

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

10:01 A.M.

May 17, 2024

PRESENT:

**Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks
Alexis Hill, Vice Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Devon Reese, Reno City Council
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner**

**Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Tracy Larkin Thomason, Director of NDOT**

ABSENT:

Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno

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

Item 1 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Special Recognition
 - 1.3.1 National Public Works Week Proclamation read by Bill Thomas, Executive Director.

Item 2 PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Lawson 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.

Zachary Allen, Director Thomas, board members. My name is Zachary Allen. I own Robert Allen Pools and spas. I'm on your topic on the agenda today for ZR Enterprises. My dad started it close to 30 years ago. We've been in the same location the whole time. It is my understanding, and I'm not an attorney, but in review reading the Nevada law as of 2007 that an individual such as myself who is going through an eminent domain process here shall be placed in the same monetarily position as if this eminent domain had never happened. I've been very fortunate to find ourselves a new location pretty close by. This new location comes with a nice bank loan and the banks loving me right now to where I'm really hoping that we can see a resolution here sooner than later for all project and how it pertains to us and the individuals who work for me, the 20 plus employees and your, you know, we're a staple member of this community. I hope to continue to provide our services to the Community and through Northern Nevada as we have for many years. I hope that we can come to this resolution in a timely fashion, as it is costing us, you know, tremendous amounts of money. I really just appreciate your guys' time and consideration and hearing me here today that I hope to come to a resolution here sooner than later. I'd really like to have seen maybe a meeting with you guys by now. I know that hasn't happened quite yet, but you know, I like to think I'm a pretty fair and reasonable person.

Theo Nicholas, I'm a Reno resident. I'm here today on behalf of the Washoe County Household Travel Survey that I took back in March of this year. Upon completion of the survey, I was promised a travel card by the surveyor. To this day, I've never received anything, and I don't know if it's just miscommunication, but that is my issue today. Thank you.

Michael Gawthrop-Hutchins emailed a public comment on May 14, 2024 @ 2:18 p.m. as follows: This seems to be outside the purview of the proposed amendment to the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan as agendized, so I understand that it is not something that could be fully addressed during this meeting, but I would appreciate if the RTC were willing to contemplate implementing a policy to include multimodal improvements to every project going forward, regardless of whether or not such improvements had originally been included in that project. With a typical street going decades between major rehabilitation projects, and Reno/Sparks already being one of the most dangerous regions for pedestrians and cyclists in the country, we simply cannot afford to have any project that will lock in an unsafe design for potentially an entire generation. We can't go back in time and undo the mistakes of the past, but it isn't too late to commit to not making the same mistakes again, and it isn't too late to start fixing the mistakes of the past.

On that topic, RTC should also embrace rapid deployment solutions that have proven successful in other cities. There is very little that prevents RTC from very rapidly converting any street with both parking and bike lanes into a street with parking protected bike lanes (it could literally be done with paint for a bare minimum job, and options for flexi poles and/or parking space stops for more mid grade, but still very cheap upgrades, even high end options like adding a curb ought not be overly expensive). There is little to prevent the RTC from converting almost every "buffered" bike lane into a protected bike lane via the use of parking space stops. There is little to prevent RTC from creating ad hoc neckdowns and/or pedestrian bulb out simulacrum using low concrete planters. Not only would these rapid deployment strategies make for the quickest means of improving pedestrian and cyclist safety, but they would allow for (lack of better terms) beta testing of designs in the real world as they would also be very quick to modify.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Chair Lawson moved to Approval of the Agenda.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Hill suggested two changes to the Agenda. First, I would like to ask that 5.1 be removed. This item will be brought back to the board in June after it is brought to the CMAC committee, and that procedural step will be taken by our team.

Second, I would ask that 4.41 be removed from the consent agenda to be considered by the board after 6.3 for the board to receive a report on the Mill Street project before the board is asked to consider 4.41. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and that's in the form of a motion.

On motion of Vice Chair Hill to approve agenda with the two changes being made, seconded by Commissioner Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved.

