

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Petersen	Northern Nevada Public Health Air-Quality Management Division
Mariam Ahmad	Washoe County Community Services
Chris Tolley	Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency
Candace Stowell	Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
Lissa Butterfield	Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority
Amber Sosa	City of Sparks Community Services
Scott Carey	City of Sparks Community Services
Kyle Chisholm	Washoe County School District
Angela Fuss	City of Reno Community Development

RTC STAFF

Jim Gee	Paul Nelson
Jacqueline Maldonado	Marquis Williams
Graham Dollarhide	Xuan Wang
Bill Thomas	

TAC GUEST

Kris Kuhn, NDOT	Mike Mischel, public
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ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Technical Advisory Committee meeting was conducted as a Zoom Webinar. TAC committee member Angela Fuss called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

ITEM 3. VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS REQUIRED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 219 (2023)

RTC staff read the instructions required for participating via Zoom and participating via telephone.

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 4, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

The TAC April 4, 2024, meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

ITEM 6. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO THE FFY 2023-2027 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RTIP)

Graham Dollarhide, RTC Planning Manager, gave a presentation on the proposed Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2023-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file at the RTC Metropolitan Planning Department.

Craig Petersen commented on the project at I-80 being widened between Vista Boulevard and USA Parkway, he stated that on an air quality perspective the transportation models show that projects that increase capacity for vehicles always show an increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT's) and air pollution despite the decrease in vehicle congestion. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) emissions for fossil fuel vehicles are the largest source of ozone causing pollution in Washoe County which, is at the Federal air quality limit for ozone and the national ambient air quality standard for ozone is currently being reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which Washoe County could be designated non-attainment for ozone and will be required by the Federal Clean Air Act to implement a missions controls on businesses, industry and governmental organizations and could place limits on transportation projects like this one which, there are about 26 thousand daily vehicle trips and 20 thousand of those are going to TRI Center. Craig Petersen recommended to look at mass transit options, HOV lanes, lite rail and park and ride. The discussion continued the ozone issues.

Kyle Chisholm asked about the South Meadows Connector and the results of the studies. Graham Dollarhide RTC Planning Manager, stated the study is an alignment study and not a Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) and will be part of the amendment RTIP. Chris Kuhn with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), stated this study is a feasibility and alignment study which is to determine if an alignment through the hills from South Meadows Parkway to USA Parkway is feasible and identify cost impacts if, the project advances it will move to the next phases PEL, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), public outreach, stakeholder outreach, environmental studies and preliminary design would take place. Chris Tolley requested the document be updated and asked about the time frame for the southeast connector study road to be improved. Chris Kuhn, NDOT, stated the feasibility study is to review if the study is economically feasible and if the project moves forward with a NEPA EIS clearance and final design, it could be eight to ten years before construction will begin. Graham Dollarhide, RTC Planning Manager, will correct the Project Environmental Linkage to Planning Environmental Linkage on the document.

Scott Carey asked about the I-80 east final design project, and it being pushed back and the reason why. Chris Kuhn, NDOT, stated the study is currently in NEPA and preliminary design for the project which will move to final design depending on the funding type, acquisition type for final designer and it will be anticipated to start in 2025. Scott Carey asked about the Tahoe Pyramid bike

trail project and an extension to the Fernley area. Kevin Verre, NDOT, stated a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) awarded the application to the Tahoe Pyramid Trail East feasibility study to use the funds for the next steps in the feasibility study for federal funds on the agreement for the study. Chris Kuhn, NDOT, asked that the trail to Fernley versus Pyramid be deferred to the Tahoe Pyramid Trail (TPT) group which they can offer specific details. The I-80 east began NEPA about a year ago and their preferred path location is a cultural avoidance area, NDOT is stepping back in that effort but will be in coordination regularly and is in support of their efforts. Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director, stated there will be an item at the next board meeting for RTC to get involved in the north route at La Posada with the impacts to get the employees out to the TRI Center. Kyle Chisholm commented on the VMTS TPT together with the I-80 widening release to have a path to the TRI Center. He asked if the South Meadows Connector is on the website or a map and plan. Chris Khun, NDOT, stated there is no website or link to the study. The study is currently narrowing down concept alignments at this time which will be completed in 2024. Chris Kuhn, NDOT, stated, NDOT completed the I-80 corridor study in 2020, which focused on the region of the I-80 corridor and how to improve traffic operations from east to Sparks. The study evaluated 20 different projects throughout the region for improvement of the traffic operations from Sparks east. The project included La Posada connector, the South Meadows connector, north valleys project, Spaghetti bowl phase two and numerous others. The findings were to widen I-80 to USA Parkway. Candace Stowell, asked about the Tahoe Pyramid Trail East Feasibility study going out east. Kevin Verre, NDOT, stated NDOT awarded the Tahoe Pyramid Trail East Feasibility study through the TAP which awarded planning level grants to entities areas of the state for looking at feasibility in creating connections. NDOT provided funding to do these feasibility studies to the TPT group. NDOT will not be leading the study and will have oversight of spending of the funds on this study.

Chris Tolley made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2023-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

Kyle Chisholm seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 7. DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

There were no development updates.

ITEM 8. MEMBER ITEMS

Lissa Butterfield announced RTAA has promoted the engineering and construction manager at RTAA and is advertising for a new engineering and construction manager which the application process closes on June 17, 2024.

Scott Carey announced developments and a meeting with stakeholders with industry and consultants for the code amendments from the city council of the drive through industry and possible entitlement changes which the item will be brought to the planning commission this summer. A Specialty Grocery store - Trader Joes grocery was approved by the planning commission and a new industrial building being proposed at east Nugget, A Golden Triangle development in Spanish Springs and a planning commission meeting is coming up for a new fitness at Los Altos Crossing shopping center. Scott commended the RTC for offering free transit passes to students this summer.

Chris Tolley gave updates of the 2024 Regional Plan update with continued planning efforts and the adoption date from the Regional Planning Governing Board is on October 10, 2024.

Kyle Chisholm gave updates on the submitted entitlement application for the Silver Dollar elementary school in the Silver Dollar estate community at north valleys, southeast of the existing Obrien Stead campus. The Silver Dollar elementary school will be a replacement for the Obrien Stead elementary school. Washoe County School District (WCSD) has reached out to the Silver Dollar estates and other HOA's in the vicinity and an item will be going to the Neighborhood Advisory Board on June 20, 2024.

ITEM 9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE TAC MEETINGS

- Tahoe Pyramid Trail planning and the Truckee Meadows trail planning

ITEM 10. RTC STAFF ITEMS

Xuan Wang, RTC Planning Manager proposed to change the TAC July 4, 2024, meeting to July 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Kyle suggested having the meeting on another date. Xuan proposed to have the meeting on Monday 8, 2024.

ITEM 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.