

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

10:00 A.M.

June 19, 2020

PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

**Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman – in person
Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member, Vice Chair (10:03)
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner
Ron Smith, Sparks City Council Member**

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

NOT PRESENT:

Oscar Delgado, Reno City Council Member

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:

Item 1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Item 2.1 PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Lucey opened the meeting to public input and stated that due to Section 5 of the Governor's Directive 006, 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. John Locke submitted written comment via email June 15, 2020, at 8:57 pm as follows:

Good Morning

Just wanted to say that I was going to have a BBQ at 4th street station on July 4th for our drivers that have been the front line of the covid-19 and amidst the BLM ordeal that has been very hard on all of us. I thought that July 4th our independence day would be a great day to say a thank you to all the drivers. I thought it's a way for all of us drivers to get together have some good food and smile on a day of our nations birth.

For some reason Mr. Hassan wants to do it the day before on the 3rd. Says its (sic) because of there (sic) one year in service here in the Reno area and what is wrong with the 4th. And it would have looked better to have a driver doing a BBQ for the drivers of the front line of all of the bad from this year. So you tell why is it important to have it on the 3rd that means nothing to people when you have the 4th that means the day America said enough is enough to England and we are free and Americans. In my opinion I think that is lost on Mr. Hassan don't know why but its (sic) more important to do it on that day not before.

I know that the RTC Board let the Keolis run there bus system. This is not the way to do it the bus system should stand for America all the way and by not doing or letting a driver do this out of his own pocket not asking for anything from Keolis just needed the space to cook and Mr. Hassan is going to personally (in my opinion) retaliate against the A drivers is like a child and is unfair to all. For which we as Americans have stood against once before. Hiding behind the covid-19 as a reason to stop a good thing like a celebration of our Country is a shame and something that I as an American I find disrespectful to our Flag and what Americans have fought for in all wars....

In closing we as the drivers, maintains and all on the frontlines of Covid-19 Black Live Matter of the year of 2020 have had a very hard and rough half year and still have 6 more months to see whats (sic) next would have been nice to have something to look forward to in all the bad.

*Thank You for your time
John Locke*

Ms. Shelly Benson left a voicemail comment via the public comment hotline Thursday, June 18th, at 1:36 pm, pertaining to the bus stop on Virginia Street in front of her apartment building. She says that when people smoke at the bus stop, it comes into the apartments and she considers it elder abuse. She also said that no one in the building was asked before installation of the bus stop.

There being no additional comment submitted by the deadline, the Chair closed public input.

Chairman Lucey then mentioned that this date was officially called Juneteenth to recognize the date that President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that declared freedom of African Americans.

Item 2.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES SUMMARY REPORT

On motion of Mayor Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, 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 CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

3.1 Approve the minutes of the May 22, 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 Drive monthly progress report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.5 Acknowledge receipt of the Oddie/Wells Multimodal Improvements Project progress report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.6 Acknowledge receipt of the Sun Valley Boulevard Phase 1 Project Monthly Construction Progress Report (*For Possible Action*)**

Public Transportation/Operations

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

Planning

- 3.8 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.9 Approve the RTC staff recommended appointments/reappointments and alternates to the Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) with terms through June 2023 (*For Possible Action*)**
 - **Mayuko Majima (reappointment)**
 - **Jeff Bonano (reappointment)**
 - **Laura Azzam (reappointment)**
 - **Mike Soszynski**
 - **Mauricio Urias**
 - **Lindsey Costello (alternate)**
 - **Mauricio Miller (alternate)**

Administration

- 3.10 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.11 Authorize the Executive Director to bind annual insurance coverage effective July 1, 2020, for automobile liability, general liability, public officials' errors and omissions (E&O), property, earthquake/flood, crime, cyber, pollution liability, social engineering, fiduciary liability, employment practices liability and workers' compensation; and approve the RTC's continued membership in the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool and Public Agency Compensation Trust (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.12 Receive report on changes to RTC's approach to legal services; authorize the RTC Executive Director to direct in-house counsel to be the primary provider of legal services to the Board at its open meetings (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.13 Authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute a contract for specialized legal services with Zev E. Kaplan, Ltd, for the services of Zev E. Kaplan, in substantially the form presented to the Board (*For Possible Action*)**

