

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

10:00 A.M.

July 19, 2024

PRESENT:

**Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks
Alexis Hill, Vice Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner
Devon Reese, Reno City Council
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Sajid Sulahria, Deputy Director of NDOT**

ABSENT:

**Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno
Tracy Larkin Thomason, NDOT Director**

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 Vice Chair Hill. The Board conducted the following business:

Item 1 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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.

Don Swain, Keolis Manager spoke about team member Scott West.

Scott West is our one of our utility employees, and he came to us in December of 2023. Like all employees who might be operating a vehicle, he took the driver training program which includes awareness for human trafficking. Scott was at one of the bus stops at Fourth and Sutro working on keeping things squared away, and a gentleman and a young lady came up and were having an argument right near him where he could hear it. At one point the lady said, “this is human trafficking”. So, that really got Scott in gear to pay attention to what was happening. He kept an eye on the people and didn't take any action, which is part of the training. He stayed in the area while they were there and saw them come up behind the shelter, and then the lady came out with a wound to her forehead. They moved away from the bus stop, and a police car came by and Scott flagged them down. He got the Reno PD to take action and get these two people separated to overcome the problem. We don't know the details of what happened after that, but we do know that Scott got a couple of letters from local agencies that support Women in Crisis thanking him for the action that he took. This was a pretty remarkable thing to do out there on the road. Scott was really there to make sure that the stops are comfortable for our riders, but he took the extra step to make sure that that the people around him were

safe. It's a great thing, and we've been congratulating Scott since it happened on May 23rd. Thank you Scott!

Item 3 *APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

On motion of Commissioner Reese to approve agenda, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, 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 06/21/2024 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 Engineering Department

4.3.1 Authorize staff to pursue efforts to deliver the Sierra Street Bridge Replacement Project using the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) project delivery method, on a parallel path with planned and ongoing efforts to use the Design-Bid-Build project delivery method. (For Possible Action)

4.3.2 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno for research and engineering support activities from the Pavement Engineering and Science (PES) program in the amount of \$250,000. (For Possible Action)

4.3.3 Approve an administrative settlement in the amount of \$92,118 authorizing RTC to acquire certain property interests related to APN: 013-084-01 from Jentz Family Trust for the Mill Street Capacity and Safety Project. (For Possible Action)

4.3.4 Adopt a resolution declaring an intention to sell property (APN 004-082-18; APN 004-061-29; APN 004-061-20; APN 004-061-26; APN 004-061-22; and APN 035-033-02) to the City of Reno. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Public Transportation/Operations Department

4.4.1 Approve Amendment #1 to the contract with Spare Labs, Inc., (Order Form #SL-5055) for the Spare Platform software and services that RTC uses to manage its FlexRIDE service, to integrate additional modules (Spare Engage, Spare Dispatch, and Optimization Pro) and extend the contract term through July 31, 2027. (For Possible Action)

- 4.4.2 Approve a contract with Token Transit, Inc., to upgrade the mobile fare collection hardware and software across all services, in an amount not-to-exceed \$429,500. (For Possible Action)

On motion of Vice Chair Hill to accept the consent items, seconded by Commissioner Reese, 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 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); adopt a resolution approving Amendment No. 3 to the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). (For Possible Action)
 - a. Staff Presentation
 - b. Public Hearing
 - c. Action

Xuan Wang, RTC Planning Manager presented Amendment No. 3 on the 2050 RTP. The RTP is a long range plan, which was adopted in March of 2021. We had two amendments completed in January 2023 and January 2024. We are now working on a full update aiming for adoption in March 2025.

Amendments are needed when we add new projects or change schedules for some projects in the RTP. This amendment is for the I-80 East, Vista Boulevard to USA Parkway widening. There was a public hearing last month and that was for the environmental and design phase of this project. This hearing is for the construction portion of the project. We modeled this project originally for the 2015 model year, and now because of the schedule change, we're going to move it to the 2040 model year based on industry request.

An air quality conformity analysis was conducted according to the requirements, and the project is found to be in conformance with the requirements. The Interagency Air Quality Consultation Group met on June 18th and approved the Air Quality Analysis. We had a public comment period which started on Wednesday, June 26th and ended on Tuesday, July 16th. We presented this amendment to the CMAC and the TAC and this public hearing today. I'm happy to answer any questions and we also have NDOT project manager, Chris Kuhn, on the line for additional questions. Thank you.

