potential modification of the RTC's approach to the provision of legal services (*For Possible Action*)

E.D. Thomas said this item is a general overview on how legal services are provided to the RTC. He added that he's been working with Adam Spear, RTC's Director of Legal Services, to determine option for efficiency and consistency. He recommended that he continue to work with Mr. Spear and return in June with a plan to move forward for the next year. Bringing it this month was to give the Board the opportunity for input before a recommended plan is put into place.

Chairman Lucey said he had been discussing this topic with the previous Executive Director Lee Gibson and now with Executive Director Thomas. He said all legal services needed are generally provided via contract, grant, etc. Now that there is in-house legal counsel, he would like a reevaluation of this process to make it more efficient. He would like E.D. Thomas to bring back a plan for a new format for legal services for the RTC.

With the direction given, no motion was made on this item.

Items 5.1 thru 5.2 PUBLIC HEARINGS

5.1 Public hearing - no earlier than 9:05 a.m. Time Certain:

Recommendation to approve the resolution adopting Amendment No. 2 to the FFY 2020-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the Self Certification for the metropolitan transportation planning process (*For Possible Action*)

Mr. Dan Doenges, RTC Planning Manager, addressed the Board via Zoom and shared his screen to present the proposed amendment number 2 to the RTIP to include three new projects and amending an existing project. The new projects are to include funding for the following:

- FlexRIDE services in the Spanish Springs and Verdi/Somerset areas
- Operation of the Virginia Line service to UNR
- TE Spot Improvement 10

He said lastly, staff would like to add STBG funding to the Arlington Avenue Bridge Replacement project for preliminary engineering.

This topic was advertised as required by NRS and was presented before the Technical Advisory Committee and the Citizen's Multimodal Advisory Committee. There have been no comments received to date.

Mr. Doenges, then offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Hartung thanked staff for getting transit of some sort into the Spanish Springs area. It is a much needed addition he has been requesting for a long time.

Vice Chair Jardon asked what happens if the FlexRIDE area is defined and it is not working as well as anticipated; can the defined area be adjusted. Also, is the Verdi/Mogul area still planned for September.

Mr. Doenges responded that yes, adjustments may be made if needed and Public Transportation Director Mark Maloney confirmed. He also confirmed that the Verdi/Mogul area is still planned for September or as late as November.

Vice Chair Jardon then asked if staff had met with the contacts she provided in the Verdi area.

Mr. Maloney confirmed that the transit planning manager has met with those contacts and identified a zone to begin with which can be adjusted as needed.

Commissioner Hartung asked how the boundaries will be defined in areas where there has never been any transit service.

Mr. Maloney said there is a video presentation available and comments are being taken via the RTC website. He added that originally, there was a plan for two separate zones, but now the discussion is leaning toward a connection of the two zones so that the existing Sparks riders can connect up to the Spanish Springs area.

This item being a public hearing, Chairman Lucey opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak.

There being no one wishing to speak, public input was closed.

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Mayor Smith, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that the resolution adopting Amendment No. 2 to the FFY 2020-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the Self Certification for the metropolitan transportation planning process be approved.

This presentation may be viewed on www.RTCWashoe.com.

5.2 Public hearing - no earlier than 9:10 a.m. Time Certain:

Recommendation to approve the FY 2021 RTC Final Budget (*For Possible Action*)

Ms. Stephanie Haddock, RTC CFO and Director of Finance, addressed the Board via Zoom to present the RTC Final Budget for FY 2021. She began by stating that the tentative budget provided in April of this year was the most optimistic version of the budget and this version is the most conservative, and what Ms. Haddock would call the worst case scenario due to the economy fluctuations due to COVID-19.

The agency has a stable, balanced budget, mainly due to the \$20.8 million received from the CARES Act, which will supplement the anticipated loss in sales tax and a significant decrease in passenger fares, and keep the transit system running. The organization continues to run lean with only 72 employees and 93% of RTC revenues are invested in the private sector.

Ms. Haddock gave an overview of the numbers for each of the RTC program's revenues and expenses, ending fund balances, spending restrictions, reserves, projections, etc. Upon conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Haddock recognized her staff and offered to answer any questions

This item being a public hearing, Chairman Lucey opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak.