Procurement and Contracts

- 3.14 Approve a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Headway Transportation, LLC. to provide design services and optional engineering during construction for the TE Spot 10 – Fuel Tax Project in an amount not to exceed \$289,800; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.15 Approve a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to provide design services and optional engineering during construction for the TE Spot 10 – South Project in an amount not to exceed \$544,571; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.16 Approve Change Order (CO) No. 16 in the amount of \$76,617 for additional work associated with modifying the project design to connect existing NV Energy infrastructure and design modifications to the Liberty Street and California Avenue signal systems on the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit (BRT) Extension Project; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute CO No. 16 (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.17 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*)**
- 3.18 Approve an agreement with Porter Group, LLC for federal advisory services with Porter Group, LLC in the amount of \$78,000; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)**

Inter-Agency Agreements

- 3.19 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) between the RTC and the City of Reno for the installation of streetlights on Evans Avenue from McCarran Boulevard to Jodi Drive in the amount of \$142,600; authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.20 Approve Cooperative Agreement No. PR202-20-804 for Fiscal Year 2021 between the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for federal planning (PL) funds; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)**

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Vice Chair Jardon, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that Consent Items 3.1 through 3.20 be approved.

Item 4.1 PUBLIC HEARINGS no earlier than 9:05 a.m. Time Certain:

Discussion and recommendation to approve the September 2020 RTC RIDE Service Adjustment scheduled for September 5, 2020, including implementation of the new FlexRIDE microtransit service in Somersett/Verdi, extension of the existing RTC FlexRIDE in Sparks to the Spanish Springs area, changes to Route 5 and Route 18, and the extension and renumbering of Route 25 to Route 26.

Mr. Jim Gee, RTC Service Planning/Innovation Manager, addressed the Board to give a presentation on the planned service adjustments to be effective September 5, 2020. He reviewed updates to Route 5 which will be extended to Desert Skies Middle School, additional trips are being added to Route 18, Route 25 will be discontinued and Route 26 will be restored, going to Northern Nevada Medical Center, and additional coverage will be provided by the FlexRIDE program.

FlexRIDE is also being added to the Somerset/Verdi area and to Spanish Springs. The Spanish Springs zone will merge with the existing Sparks FlexRIDE zone. Mr. Gee then reviewed the benefits of the FlexRIDE program.

Mr. Gee wrapped up his presentation, providing information on additional minor schedule changes and details on the public outreach that the RTC had done prior to the decision on these changes.

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.

Mayor Smith thanked staff for the implementation of FlexRIDE out to the Spanish Springs area.

Commissioner Hartung asked for the start date on the Route 5 extension.

Mr. Gee responded that it will coincide with the reopening of school. If school does not reopen due to the COVID pandemic, the changes will begin Labor Day weekend.

Commissioner Hartung asked if the Morning Star senior living community will be serviced by FlexRIDE and Mr. Gee confirmed.

Commissioner Hartung then asked if the senior living facility called Cascade of the Sierra will also be serviced by FlexRIDE.

Mr. Gee said that facility is not included in this proposal and reminded the commissioner that modifications can be made very easily with this service if needed.

Commissioner Hartung asked if FlexRIDE will eventually replace the fixed route service.

Mr. Gee said he doesn't believe that will happen due to the scale of service needed in the more densely populated areas.

Vice Chair Jardon asked if staff reached out to the Verdi Community Group and Mr. Gee confirmed. He added that this service will start as soon as September or as late as November 2nd, but no later.

On motion of Mayor Smith, seconded by Vice Chair Jardon, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that the September 2020 RTC RIDE Service Adjustment scheduled for September 5, 2020, including implementation of the new FlexRIDE microtransit service in

Somerset/Verdi, extension of the existing RTC FlexRIDE in Sparks to the Spanish Springs area, changes to Route 5 and Route 18, and the extension and renumbering of Route 25 to Route 26 be approved.

Item 5 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Item 5.1 Approve the 2050 RTP Guiding Principles (For Possible Action)

Ms. Amy Cummings, RTC Deputy Executive Director, addressed that Board to give a brief presentation update on the draft Guiding Principles for the 2050 RTP. The focus is on Safe and Healthy Communities, Economic Vitality & Innovation, Sustainability, and Travel Choices.

Vice Chair Jardon said that she saw the RTC had received a grant and asked if it was for LiDAR. Ms. Cummings confirmed.

Vice Chair Jardon reminded everyone that this initially began with a pedestrian fatality accident near UNR. She then explained some of the very important progress this technology will allow to improve the safety of pedestrians.

Chairman Lucey asked Ms. Cummings to meet with him offline to discuss some questions he has pertaining to the map shown.

On motion of Mayor Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that the 2050 RTP Guiding Principles be approved.

Item 5.2 Approve the final report for the University Area Multimodal Transportation Study (For Possible Action)

Ms. Amy Cummings, RTC Deputy Executive Director, addressed the Board and said that the RTC had been working with the City of Reno and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for approximately one year to address some of the transportation needs around the University area. She then introduced Ms. Xuan Wang, RTC Senior Technical Planner.