There were no comments by the Commissioners, so Chair Lawson opened the public hearing up to anyone wishing to make public comment on this item.

Being no public comment, on motion of Vice Chair Hill to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered that Item 5.1 is approved.

Item 6 *DICUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS*

- 6.1 Discuss and provide potential direction to staff regarding any legislative measures to be considered by the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature (2025). (Discussion Only)

Mr. Michael Hillerby of Kaempfer Crowell, who represents the RTC for legislative matters, gave a brief discussion on the legislative session.

- 6.2 Approve a Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMAR) contract with Granite Construction Company for the construction of the Arlington Avenue Bridges Project for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$32,340,102. (For Possible Action)

Brian Byrne, RTC Project Manager, gave an update and presentation on Arlington Avenue Bridges project.

This project is to address the structurally deficient bridges on Arlington over the Truckee River. This is also to preserve the hydraulic capacity of the Truckee River, provide safe and ADA compliant multimodal improvements, and of course, align with the adopted regional and community plans.

We have two bridges over the Truckee River on Arlington. The North Bridge is currently a two pier system with two piers in the water, we've changed that to be a single pier. In doing so, we have redesigned the kayak park to accommodate these features. We've made some pedestrian improvements under the under the North bridge with the pedestrian walkway and made that ADA accessible. The South Bridge is a clear span bridge. We will be matching that in kind with the clear span bridge. The esthetic features were voted on by the public and they selected the railing type, lighting and the pylons.

On our construction budget, we received congressionally directed spending of \$2 million. We were successful in getting a Raise Grant of \$7 million and our STB budget of \$5.9 million. This totals federal funding of \$14.9 million, with the total project budget of 32.7 million.

We finalized our design in May of 2024. We have completed our NEPA process and that received a categorical exclusion. This project aligns with the federal requirements regarding Build America and Buy America through all of our specifications and federal requirements. Currently, our easements and our agreements for utilities and rights of entry are being finalized and reviewed with the Nevada Division of State Lands. Those are expected to wrap up by the end of the year. Our section 408 404 and 401 permits are currently being reviewed with the Army Corps of Engineers and NDP. Those are on track to be finalized by the end of the year, prior to next spring for construction. With that, I will hand it over to Amanda Callegari.

Amanda Callegari, RTC Engineering Manager. Our CMAR process kicked off in November of 2023, after procuring Granite Construction as our construction manager. Involvement of the construction manager, as well as the Independent Cost Estimator (ICE), in the pre-construction phase really provides constructability and a different type of estimating. The CMAR process is a cyclical process that includes incorporating design innovations, holding workshops where we can identify risks and innovations, and work to mitigate those risks at certain design milestones. At certain design milestones, the construction manager, the independent cost estimator and the engineer submit Opinion of Probable Construction (OPC) cost estimates, and then the process concludes when all three parties reach a fair and reasonable construction price.

RTC developed ten key goals that we wanted to achieve through this project with the collaboration of Granite Construction, ICE and Jacobs Engineering, our designer.

A few goals that I would like to highlight include completing the construction of both bridges in one season from July to October to work within the ordinary high water mark. Secondly, our goal

was to limit noise impacts downtown. The third goal was that we didn't want any environmental compliance findings through the implementation of the identified mitigation measures and permit requirements. Involving our contractor throughout design, we were able to get their input incorporated into those permit applications and get our questions answered quicker and fast track the acceptance and approval of those permits. So, through integration of these contractor generated value and innovations during design, as well as understanding all the project unknowns and having a better understanding of risk, we were able to reach all ten of these goals.

Our construction was anticipated to extend into two full construction seasons, which would have impacted Wingfield Park for two full summers. Implementing the CMAR delivery method has enabled us to reduce this anticipated schedule to a single in-river working season, with construction completion anticipated to be in June of 2026. With that, our recommendation to the board today is to approve our CMAR contract with Granite Construction for the construction of the Arlington Avenue Bridges project for a GMP of \$32 million.

On motion of Vice Chair Hill to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered that Item 6.2 is approved.