There being no one wishing to speak, public input was closed.

On motion of Mayor Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that the FY 2021 RTC Final Budget be approved.

This presentation may be viewed on www.RTCWashoe.com.

Items 6.1 thru 6.3 DIRECTOR REPORTS

6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

RTC Executive Director Bill Thomas said that in order to save time due to a hard stop today, he planned to send out a written version of the updates he would normally provide in person. He did quickly mention the upcoming RTC Economic Development Forum and said any of the commissioners are welcome.

E.D. Thomas then recognized Mr. Warren Call from RTC's engineering department for his 20th anniversary with the agency.

6.2 RTC Federal Report

The Honorable Jon Porter, Retired U.S. Congressman, addressed the Board via Zoom to provide a brief update on how the state can help out the local governments, per Governor Sisolak's request. Congressman Porter also said it appears there is going to be an infrastructure bill coming up and each entity is being encouraged to bring their highest priority projects forward, but Mr. Porter believes it would be best to work together as a region and bring the highest priority project that will benefit everyone.

Congressman Porter went on to say that the act of Congress approving the proxy vote is a huge change in process for our country. He believes a proxy vote will bring challenges to our voting system and isn't sure how well it will work in the long run.

**Chairman Lucey left the meeting at 10:22 a.m. and Vice Chair Jardon took over.

Commissioner Hartung thanked the congressman for everything he has done as a representative to the RTC.

Congressman Porter thanked him and added that he works together with Cardinal Infrastructure and Jane Starke as a team to provide the best representation possible.

6.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Director Kristina Swallow addressed the Board via Zoom to provide an update on vehicle and pedestrian fatalities in comparison to the prior year, adding that speed is a big factor over the past two months and gave an example of a recent accident in Reno.

She then mentioned that Nevada was recently commended by Federal Highways for meeting its previous safety targets.

Traffic volumes had been trending down due to the CORONA virus but a slow increase is beginning to occur. NDOT has been taking advantage of the lower traffic volumes to get some of their smaller projects completed. This helps to keep the crews safe along with the traveling public.

The Parr/Dandini bridge project was approved for construction in April so the current 48 year old bridge will be replaced with a new, wider bridge. Parr and Dandini will also be resurfaced. She added that the first lane closure for the project will occur between 7pm, Friday, June 12th and 5am, Monday, June 15th. If anything changes, notifications will be sent out. US 395 may be traversed using the on/off ramps.

Nevada tied with Texas as having the top bridges in the nation. Only 1.3% of Nevada's more than 2,000 bridges are deemed structurally deficient. The national average is 7.5%.

Dir. Swallow then gave a brief update on damage sustained from the recent earthquake centered in Mina. There was damage to three sections of US 95 with two of them being minor damage and one more significant cracking in the road, so new asphalt was put down in a 9 foot section.

SBX is progressing well and the second Notice to Proceed was issued April 29th. This allows the design/builder to proceed with the elements of design units, department reviews and to prepare plans for construction of the project. Completion of construction continues to be anticipated by November 2022.

Next, Dir. Swallow said the staff is designing safety improvements at both Callahan and Edmonton intersections on Mt. Rose Highway.

Lastly, Dir. Swallow provided information for Commissioner Hartung on Pyramid Hwy, south of Calle de la Plata, stating that it is actually a part of the Pyramid/US395 Connector project which is being done in conjunction with the RTC.

Commissioner Hartung thanked Director Swallow for the proactive stance that NDOT has recently taken, especially in these difficult times.

Vice Chair Jardon also gave her appreciation for the continued partnership with NDOT on the Spaghetti Bowl project.

Item 7 ENGINEERING

7.1 Discussion and possible direction on the Keystone Avenue and McCarran Boulevard Intersection (*For Possible Action*)

Vice Chair Jardon explained the area under discussion and the safety concerns related to the accidents occurring in that area. People going northbound on Keystone cannot take a left onto McCarran. There is a plastic type of barrier that prevents a left turn, and the same thing is in place coming south to McCarran. The problem is that people are driving over these barriers which is causing more accidents. The Vice Chair asked what is going to be done to prevent this from continuing to occur.