Items 4 CONSENT ITEMS

4.1 Minutes

- 4.1.1 Approve the meeting minutes for the 04/19/2024 RTC Board meeting. (For Possible Action)

4.2. Reports

- 4.2.1 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.2 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly summary report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.4 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation and Operations Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Outreach Report from the Communications staff. (For Possible Action)

4.3 Planning Department

- 4.3.1 Acknowledge receipt of a report regarding the status of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.2 Approve the FY 2025 Shared Work Program with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA). (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.3 Receive the 2024 Final Report from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regarding the federally required Transportation Management Area Planning Certification Review. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Engineering Department

- 4.4.1 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC’s legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a fee simple interest in the entirety of APN 013-082-10, a fee simple interest in a portion of APN 013-082-14, and a temporary construction easement on a portion of APN 013-082-14 from ZRA Enterprises LTD, which are needed to construct the Mill Street Capacity and Safety project. (For Possible Action) *This item will be discussed at the end of Item 6, discussion items and presentations.*

4.5 Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.5.1 Approve the purchase of fifteen (15) Allstar – FORD E450 CNG Cutaway vehicles from Model 1 Commercial Vehicles (formerly Creative Bus Sales) utilizing the State of Nevada Fleet Vehicles Procurement Contract No. 99SWC-S1495, for an amount not-to-exceed \$3,270,060. (For Possible Action)
- 4.5.2 Approve a contract with RFI Enterprises, Inc., for the Security Cameras and Access Controls Maintenance Agreement for RTC facilities, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$586,673. (For Possible Action)

On motion of Commissioner Reese to approve agenda, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered that the consent items for this meeting be approved.

Item 5 PUBLIC HEARING

- 5.1 Conduct a public hearing regarding approval of Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2023-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP); adopt a resolution approving Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2023-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). (For Possible Action)
- a. Staff Presentation
 - b. Public Hearing
 - c. Action

This item was pulled by Commissioner Hill to come back at June 21, 2024 Board meeting.

Item 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 Acknowledge receipt of the 2023 Annual Report. (For Possible Action)

Bill Thomas, Executive Director showed a video on what the RTC has accomplished in the past year. This video is available on our website. I'm very proud of our team and very thankful for the leadership and the support of the board.

A motion to approve was recommended by Adam Spear, RTC Legal Counsel. On motion of Vice Chair Hill to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered the item be approved.

- 6.2 Evaluate the Executive Director's annual performance as it pertains to the duties and obligations of the position and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024, and consider approval of a compensation adjustment if the Executive Director's performance has been satisfactory or better. (For Possible Action)

Laura Freed, Director of Administrative Services detailed the process of the evaluation and the results. The Board shall review and rated the executive director's performance at least once annually at, or near the end of the fiscal year. Performance rating is evaluated against the duties and obligations of the position to include evaluation of the performance of mutually agreed upon goals and objectives. Your better performance makes the executive director eligible for an annual salary increase. Additionally, the Board May award a performance bonus between 0 and 5% of the executive director's current base salary that is not in addition to base pay. Any salary increase and any bonus would be effective on July 1st of 2024.

Prior to today's board meeting pursuant to management policy, P01, the board chair met with the executive director to discuss his performance. The evaluation form contained 7 categories for board members to score, the executive director. These categories are management of the organization's execution of policy, financial management, board relations, community relations, leadership and professionalism. Each category could be scored from zero, which fails to meet all expectations to six, which far exceeds all expectations. The scores received from three of the five board members are as follows. 5.0, 5.0 and 5.71, which averages out to 5.24. For a score of five, it means exceeds all expectations.

On motion of Vice Chair Hill for the Board to approve an 8% salary increase, which was seconded by the report, seconded by Commissioner Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered the salary increase be approved.

6.3 Acknowledge receipt of the Mill Street Capacity and Safety Project update. (For Possible Action)

Kim Diegle, RTC Project Manager, I'm here to present a project update for the Mill Street Capacity and Safety project. The limits of this project are from just West of Kietzke Lane to Terminal Way along Mill Street. The need for the project was identified in the 2013 Mill Corridor Mill Terminal Corridor study and the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.

The main goals of this project are to enhance safety and improve traffic operations. The team will also modernize the access control and provide safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

There have been multiple crashes, including fatalities, along this stretch of Mill Street and we identified 8 areas for improvements. We are proposing to add a third eastbound lane from West of Kietzke Lane to I-580, which will provide a dedicated lane to the I-580 southbound onramp, improving traffic operations. We are modernizing the access management by consolidating side street access from Louise Street and Redwood Place and improving safety and traffic operations by installing a new signalized intersection at Golden Lane. We're also focusing on safety by Matley Lane to a right in right out intersection, relocating overhead utilities, constructing new sidewalks and making the ADA accessible improvements and providing continuous bike lanes through the corridor.

Once we are closer to construction, RTC will hold a public meeting to discuss the final design and construction schedule. We anticipate construction to begin in early 2025. The current project cost is approximately \$32 million, which includes engineering and right of way services, acquisition and relocation costs and construction.

