

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

**Attendees**

Daniel Inouye	Washoe County Health District-Air Quality Management Division
Kurt Dietrich	City of Reno Community Development Public Works
Chris Tolley	Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency
Chair, Amber Sosa	City of Sparks, Engineering Services
Lissa Butterfield	Reno Tahoe Airport Authority
Mitchell Fink	Washoe County Community Services
Julee Olander	Washoe County Community Services
Tara Smaltz	Nevada Department of Transportation

**RTC Staff**

Mark Maloney	Jim Gee
Michael Dulude	Xuan Wang
James Weston	Julie Masterpool
Stephanie Haddock	Dan Doenges

**Guests**

Esmeralda Chavez	Washoe County Health District
Mike Mischel	City of Reno
Francisco Vega	Washoe County Health District/Air Quality Mgt

The Committee met in the First Floor Conference Room, 1105 Terminal Way, Reno, Nevada. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the Chair, Amber Sosa.

**ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

*Committee member Daniel Inouye introduced Francisco Vega, the new (Washoe County) Air Quality Management Division Director and asked the rest of the meeting attendees to introduce themselves.*

### **ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Daniel Inouye suggested that Item 7, at the end of line 4 of the December 4, 2019, meeting minutes should be changed to read Manual instead of Manuel.

Kurt Dietrich asked that under the Attendees list that the addition of ‘Public Works’ be added to his agency’s name to read City of Reno Community Development Public Works.

The minutes of the December 4, 2019, meeting were approved as corrected.

### **ITEM 4. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A REPORT ON THE PROPOSED RTC RIDE SERVICE CHANGE AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK**

Jim Gee, RTC Service Planning and Innovation Manager, gave a presentation on the proposed RTC RIDE service changes and the FlexRIDE service for May (2020). He stated that the big service change in May is the proposal to implement the FlexRIDE service to the North Valleys area. This service will replace Route 17 and add a few changes to the existing Route 7. He explained that the advantage to the Flex service is inherent in its name – it is flexible and provides much broader coverage for passengers.

The Route 9 schedule will be changed to provide better service to Renown Medical Center by use of Second Street, Kirman Avenue and Mill Street. On weekdays, the schedule will run on a 35-minute frequency; weekends will run on an hour frequency. Route 7 is being altered to go further north on Virginia Street to Lemmon Drive and return on Sky Vista. Route 13 is being altered to reverse the current clockwise rotation to counter-clockwise using Grove Street, Harvard Way, Plumb Lane and Kietzke Lane. Route 13 is used by Wooster High School students before and after school; this change will help direct pedestrian traffic away from jaywalking because the bus stop is on the same side of the street as the school on Harvard Way. At the end of Route 25, currently clockwise will be reversed to counter-clockwise using McCarran Boulevard, East Lincoln and Howard Drive back to Prater Way. Route 25L was discontinued due to low ridership. Other minor schedule changes will also be implemented. All proposed changes are evaluated with an ongoing process that includes assessing on-time performance, route segments and ridership in mind. The fixed route service is routinely and regularly assessed, and adjustments are made using the information gathered.

These proposed changes were presented to the public at two open houses in January 2020. The reaction from the public was very positive to all the changes.

Chris Tolley, TMRPA asked what the overall comparison was between FlexRIDE and Routes 25/26 in Sparks. Mr. Gee responded that the FlexRIDE service has almost tripled the ridership of

those two routes and he would elaborate on the FlexRIDE service in the next agenda item. He also confirmed that Route 26 was eliminated from the service in November 2019.

Daniel Inouye asked if the North Valley FlexRIDE service is going to be a pilot project or if this is a permanent change. Mr. Gee responded that this area service is a pilot project but is expected to be successful.

Mr. Inouye also asked what fuel is used for the FlexRIDE vehicles. Mr. Gee responded that the mini buses are CNG fueled and the vans are fueled with gasoline.

Julee Olander asked if the RTC is in the process of purchasing vehicles. Mr. Gee responded that the service is provided by the vans from the RTC ACCESS fleet that have been rebranded for the new service. David Carr, RTC Fleet and Facilities Manager, added that fifteen additional vehicles are currently on order to be used for the new service. Ms. Olander asked if the ACCESS riders can also use the Flex service. Mr. Gee replied that ACCESS riders can use the Flex service when they are in that service area.

On a motion by Chris Tolley and seconded by Daniel Inouye, the committee acknowledged receipt of a report on the proposed RTC RIDE Service Change. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **ITEM 5. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A REPORT ON AN UPDATE OF THE SPARKS FLEXRIDE SERVICE**

Jim Gee, RTC Service Planning and Innovation Manager, gave a presentation on the Sparks FlexRIDE service that began on November 2, 2019, stating that the service is not available in all areas of Sparks but in a defined area of Sparks. He noted that the ridership has been much stronger than expected and the wait time for passengers has not grown significantly with the median wait time being about ten minutes between calling, or using the app, and having the vehicle arrive for pick up.