6.3 Acknowledge receipt of a presentation on the South Virginia Street Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Plan. (For Possible Action)

Graham Dollarhide, RTC Planning Manager, gave a presentation and presented the results of the draft South Virginia Street Transit Oriented Development plan. The concept behind the South Virginia Transit Oriented Development, or TOD Plan, was to envision the future extension of the Virginia Line Bus Rapid Transit, or BRT route from Meadowood Mall to South Reno, and to develop the land use planning tools that will encourage a walkable transit supportive development pattern that meets the growth and development needs of the region. Establishing a plan for transit expansion and multimodal infrastructure now will hopefully guide development patterns in the desired direction for the future. I'd also like to note that the extension of the Virginia Line was part of the Unfunded Transit Vision in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Over the past 30 years, South Reno has experienced substantial growth, going from about 1500 population to about 43,000. While these types of percentage and even numerical gains are not expected over the next 30 years, some level of significant growth can still be expected.

In the near term, the RTC will be incorporating comments from the Board, Advisory Committees and the public into the final plan, which is anticipated to be ready for adoption in August. RTC staff has presented the draft plan to TAC, CMAC and now the Board and has made the draft available for review and comment to all bodies, including the public.

Vice Chair Hill, I think there are opportunities for RTC, if the Board is willing to do it, to sit down with some of these private property owners of vacant properties and see how we can leverage federal dollars to see if we can get multifamily and I also saw hotel usage as a recommended usage down there. I think we need more non-gaming, nonsmoking properties in town too. I'd love if this Board was willing to give staff direction to kind of have those discussions and see how we can be a leader in that and see how we can leverage our resources to support what we want to see down there, which is more public transit and rapid public transit.

Chair Lawson, we will be coming back next month for an actual action on this. Thank you.

6.4 Acknowledge receipt of the RTC Strategic Roadmap for FY 2025-2027 and provide input and direction regarding next steps. (For Possible Action)

Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director, as a reminder for the Board and those who watch RTC and are involved in RTC, this is our third year in using the roadmap. Very simply, the roadmap is the strategic plan for the organization. It's intended to reflect the board direction that comes out of your annual retreat, and we use it here as your staff, as basically the benchmark or the guidepost for how we act over the next year. While this document may not be in the deepest detail, it really is the document that's most important to us when we talk about the goals in shaping how we as an organization operate over the next year. We've been very pleased with Erica and her organization's ability to work with you as the Board and us as the staff to facilitate the conversations that lead to what we believe is a very effective and powerful tool to reflect where we're going as an organization.

Eric Olson, OnStrategy Consultant gave a presentation and summary on the Strategic Goals for the next three years, which included:

- Expanding Public Transportation Utilization
- Promoting Neighborhood Mobility
- Exploring Truckee River as a Mobility Corridor
- Proactively Managing Construction
- Improving Network Safety
- Sustainable Maintenance of our Roads
- Being an Engaged Organization.

On motion of Vice Chair Hill to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered that Item 6.4 is approved.

6.5 Approve the RTC Goals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). (For Possible Action)

Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director, in your packet and clearly in the public record for those who want to go into detail, are our ambitious, yet very committed 32 goals for next year. I would encourage people to go and look at each and every one of those goals. I don't have a presentation, but I wanted to touch on a few and give you some highlights and particularly on the ones that I know are of interest to you.

We're going to be beginning the design of the Keystone Avenue Bridge. We're going to start construction on Arlington Avenue Bridge, Sparks Boulevard widening and the Mill Street widening, which are pretty significant projects in our community that will start next year. They'll obviously be impactful, but they'll make a real difference in the community's ability to move around. We will finish construction on Steamboat Parkway, Somerset Parkway and South Virginia I-580 to Longley.

We'll begin the BLM application process for both the Tri Center to La Posada and the Pyramid Way to Lemmon Drive roadways. That'll put us in a better place for those two roads that will be important to our future. We will continue to make Sun Valley Boulevard our highest priority for federal funding.

We're working very closely this year with our Lake Tahoe Transportation partners to define our transit role and level of support, as well as studying things such as Park and Ride opportunities to address transportation to and from Lake Tahoe, particularly the Washoe County area of Lake Tahoe.

We are looking at the Truckee River Corridor and how it can function as part of the transportation network. We'll be bringing the Active Transportation Plan to the Board for adoption, which will then be quickly followed up with two neighborhood plans where we can start implementing our strategy.