Mr. Brian Stewart, RTC Director of Engineering, responded that NDOT has done some studies in that area with the hopes of coming up with a solution to make it as safe as possible by maintaining those barriers when they get hit. He went on to say that the RTC is partnering up with NDOT in the study too look at the entire loop for safety improvements. NDOT maintains and operates McCarran and the City of Reno owns and maintains Keystone and would be another partner.

The Vice Chair asked if there is anything more substantial that can be installed while these studies are going on.

Mr. Stewart said he will look into it to see if there is some kind of solution.

Mayor Smith asked if there are right-turn only signs in place there and Vice Chair Jardon said she thinks there are, but the problem is that drivers are literally just plowing over the top of these flimsy dividers. She also offered to work with City of Reno staff to see what can be done on their part.

E.D. Thomas said staff will report back, hopefully by the next meeting, if not sooner.

With the direction given, no motion was made on this item.

Item 8 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

8.1 Approve the RTC Federal Priorities (For Possible Action)

E.D. Thomas gave a brief presentation on the federal priorities, adding that they are listed in order of importance while remembering that things are currently fluid in DC. He also said that the RTC's federal advisors said the list is too long which can reduce chances of funding.

The top 5 priorities are as follow (without details):

1. *Rescue Funding through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program* - The COVID-19 crisis is jeopardizing the ability of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and State Departments of Transportation to provide crucial transportation infrastructure investments.
2. *Use FY 2019 National Transit Database (NTD) Reporting for FY 2022 and FY 2023 Apportionments* – RTC requests a hold harmless approach to the allocation of formula funds in the next two fiscal years.
3. *Expand Safe Routes to School Program Eligibility* – the RTC supports expanding the existing Safe Routes to School Program, which currently only covers students in kindergarten through grade 8, to include high school students. High school students are a particularly vulnerable population and our community has experienced 14 crashes involving high school students in 2019 alone.
4. *Expand use of the Local Empowerment for Accelerating Project (LEAP) Pilot Program* – This prior program enabled qualifying MPOs to be direct recipients of grant funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
5. *Environmental streamlining* – Reduce project development costs and duration by reducing the duplication of efforts in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

E.D. Thomas then requested direction from the Board on these priorities or others that might be preferred.

Commissioner Hartung asked how the RTC is defining mass transit and are there goals for mass transit as traffic volumes and infrastructure continue to grow. He would like a discussion on this at another time.

With the direction given, no motion was made on this item.

Item 9 LEGAL MATTERS

Report, discussion and possible action and/or direction to legal counsel and staff following receipt of information on legal issues. The RTC may, consistent with Chapter 241 of NRS, decide to interrupt the public meeting at any time to conduct a closed session to confer with legal counsel and possibly deliberate on legal issues. Any action on pending legal matters will be made when the public meeting is reconvened.

Legal Counsel Dale Ferguson explained to the Board on litigation pertaining to the SouthEast Connector project and the Bella Vista Ranch's appeal to the NV Supreme Court of the favorable verdict in judgement that RTC secured in the imminent domain action to acquire the property and water rights for the SouthEast Connector. There had been a mandatory settlement conference scheduled for early May but it has been postponed until the first or second week of June. If that occurs, Mr. Ferguson may need to have an attorney/client legal update meeting but will keep the commissioners informed.

Item 10 PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Lucey 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.

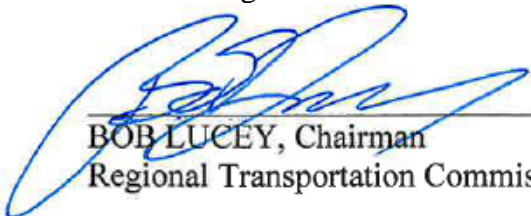
There being no one wishing to speak, the Chair closed public input.

Item 11 MEMBER ITEMS

Mayor Smith thanked the City of Reno and the City of Sparks for raising the speed limit to 55 on the Veterans Parkway. He has heard a lot of good comments.

Item 12 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.



BOB LUCEY, Chairman
Regional Transportation Commission