On motion of Commissioner Reese to accept the report, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered the item be approved.

Chair Lawson, now going back to Item 4.4.1 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a fee simple interest in the entirety of APN 013-082-10, a fee simple interest in a portion of APN 013-082-14, and a temporary construction easement on a portion of APN 013-082-14 from ZRA Enterprises LTD, which are needed to construct the Mill Street Capacity and Safety project. (For Possible Action)

Adam Spear, RTC Legal Counsel spoke on this item. We follow the process that's mandated by state law to make every effort to reach agreement with property owners, but when that's not possible, this is a step in the process, as with other matters, where the recommendation from legal counsels, that litigation matters be discussed publicly by Commissioners. There have been attorney-client briefings on this matter. The staff report describes the action that the staff is recommending. We certainly can take a recess for any additional attorney-client communication, if necessary, but otherwise my recommendation would be that the board approve a motion to approve the item is.

On motion of Vice Chair Hill to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered the item be approved.

Item 7 *REPORTS (Informational Only)*

7.1 *RTC Executive Director Report*

1. We implemented our most recent transit service improvements, May 4th. One of them is our fourth FlexRIDE zone in select areas of the South Meadows. Route 56 is our only fixed route in this area, so FlexRIDE will provide an additional transportation option for people in south Reno. The change

also includes more bus bays at Meadowood Mall and an increase in frequency on Route 21 and the Virginia Line.

2. The U.S. Department of Transportation recently completed its certification review of RTC's planning process. It determined that our process meets Federal planning requirements. It does have a handful of recommendations but pointed out some things that we are doing very well. It concluded that we are doing a good job demonstrating consistency of projects in the program to federal goals and meeting the MPO's long-range priorities and performance targets. It also pointed out that our support of public transit to improve rapid bus service and streetscape improvements along critical ridership corridors is noteworthy.
3. We are getting very close to launching our Spanish outreach campaigns for transit, with the help of our consultants at Celtis Ventures. They tested multiple messages and identified the ones that had the highest performance. We will implement those into the full campaign. Celtis is also helping us with our ED-Pass campaign, which we will launch very soon. ED-Pass is a valuable resource for our college students, faculty, and staff to ride public transit for free.
4. We held our first Military Road Public Meeting last month at the North Valleys Community Center. We had a good turnout of residents in the Stead and Lemmon Valley areas to give input on the project. Thank you to Austin McCoy and Kimberly Diegle for giving a presentation on the Military Road Capacity and Safety Project. This improved roadway will be a huge benefit to the people who live and work in that area.
5. We are proud to participate in Work Zone Safety Week. The slogan for the campaign is "Respect the Cone: My Family Needs Me Home". The Associated General Contractors of Nevada will host a press conference Tuesday, May 28 at 10 a.m. on the northbound US 395 on-ramp near NDOT's widening project. Governor Joe Lombardo will speak at the event. Thank you to Chair Lawson and Director Larkin Thomason for speaking at the event, as well. Safety is always our top priority and it's every driver's duty to make sure the workers make it home from work, safely.
6. I would also like to thank Chair Lawson for joining us at our Spring Fling event, last month. Our directors grilled some burgers and hot dogs for our staff. We also designated part of the day for our employees to clean their offices and common areas, and clear out some of their old computer files. Thank you to everyone who participated, and I hope you enjoyed the event.
7. The RTC is partnering with the Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance and several other agencies to support the Ride Reno, Spin Sparks event tomorrow. It's happening from 10 a.m. to noon at Teglia's Paradise Park. The bike ride will showcase the new bicycle and pedestrian facilities on a portion of the Oddie Wells Project. Thank you, Commissioner Garcia, for using some of your discretionary funding for this event. On that note, today is National Bike to Work Day. We are providing free transit for anyone who rides their bike to the bus stations today through Sunday.
8. We're also holding a community event to celebrate the completion of Phase 3 of the Oddie Wells Project Saturday, June 1st. It will take place at Carniceria ([Carnee-seh-REE-AH](#)) Tres Amigos on Sutro Street from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will include live music, raffle prizes, face painting, and discounts at local businesses. We expect to complete the entire Oddie Wells Project by this fall.
9. Please join me in congratulating Omar Casildo on his promotion to a full-time position. Omar started as an Accounting Specialist in the Finance Department on April 22nd. Many of you already know him because he did such a great job as our Finance Intern. Omar received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a Major in Finance from UNR last Fall. Thank you for your work, Omar. We look forward to your success at RTC.
10. We also have a couple of anniversaries to mention. Congratulations to Hannah Yue for reaching her 5th anniversary on May 6th. Jessica Dover will reach the one-year mark on May 22nd. Thank you both for your hard work.
11. Please join us in congratulating Patty McCauley for MTM employee of the month for April 2024. Patty has been driving for Access for 11-and-a-half years. As a BTW trainer, she has put many new drivers on the road with confidence and a safety mindset. Her clients and coworkers appreciate her