We have a lot of stuff on our plate and the staff is eager to get our teeth into some of these and I'm very proud of the work that the staff does and their ability to perform. Like I said, 32 is a lot of goals. I push a lot as your Executive Director, and they respond very well and I'm very proud of our staff for keeping up with the pace. I'm asking today for the Board's approval of these goals.

Vice Chair Hill, this is so ambitious and exciting, so great work by the team. I have just a couple comments. At Washoe County and Reno, and my understanding is Sparks as well, we all have tree programs now through Urban Canopy Programs and giving trees to residents. I'm wondering if on our neighborhood plan, and we may already be doing this, but can we go to our lower income neighborhoods to get trees to those neighborhoods while we're doing that Planning. There's definitely a deficit in some of these neighborhoods. Also, on the Kids Ride for Free Program, which I'm so excited about that we started this summer, can we analyze and see if we want to do that moving forward as well, and not just do the pilot? Those are my only two comments and I'm just thrilled that Sun Valley and Lake Tahoe and all the other programs are on this list. So great work.

Commissioner Garcia, I'm very supportive of what Commissioner Hill just said, and I really appreciate that perspective. Thank you, Bill, so much for prioritizing and going after those grants to fund and support those Sun Valley Boulevard projects. There are so many significant needs out there for the community and I know that they'll be pleased to hear that you're fighting for them. So, I appreciate that.

Chair Lawson, my only comment is I'd like to see a quarterly progress report towards the goals so that we can see how we're doing. On the trees, we are actually giving away 300 trees in Sparks this year. Pretty sweet.

On motion of Vice Chair Hill to approve, with the suggested changes, seconded by Commissioner Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Lawson ordered that Item 6.5 is approved.

Item 7 REPORTS (Informational Only)

7.1 RTC Executive Director Report

1. I'm very happy to announce that Congressman Mark Amodei included one million dollars for the RTC in the Fiscal Year 25 THUD Appropriations Bill.
 - We'll receive this Community Project Funding if Congress approves it as part of the budget. The funding will go towards construction of the Eagle Canyon Safety and Operations Project. The project will extend a shared use path, improve lighting, signage and striping, and could include safety enhancements at five pedestrian crosswalks.
2. July 26th will mark the 34th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- To observe this historic law, the RTC will offer free public transit on that day. The ADA became law in 1990. It prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in many areas of public life, including transportation. We are proud to do our part to improve transportation accessibility and safety in all of our road projects and public transit.
3. We will also provide free public transit during Hot August Nights on four of our fixed routes.
 - Those include the Virginia and Lincoln Lines – and Routes 1 and 11 from August 6th through the 11th. These routes run up and down Virginia Street – and Fourth and Prater. ACCESS will also be free at Centennial Plaza and the 4th Street Station. With so many cars heading to the hotel properties, this is a great way for visitors and locals to get around town for the events.
 4. I am thrilled to welcome three new employees to the RTC.
 - Vanessa Lacer started on Monday as our new Director of Planning. She comes to us from Wilmington, North Carolina where she has worked in both Metropolitan Planning Organizations, as well as cities and towns in transportation and long-range planning. Most recently, she has been a Senior Transportation Planner for the Wilmington Urban Area MPO. She also has transit system experience as the Mobility Manager for the Cape Fear Transit Authority, known as Wave Transit.
 5. Please welcome Jamie Borino to the team.
 - Jamie also started Monday as RTC's next Safety and Security Administrator. He has extensive safety and risk management experience. He will be working with Rob Reeder over the next several weeks to develop relationships with our contractors and learn about RTC's policies and requirements. As you know, Rob is retiring in September. Thank you, Rob, for your help in the transition of this very important role.
 6. Finally, James Okorochoa rejoined the Planning Department for a summer internship on July 1st.
 - This is his second time interning with us, so some of you may remember him from last summer. James is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Nevada, Reno, and has a keen interest in GIS and Transportation Planning and Modeling. Welcome back, James!
 7. Congratulations to Dale Keller on his anniversary at RTC.
 - Dale passed the five-year mark July 8th. He is doing an incredible job as our Deputy Executive Director and Director of Engineering.
 8. And a big congratulations to Jennifer Meyers for 20 years at RTC July 12th.
 - Jennifer is our D.B.E Liaison Officer. Thank you for all of your hard work over the last two decades. Congratulations to both of you and keep up the great work.
 9. Please join us in congratulating Cathy Gardner as the MTM Employee of the Month for June.
 - Cathy has been part of the team since January 2018. Before that, she was a RIDE driver for many years. She enjoys helping the more vulnerable members of our community, getting to know the customers, and providing a safe service. Cathy has a great sense of humor and is likely to be found joking with her coworkers at the end of her day. She spends her free time with her Granddaughter and enjoys going to rock concerts.
 10. Donald Clay is the Keolis Driver of the Month.
 - Don's accomplishments in June consist of a 96 percent on-time performance, zero preventable accidents, and no customer complaints. He is originally from Philadelphia and moved to Reno in the 90s. He has worked as a bus operator for Ride since August of 2022. Don enjoys engaging with his passengers and making his coworkers laugh. He is a huge sports fan and loves to root for the Philadelphia Eagles.
 11. The Keolis Driver of the Month receives a 250-dollar gift card and a parking spot.
 12. The Technician and Utility Worker of the Month both receive a 250-dollar gift card, as well.

