

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:01 A.M.

November 20, 2020

PRESENT:

**Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman
Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member, Vice Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner
Oscar Delgado, Reno City Council Member
Kristopher Dahir, Sparks City Council Member**

**Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Kristina Swallow, Director of NDOT**

The regular monthly meeting, held via Zoom, 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 PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, OTHER:

NEVADA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Presented by Mike Hillerby

Mr. Hillerby of Kaempfer Crowell Law Offices gave verbal updates on the current events of the Nevada State Legislature. First, he mentioned that his firm has an in-house bill tracking system that certain RTC staff have access to, and he works very closely with staff to address or ask questions in order to update our legislative representatives on matters related to the agency.

Mr. Hillerby went on to discuss the recent presidential election and some of the pending lawsuits currently in place, adding that to date, most have not been successful. He stated that Nevada has an approximate \$1.3 billion dollar shortfall in its budget needs and all government agencies have been asked to reduce expenses for the next two years in an attempt to balance the budget.

The NV Legislature is not currently in session, so Mr. Hillerby provided a few more general updates, such as the potential loosening of fuel tax funds so they may be used for transit infrastructure. In addition, RTC of Southern Nevada would like to index their fuel taxes in the same manner as RTC Washoe. He then concluded his presentation.

Commissioner Hartung asked about the topic of redistricting and whether that would pertain to only state representatives or also affect the local jurisdictions.

Mr. Hillerby responded that it only applies to state representatives.

A copy of the full presentation is available by contacting Denise Thompson (dthompson@rtcwashoe.com)

I-80 CORRIDOR STUDY UPDATE – Presented by Sondra Rosenberg

Ms. Sondra Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Planning for NDOT, provided information on the purpose of the I-80 Corridor Study, the processes taken, the criteria used, such as to preserve infrastructure, optimize mobility, improve safety, etc. There were ultimately 22 projects, ranked in order of need, with the Spaghetti Bowl being number one. Design is currently underway for that project.

Ms. Rosenberg also provided data on travel routes used to get to and from the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center (TRIC). The information showed that 65.7% of employees still drive alone in their commute to TRIC.

Lastly, Ms. Rosenberg explained the One Nevada prioritization process used with regard to the goals previously listed in the presentation.

Chairman Lucey asked where the data for the TRIC Employee Commute Mode came from and Ms. Rosenberg said the information came out of an employee survey. She added that the RTC's travel demand model was used to determine future increases in commuter traffic.

Vice Chair Jardon asked how the development increases in the region marries up with travel projections and what expectation of RTC Washoe does NDOT have with regard to funding contributions for some of these projects.

Ms. Rosenberg responded that NDOT does not have enough funding for all of the projects needed in the state, so more data needs to be collected about who will benefit most from a specific project, what type of facility will best fit the need in particular area and who will pay for maintenance once a project is completed.

Vice Chair Jardon then expressed her frustration at the lack of any funding out of Storey County for the I-80 improvements being requested for TRIC commuters. She believes they should partner with the RTC and NDOT on that project because the project provides a huge benefit to them.

Commissioner Hartung has the same funding concerns with Storey County and the Tri Center itself. He then asked what the possibility is of adding an HOV lane to reduce the 65.7% of drivers commuting alone.

Ms. Rosenberg said that it is one option being looked into, but NDOT is not ready to make a specific recommendation yet.

Commissioner Hartung said he does not think the US 395/Pyramid Connector Project will be of any benefit until the work is completed on the US 395 widening. He would rather see those funds go toward the northern portion of Pyramid Highway, especially since there is a new school planned for that area.

Commissioner Dahir has a concern with air quality and the possibility of reaching non-attainment. If I-80 is widened, people will most likely begin moving out toward TRIC, which could improve air quality. He then asked for a comparison of what is being spent in Southern Nevada vs. Northern Nevada.

Ms. Rosenberg said that the RTC is currently working on their Regional Transportation Plan update and NDOT obtains much of this information out of that plan, so everything will be looked at again once the updates are completed.

A copy of the full presentation is available by contacting Denise Thompson (dthompson@rtcwashoe.com)

Item 1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Executive Director Bill Thomas said that additional information has been provided which clarifies the staff report for agenda Item 3.18. Nothing substantive was changed.