Ms. Wang gave a presentation update to provide some of the suggestions that came out of the University Area Multimodal Transportation Study. First, the purpose of the study was to look at safety & mobility needs in the University area; address recent & planned growth and development, and identify short and long range transportation solutions.

Areas of study included sidewalk safety, bicycle facilities and three years of crash data, and the recommendations that came out if were for multimodal improvements around Center Street, Evans Street, 6th Street, and the intersection of Highland and Evans.

There was also a consensus that E. 9th Street should be more of an internal University campus environment. The focus should be on bicycle and pedestrian safety and connectivity and slowing down and calming vehicle traffic while still maintaining the vehicle connection.

Ms. Wang continued to provide several recommendations resulting from the study and upon completion, offered to answer any questions.

Vice Chair Jardon said the 9th Street concept for an access road to Wells Ave. has the support of UNR and they have offered to assist with right-of-way and property acquisitions.

The Vice Chair also said that the suggested road through the park will require permitting, city council approval, etc., and it will take some time to accomplish.

Commissioner Hartung said that he loves the suggestions given and asked if anyone has spoken to the Washoe County School District about potentially relocating their headquarters as this will push a great deal of traffic in their direction.

Ms. Wang said that relocation has not been discussed but agrees that when the project is completed, there will be intersection improvements needed at Wells and 9th.

Commissioner Hartung then asked what the timeline is for these concepts.

Ms. Wang responded that the project has been broken into two phases with the first phase including all of the improvements except the 9th street concept, which is phase two. Everyone would like to move forward as soon as possible.

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Vice Chair Jardon, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that the final report for the University Area Multimodal Transportation Study be approved.

Item 6.1 thru 6.3 DIRECTOR REPORTS

Item 6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

Executive Director Bill Thomas first mentioned that after 20 years, Julie Masterpool, RTC Engineering Manager, has decided to retire July 10th.

Commissioner Hartung thanked Ms. Masterpool for her hard work and excellent knowledge of the Regional Road Impact Fee program, and asked if an update on the program could potentially be given before she leaves.

E.D. Thomas then mentioned the SCR3 bill that came out of the 2019 legislative session and provided the three main purposes of the bill, such as defining methods of roadway funding that address taxation and social benefits, the benefits of the use of electric vehicles and the cost of transportation related pollution and transportation needs. He added that he will be representing our area to model something similar to what Utah has come up with.

Item 6.2 RTC Federal Report

Executive Director Bill Thomas said that the two topics he wanted to mention were that approximately \$300,000 in grant funding was received for the UNR project and that RTC staff has been working closely with RTC's legislative team to understand the Surface Transportation Act that will impact the agency. He added the RTC was approved to use 2019, pre-pandemic funding as the basis on which the agency will receive its funding and concluded his update.

Item 6.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Director Kristina Swallow gave a presentation update on the agency's most recent projects and plans, including accident fatality data for the state and our region, safety precautions being taken to keep NDOT employees safe during the pandemic, and updates on the Spaghetti Bowl Express project, the Parr Bridge project and the McCarran paving project.

Lastly, Director Swallow highlighted that May 30th there were riots that took place in downtown Reno and law enforcement asked NDOT to shut down all freeway off-ramps to the area, which was quickly done and included the use of snow plows to block access. The request was received at approximately 8pm that evening and by 9pm the equipment was out on the roads and employees were able to get home by midnight. She is very proud of the team's work on that last minute request.

Item 7 LEGAL ISSUES - 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 said he had no items for discussion.

Item 8 PUBLIC INPUT

Due to Section 5 of the Governor's Directive 006, public input submittals were required to be received by the RTC no later than 4:00 pm, Thursday, June 18, 2020.

Therefore, no additional comment was available and the Chair closed public input.

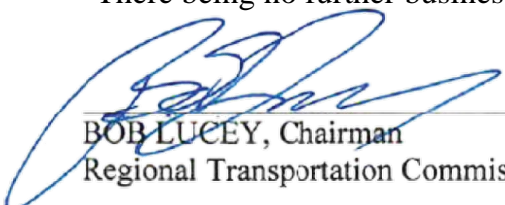
Item 9 MEMBER ITEMS

Commissioner Hartung said the board members had all received a letter from Ms. Benson pertaining to Virginia Street and asked that they be copied on the response E.D. Thomas was going to write.

Vice Chair Jardon reminded everyone that she had asked for an update on the dividers at Kings Row and McCarran that were constantly being run over.

Item 10 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.



BOB LUCEY, Chairman
Regional Transportation Commission