7.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer. Last week we submitted our application for the Smart Grant and we're applying for \$1.1 million. This will go towards the Plumb Lane corridor, where we're going to be looking at the feasibility of using AI for some pedestrian detection systems. This is our second time applying for this, and we're hoping for a successful application this time around.

The House of Representatives is still working to pass its 12 appropriations bills before the August recess. That plan is in doubt because it failed to pass the legislative branch appropriations bill last week. It also has one less week to work on that because of the Republican National Convention that's happening this week. The Senate started its appropriations process a little bit later than the House did, and the schedule still isn't clear. We do expect the Senate and the House bills to look quite a bit different. So, we'll be expecting a continuing resolution into the next fiscal year, just like we saw in the last couple of years. The House funding bill does include cuts to the SIG program and the transit earmark pool. It is providing enough SIG funding to cover all the existing full funding grant agreements. Though the FTA recently released the Enhancing Mobility Innovation with almost \$2 billion available. These grants are meant to improve customer convenience, and they can be used for concept development and demonstration projects, or for software solutions projects, and that concludes my report.

7.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Deputy Director Sajid Sulahria gave a presentation and gave a summary on the following topics:

- U.S. 395 Northbound Dandini Ramp Closure
- University Way Resurfacing/Reconfiguration
- North McCarran Resurfacing – North Virginia to Clear Acre
- Pyramid Highway Shared Use Path
- Union Pacific “Big Boy” Whistle Stop Visit

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Vice Chair Hill asked if RTC is interested in EV Chargers at the administrative building. If so, I can put you in touch with NV Energy because that is a Grant we can apply for and support staff and visitors who are driving EV's .

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.

Dora Martinez, I really enjoyed the first public comment from your staff on Scott West. I just want to say thank you so much to James Gee for hearing us and making sure that the ADA anniversary on July 26th is free for all. We appreciate that move and thank you to Bill and all of the Commissioners for agreeing to do that. As constituents we like to be as everybody's email says, building a better community through quality transportation, and I really do appreciate that statement. We want to thank Susi Trinidad for everything she does. I went to Florida and Paratransit here is so much better than some of the counties out there. So, kudos to RTC folks,

RTC Access and the bus drivers. I want to put in a plug that Access drivers because they do a lot. They help us do the door and make sure that we don't fall on the steps when we get on the bus, and the dog doesn't get his toes run over by wheelchairs. So hopefully Mr. Gee and whoever's running that show will give them an increase. I want to thank Mr. Khalil Wilson from City of Reno and Ms. Kapuler, who was here in RTC, and she moved to NDOT. We have been requesting the crosswalk on Mason and Coit Plaza and they are being fixed because this little guy, he is trained to go on ramps and he is trained to walk within crosswalk. I hate to be a victim of a person that the driver didn't see the crosswalk. So please make sure that they are repainted. Thank you so much for all that you do.

Juan Martinez, we live up on North McCarran Boulevard in West Seventh Street. There is a bus stop there on the corner of North McCarran Boulevard that does not have a bench and there are a lot of shopping carts that are scattered around that bus stop that riders use. They flip the carts over to sit on. So please, if you can, I'm requesting a bench to be put on there so us blind folks don't run into those shopping carts that are tipped over. Also, if you do put the bus bench there to make sure it's not overlapping the sidewalk, so we don't hit our kneecaps on those as we're walking by. Thank you.

Item 10 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



ED LAWSON, Vice Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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