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

Item 2 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. Comments received prior to 4:00 p.m. November 19th are included in this record of the meeting.

Mr. Andrew Samuelsen, local resident, submitted written comments via the RTC website on October 15, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. as follow:

Hi. Please move the Center Street Cycletrack schedule up to summer 2022. This is a critical piece of infrastructure to make cycling safe in downtown Reno. This small project should easily be able to be designed in the 1.5-2 years between now and summer 2022.

There being no additional comments submitted, the Chair closed public input.

Item 3.1 thru 3.27 CONSENT ITEMS

Prior to the motion, Commissioner Hartung requested that with regard to Item 3.5, he would like an item be brought to the Board early in 2021 with details on how the RRIF program works and how the funds are spent by jurisdiction.

Minutes

- 3.1 Approve the minutes of the September 18, 2020, meeting (For Possible Action)**
- 3.2 Approve the minutes of the October 16, 2020, meeting (For Possible Action)**

Engineering

- 3.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report (For Possible Action)**
- 3.4 Approve the proposed New Projects for the FY 2022 Program of Projects (POP) (For Possible Action)**
- 3.5 Acknowledge receipt of information regarding an automatic annual increase of 2.38% to the Regional Road Impact Fees as allowed by NRS 278B.225 and required by ordinances adopted by Washoe County, the City of Reno and the City of Sparks (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 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Summary Report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees (*For Possible Action*)

Administration

- 3.9 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
3.10 Approve amendments to RTC Management Policy P-13 – Procurement, Contracting and Contract Administration and Policy P-57 – Settlement Authority (*For Possible Action*)
3.11 Approve addition of new language to RTC Personnel Rules: Lead Designation and Pay, and approve modification to RTC Management Policy Anti-Harassment (P-3) (*For Possible Action*)
3.12 Acknowledge receipt of Agency Key Performance Indicators (*For Possible Action*)

Procurement and Contracts

- 3.13 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the existing Professional Services Agreement (PSA) between the RTC and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs) for the final design of the US 395 / Lemmon Drive Interchange related to the Lemmon Drive Project in the amount of \$519,515 for a new not to exceed amount of \$3,181,447; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the amendment (*For Possible Action*)**
3.14 Approve Amendment No. 4 to the existing Professional Services Agreement (PSA) between the RTC and Headway Transportation, LLC (Headway) for the design of the North Valleys Phase 3B Project in the amount of \$35,760 for a new not to exceed amount of \$841,840; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the amendment (*For Possible Action*)
3.15 Approve a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Lumos and Associates, Inc. to provide design and optional engineering during construction services for the Kings Row – Wyoming Avenue to McCarran Boulevard (Kings Row Phase 2) Rehabilitation Project in an amount not to exceed \$604,640; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)
3.16 Approve a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Eastern Sierra Engineering, P.C. for design services and optional engineering during construction for the Reno Consolidated 22-01 Project in an amount not to exceed \$757,455; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)
3.17 Approve final Change Order No. 12 (CO 12) increasing the total amount of the construction agreement between the RTC and Granite Construction, Inc. (Granite) for the Southeast Connector Phase 2 Project, by \$2,613,563.48 for a new total amount of \$159,201,819.69; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute CO 12 (*For Possible Action*)
3.18 Approve a Settlement Agreement with Granite Construction Co. to settle all claims in *Granite Construction Co. v. Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County* and to close-out the Agreement for Construction Work for Phase 2 of the Southeast Connector Project; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)

- 3.19 Approve an agreement with H&K Architects for the design and development of bid specifications and plans for the remodel of the first floor Terminal Way office building multipurpose room in an amount not-to-exceed \$61,830; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement *(For Possible Action)*
- 3.20 Approve the agreement with Kaempfer Crowell, Ltd. for supplemental lobbying services on behalf of the RTC in the amount of \$65,000; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement *(For Possible Action)*