service, and they send in many compliments about her great work. Patty likes to go camping as often as she can – and she also enjoys fishing and riding her motorbike. We appreciate Patty’s customer service skills and safety record. She is an integral part of what makes MTM great as a team.

12. Lionel Lopez is the Keolis driver of the month. Lionel is originally from Truckee, and he has worked as a bus operator for Ride since August of 2017. He enjoys working as a team and interacting with his coworkers. Lionel had a 99 percent on-time performance, zero preventable accidents, and no customer complaints in April. He enjoys spending quality time with his family.

7.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer. We submitted an application for the Safe Streets and Roads For All Planning Grant this week. We're asking for \$1.6 million, and this is really to go for our planning efforts in terms of making our road network safer for all users. We should find out if we were successful in August.

The Senate and House Appropriations subcommittees both held hearings on DOT's proposed budget for FY25. Senate topics included ensuring financial stability for public transit agencies and for passenger rail expansions in the House. The FTA's proposal is \$20 billion for projects, but only \$3.4 billion is appropriated, so as projects are getting more expensive, the idea is that appropriations are going to have to increase in order to keep pace.

Secretary Buttigieg talked about the importance of public transit in terms of regional economies. One of the things that he pointed out in the language of the proposed budget is that there would be some flexibility in formula and flex funds that would allow Federal Highway funds to transfer over to operating expenses.

The Justice Department issued a final ruling on ADA rules for transit apps and websites. Transit agencies are required to make online information accessible within three years to be in compliance. The RTC is in compliance and our staff is continually doing things like webinars to improve even more.

7.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Director Tracy Larkin Thomason gave a presentation and spoke on the following:

Nevada State Employee Appreciation Week, May 6th – May 10th. I want to thank all employees for their hard work and continued dedication.

Environmental Excellence Award. The road ecologists and engineers from across North America evaluate research and data to determine the most effective practices to reduce animal vehicle collisions and increase connectivity for Nevada wildlife. The goals of the study are to look at the best practices and share them, and we have several across the state and we work very closely watching where the migration patterns are, and we have some very close along different areas right here in the state. I am very proud of the department for that award.

Theft Reduction Pilot Program. in the Reno area, we've already experienced over half \$1,000,000 and rising of wire theft in Southern Nevada. I know Clark County has over 2.5 million thus far and it was rising there, so I thought we would look at a pilot program. It is in Southern Nevada right now where the heaviest has been going on where we are actually putting traffic cameras in the areas at 66 local stations along I-15.

I want to acknowledge the issue that we've had on Pyramid Way with the pyramid sound walls. First of all, I want to say that the walls themselves are structurally sound. The molding for the visual items on the outside do not line up, so what we were looking at is going back with some internal things to look at, but also we are looking at adding some metal inserts if you're familiar. If you go along I-80, you'll see things like trout, birds and fish. So, we're looking at adding some metal inserts that should also minimize the visual impact and actually may enhance the overall wall together. So, as we move further down, I just want you to know that we have looked at it. We've acknowledged that there was an error and that we are moving forward on how we can best mitigate it.

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Garcia spoke about Ride Paradise Park Reno taking place May 18th at Paradise Park. I wanted to give a special shout out to Paul Nelson, Josh MacEachern and Maria Paz Ferandez from the RTC for all of your work over the past few months and the coordination. I really appreciate it. It turns out planning a multi-jurisdictional event is kind of challenging and it's a lot of money too. So, I wanted to give a special shout out to our chair here, Mayor Lawson, for helping us find a solution to work together on the law enforcement piece and for Mayor Schieve for also agreeing to do that.

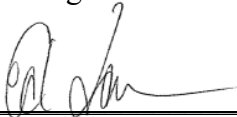
Chair Lawson, I just have one thing I want to bring up is the right of way for the connector between La Posada and USA Parkway. We have a possibility of an Angel donor that wants to pay for the engineering of this right away. I'd like to bring that back for the entire Commission to hear.

Item 9 PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Lawson 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, Chair Lawson moved to Adjournment.

Item 10 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.



ED LAWSON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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