Due to the strong ridership for this curb-to-curb service, the cost per passenger is comparable to the fixed route side. The operation costs of FlexRIDE is much less expensive than ACCESS that is also a similar curb-to-curb service. Currently, the ridership of the new service is approximately 150 per weekday; on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, the ridership is averaging about 80 per day. Routes 25 and 26 that previously covered this area averaged about 50 passengers per day. Approximately one-third of riders are using the app, approximately one-quarter of the passengers just walk up to the vehicle at Centennial Plaza or Iron Horse Shopping Center to board, and the rest of the riders are calling for the service on their phones.

The drivers use a tablet to put in the destination and the software manages the trip; dispatchers monitor the rides. Centennial Plaza is one of the top destinations for passengers to connect to the fixed route service. RTC will continue to monitor the day-to-day activity and tweak the parameters as needed for continued success of this new service.

Passenger surveys will be conducted this month to get feedback on the service. A second pilot project in the North Valleys area will be starting with the May 2, 2020 service change. Discussion followed.

Amber Sousa asked if the pilot program for this service continues to be successful what would be the timeframe to make the service permanent. Mr. Gee responded that the RTC will continue to monitor the service to determine when it might become permanent and will work with all interested parties during the process.

Chris Tolley asked for clarification that the Northern Nevada Medical Center is a FlexRIDE destination. Michael Dulude, RTC Transit Planner/Scheduler responded yes, that is correct.

Daniel Inouye asked if the FlexRIDE services are pilot programs. Mr. Gee responded that the Sparks program started as a six-month pilot program on November 2, 2019, and is being extended for another six months; the North Valleys six-month pilot study will start on May 2, 2020. Between May 2 and November 2 (2020 service changes), we will determine the process going forward.

On a motion by Daniel Inouye and seconded by Julee Olander, the committee acknowledged receipt of a report on an update of the Sparks FlexRIDE Service. The motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM 6. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A REPORT ON AN UPDATE OF THE 2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) DEVELOPMENT**

Xuan Wang, RTC Planner, gave an update of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Development stating that upcoming meetings are scheduled with the local jurisdictions. Meetings with Washoe County Commission on February 11, Reno City Council on February 12, Sparks City Council on March 9. The Senior Leadership meetings will be ongoing. The 2050 RTP Agency Working Group meeting was held on January 16.

Outreach activities include an Agency Working Group every other month (next meeting on March 19), Regional Working Group in April, and RTC Complete Streets Workshop on March 20. Other workshops draft schedule include Sparks Industrial Workshop (Baldini's February 26), Community Workshop – Visioning (Discovery Museum February 27).

The RTC is currently working on Existing Conditions analysis that includes Congestion Analysis (Travel Time Index, Level of Service); Average Annual Daily Traffic/Vehicle Miles Traveled; Pavement Condition Index; Safety Segment and Intersection Analysis and Performance Management).

On a motion by Daniel Inouye and seconded by Chris Tolley, the committee acknowledged receipt of a report on an update of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Development. The motion carried unanimously.

## **ITEM 7. DEVELOPMENT UPDATES**

Mike Mischel, City of Reno stated they continue to see a lot of activity in the Downtown area especially along 4<sup>th</sup> Street, North Valleys and North Virginia. He stated there are still a lot of industrial applications coming in. There is also a lot of student housing still within the University area. The Daybreak project in the south will be coming in for maps very soon. The Stonegate project in Cold Springs continue to process their maps.

Amber Sosa, City of Sparks stated they continue to see a lot of growth in northeast Sparks.

## **ITEM 8. MEMBER ITEMS**

Kurt Dietrich, City of Reno stated that on the Public Works side, the primary focus right now is the school zones and the pedestrian issues that are occurring. Currently being looked at are deficiencies in infrastructure at legacy schools. Once the data is collected, a plan will be put in place.

Lissa Butterfield, Reno/Tahoe Airport Authority stated they are moving into their construction season and they are starting a CEO search.

Amber Sosa, City of Sparks stated their focus is also on pedestrian safety and they are starting their construction season as well.

Mitchell Fink, Washoe County stated they are updating school zones and trying to incorporate flashers for pedestrian crossings. They are also upgrading their flashing system to cellular.

Tara Smaltz, NDOT stated that headquarters is also contributing to the pedestrian/school zone conversation. She also stated that the first phase of the Spaghetti Bowl will be underway soon.

Chris Tolley, TMRPA stated that two items are being appealed to the Regional Planning Governing Board – one “over the hill from Washoe County” and the Daybreak project.

## **ITEM 9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE TAC MEETINGS**

There were no agenda items suggested for upcoming TAC meetings.

## **ITEM 10. RTC STAFF ITEMS**

There were no staff items given.

## **ITEM 11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

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