Inter-Agency Agreements

- 3.21 Authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Street and Highway Program Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) between Washoe County, City of Reno and the RTC *(For Possible Action)*
- 3.22 Authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Street and Highway Program Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) between Washoe County, City of Sparks and the RTC *(For Possible Action)*
- 3.23 Approve the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for the design and construction of the US 395 / Lemmon Drive Interchange as part of the Lemmon Drive Project; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement *(For Possible Action)*
- 3.24 Authorize the RTC Executive Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RTC and the Washoe County Health District (WCHD) to allow the creation of a Point of Dispensing plan to work cooperatively in the event of a widespread health emergency *(For Possible Action)*
- 3.25 Approve the Cooperative Agreement with the State of Nevada, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for funding of the McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement *(For Possible Action)*

Request for Proposals (RFPs)

- 3.26 Authorize a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the selection of Professional Services for the 2022-2026 Transit Optimization Plan (TOP) *(For Possible Action)*
- 3.27 Authorize the procurement of Construction Management Services for the Lemmon Drive Segment 1 Widening Project *(For Possible Action)*

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Dahir, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that Consent Items 3.1 through 3.27 be approved.

Item 4.1 thru 4.2 PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Discussion and recommendation to approve the approve the resolution adopting Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2020-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the Self Certification for the metropolitan transportation planning process *(For Possible Action)*

- 1. Staff presentation
- 2. Public input
- 3. Recommendation to approve the resolution adopting Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2020-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the Self Certification for the metropolitan transportation planning process

Mr. Daniel Doenges, RTC Planning Manager, addressed the Board to discuss this item and to answer any questions regarding the motion to approve the resolution adopting Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2020-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the Self Certification for the metropolitan transportation planning process, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item.

This item being a public hearing, Chairman Lucey opened the meeting to public input and asked if anyone from the public had submitted comments prior to the Nov. 17, 4:00pm. deadline.

Board Clerk Denise Thompson responded that there were no comments submitted for this item and public input was closed.

Commissioner Hartung said he thought we already had two Lemmon Drive projects, so why is it being amended.

Mr. Brian Stewart, RTC Engineering Director, addressed the Board to explain that there was one project with two distinct segments of work. Because the segment closest to the freeway is being expedited and the RTC has partnered with NDOT for this portion, it is prudent to separate the segments into different projects. For the second segment, staff will work with the City of Reno and Washoe County.

Commissioner Hartung stated again that he would like the RTIP to show the Lemmon Drive project extending beyond Chickadee.

Chairman Lucey noted that in the RTIP there are two different fund amounts listed for the widening portion of the Lemmon Drive project and asked why that is.

Ms. Amy Cummings, RTC Deputy Executive Director and Director of Planning, responded that the funding is included for NEPA because there may be some federal actions required with the interchange at US 395. The preference is to use local funds for both sections of this project which will be derived from both state and Washoe County fuel tax.

On motion of Vice Chair Jardon, seconded by Commissioner Delgado, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that the resolution adopting Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2020-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the Self Certification for the metropolitan transportation planning process be approved.

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

Conduct a public hearing pursuant to NRS 277.050 to provide an opportunity for the public to object to the sale of five remnant parcels no longer needed for the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project (APN 007-183-11; APN 007-183-12; APN 007-183-13; APN 007-183-18; APN 007-183-19) to the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno; adopt a resolution approving a purchase and sale agreement (*For Possible Action*)

1. Staff presentation
2. Public input
3. Recommendation to adopt a resolution approving a purchase and sale agreement

Ms. Amy Cummings, RTC Deputy Executive Director and Director of Planning, addressed the Board to explain why the parcels were originally purchased and that the RTC only needed to use a portion of each parcel for the new RAPID station at the entrance to UNR. UNR would now like to use those parcels as part of their expansion project.

This item being a public hearing, Chairman Lucey opened the meeting to public input and asked if anyone from the public had submitted comments prior to the Nov. 17, 4:00pm. deadline.

Board Clerk Denise Thompson responded that there were no comments submitted for this item and public input was closed.

Commissioner Dahir said thinks this is a good idea and will be good for the region.

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Vice Chair Jardon, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that the resolution approving a purchase and sale agreement be approved.

Item 5.1 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

5.1 Receive a report on the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and provide direction accordingly (*For Possible Action*)

Ms. Amy Cummings, RTC Deputy Executive Director and Director of Planning, gave a presentation update on the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and offered to answer questions, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item.

Commissioner Dahir asked why some of the bus stop improvements are in phase II and III, and is it because of their location being in flood zones and that type of thing.

Mr. Brian Stewart, RTC Engineering Director, responded that a construction agreement is going out for bid this spring for phase II and then in fall, another agreement will go out for bid for phase III. He said these type of projects tend to stack up on each other that way.

Commissioner Hartung suggested that all bus routes be reviewed again for improvements with a consideration for seniors who do not use electronic devices to schedule rides or who usually have appointments at 10:00 a.m. or later, not early in the morning.

Commissioner Dahir said that he is very happy with the new FlexRIDE service and even tried it out himself. He would like the RTC to continue looking at FlexRIDE as an option where a full route is not viable. He then added that Sparks City Hall is not in any FlexRIDE zone.

Vice Chair Jardon said that she can't stress enough how important the education piece of using FlexRIDE is and would like RTC to utilize the senior services in the area to assist with that once things start opening up again, post-COVID.

Bob Lucey believes RTC's scoring criteria creates more of a reactive list than a proactive list, and that Project Readiness should have more weight. He suggested taking five points away from Regional Plan Land Use Priority – TMRPA tier system and adding it to Project Readiness because it better reflects the projects RTC is ready to move forward with. He would also like Project Readiness included as part of the evaluation criteria for New Road Construction projects if possible.

Ms. Cummings responded that the draft scoring is still being worked on and those adjustments could definitely be looked at and different scenarios will be brought for review at the December meeting.

Vice Chair Jardon agrees with the Chairman, adding that at the City of Reno, staff knows what projects are being built in West Reno, how many units will be built, etc., so that is another good way of looking at future needs for roads and transit.

Executive Director Thomas said that the overall thinking on the criteria used is to take what is considered a subjective method of determining project importance and make it more objective.

On motion of Commissioner Dahir, seconded by Delgado, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Lucey ordered that the report on the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) be acknowledged with the direction provided.

A copy of the full presentation is available by contacting Denise Thompson (dthompson@rtcwashoe.com)

Item 6.1 thru 6.3 DIRECTOR REPORTS

Item 6.1 RTC Executive Director Report – verbal report - no action required

RTC Executive Director Bill Thomas spoke on the following topics:

1. On October 22nd, the Sun Valley General Improvement District honored the RTC with its Community Partner Award. The award recognizes RTC's work in the 2015 Sun Valley Corridor Study, led by Amy Cummings, and the community improvements now underway, managed by project manager Maria Paz Fernandez.

In the spring of 2020, the RTC began installation of sidewalks and curb extensions, as well as upgraded storm drains to help control future storm water from 7th Avenue to Highland Ranch Parkway and two accessible pedestrian signals and safe crossing medians have been completed.

This Complete Streets project provides additional safety improvements for all pedestrians within the Sun Valley community, including bike lanes, accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, and more.

Throughout the construction process, the RTC and Q & D Construction have worked closely with and around Sun Valley GID facilities as well as providing safe traveling conditions in the community during construction. Completion of the project will occur in 2021. We are honored to receive this recognition.

2. Last month, we submitted a grant application to the Federal Transit Administration for a COVID-19 Research Demonstration Grant.

The RTC, if successful in this grant, will install dry hydrogen peroxide (DHP) generators in the heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems on our public transit buses; and collaborate with Desert Research Institute (DRI) to evaluate the effectiveness of DHP technology to protect bus drivers and passengers from potential coronavirus and other air-borne viruses exposure in a real-world operational environment. Results will be published and shared with industry and vendors to enhance public transit environmental safety for all drivers and passengers.

Grant awards should be announced by the beginning of the year.

3. As part of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan update, a virtual presentation for the Downtown Reno Circulation Study is now available to the public for review and comment. Information is available on our website at RTC Washoe dot com and social media channels.

This study aims to contribute to Downtown as a safe and attractive destination, support a revitalized Downtown with vibrant public spaces, encourage safe multimodal access to jobs, entertainment and special events, and connect Downtown to surrounding neighborhoods and the University.

We are accepting comments through Friday, December 11, 2020.

4. As a member of the Regional Information Center, a coalition of regional partners, including the cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County and the Washoe County Health District, among others, the RTC is supporting the Mask On Move On campaign with public service announcements on our fixed-route buses and RTC's social media channels. This campaign reminds the public to wear a mask and socially distance in private and small crowd gatherings.

As our social bubbles expand, we're letting comfort and familiarity with those we trust creep back in. And while (for the most part) we're more accepting of the perceived discomfort / strangeness of mask wearing in public because we're with strangers, when we're in private gatherings we are more willing to slip when we're with those we know and trust. The goal of the campaign is to deaccelerate the climbing rate of COVID-19 cases in the county and safely return to life as usual. As we approach the holiday season, we should be vigilant to safeguard our health and safety, and of those around us.

For more information, go to Mask On Move On dot com.

5. November 13th, the RTC partnered with the Washoe County Human Services Agency, the Sparks Target store and KOLO 8 News Now, to support the 2020 Children in Care Stuff A Bus Drive-By Donation Drive to benefit foster and adoptive children in our community.

The County's Human Services Agency currently serves more than 700 kids in care. We surpassed last year's donations by collecting more than \$11,000 dollars' worth of warm weather clothes, gift cards and cash contributions.

Donations will be distributed through the Family Engagement Center in Sparks, which is the main site for ongoing support to families throughout the winter months.

6. Lastly, in an effort to support their employees during these tumultuous times, MTM Transit, the RTC's paratransit and FlexRIDE service operator, provided each employee with a \$15 voucher to use toward a Butterball turkey for Thanksgiving. And next Monday, Keolis, RTC's fixed-route provider, will be distributing giant Pumpkin Pies to each of their staff to enjoy on Thanksgiving Day.

I would like to thank Keolis and MTM and their frontline employees for ensuring that essential transit services are provided in our community. We are all thankful for their service and commitment to our community. Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

Item 6.2 RTC Federal Report –*No action required*

A written report is provided, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item.

Chairman Lucey said his main concern with the new administration will be who is named the Secretary of Transportation. He hopes to eventually be able to travel to Washington DC to meet with our existing and newly elected federal delegates.

Item 6.3 NDOT Director Report – *verbal report - no action required*

NDOT Director Kristina Swallow addressed the Board to provide updates on current Nevada safety statistics, the Spaghetti Bowl SBX project, US 395 North, and the new Parr Bridge.

Dir. Swallow then went over the 2021 – 2024 NDOT Work Program, the 2011 – 2020 Project Expenditures, STIP programming by county and lastly, she provided follow-up information on questions from prior meetings and noted that Jeff Lerud became the new Leadership Team Member.

Commissioner Dahir said for the record that he believes the advanced signal warning system is not effective enough and he understands that NDOT looks at crash data to make their determinations on these warning systems, but they don't see what local residents see every day.

Commissioner Dahir added that he believes the STIP funding for Washoe County is quite low and would like to know how these percentages of fund allocations are determined.

Vice Chair Jardon said she understands the difference in funding needs based on populations, but also noticed that while there were three projects occurring in Northern Nevada, there were seven projects occurring in Southern Nevada.

Commissioner Hartung requested improvements be made on Pyramid Highway out near Egyptian and agrees with Commissioner Dahir that the advanced warning systems are not good enough as they currently operate.

Commissioner Lucey noted that there is an open seat for a rural county on the NDOT board and asked Director Swallow if she knows when that seat will be filled.

Dir. Swallow responded that she does not know when it will be filled as it is a Governor appointed position.

Chairman Lucey then asked for a presentation to be brought on how CMAQ funds are collected and how the allocation determination is made.

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 additional comment submitted prior to the deadline of Nov. 17 at 4:00pm, the Chairman closed public input.

Item 11 MEMBER ITEMS

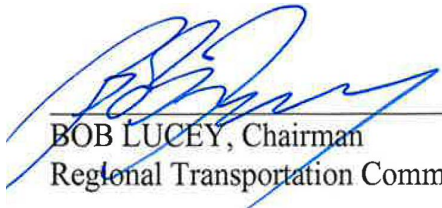
Commissioner Hartung would like a presentation sometime in early 2021 on the RRIF program, how many credits exist, what's on the market and how they are able to trade the credits. He would like the RTC to provide a training on the program as well.

Chairman Lucey would like a discussion on a new bus yard, potential properties in mind and changes at the Villanova location.

Chairman Lucey would also like to have a legislative policy discussion for both state and federal legislations.

Item 12 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.



BOB LUCEY, Chairman
Regional Transportation Commission