

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:02 A.M.

February 21, 2025

PRESENT:

**Alexis Hill, Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Devon Reese, Vice Chair, Reno City Council
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Tracy Larkin Thomason, Director of NDOT**

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 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 Hill 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.

Brendan Schneider, Senior Air Quality Specialist for the Northern Nevada Public Health Air Quality Management Division. I am commenting on agenda item 5.1 set for adoption at this meeting. As many of you may know, emissions from motor vehicles are the largest source of air pollution in Washoe County. These emissions lead to the formation of ground level ozone, which is one of the six criteria pollutants listed in the Clean Air Act. Ground level ozone is the pollutant of concern for the summertime and can lead to poor health outcomes for the public, especially older adults, children, and those with existing lung disease. Although Washoe County is recognized by EPA as attaining the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard, we are only within two parts per billion of violating it. These standards do get strengthened over time, with the next review of ozone slated for 2030. These five years between now and then are critical for Washoe County to avoid detrimental health, environmental and economic impacts of violating this standard. These impacts include restrictive motor vehicle emission budgets reduction or loss of federal funding, and more stringent local air quality regulations on businesses and residents. The Regional Transportation Plan should be implemented to help mitigate Washoe County's ground level ozone problem through projects that prioritize alternative and public transportation and ultimately reduce vehicle miles traveled. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank RTC's planning team for their hard work on getting this plan to the finish line. Thank you.

Jennifer Iveson with Safe Routes to School. I wanted to come here today to thank you for being such an amazing community partner and for supporting our program and pedestrian safety in our community. I would like to point out the bus that's parked outside and that the artwork on these buses just brightens our community and shares safety messages every day. We know that education is instrumental in reducing pedestrian crashes and helping our students every day. So, we thank you again for helping us with this project.

Item 3 *APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

Vice Chair Reese would like to pull Item 4.3.6 for discussion.

On motion of Commissioner Schieve to approve remaining agenda items, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved.

Items 4 *CONSENT ITEMS*

On motion of Vice Chair Reese to approve the remaining consent items, less Consent Item 4.3.6, seconded by Commissioner Schieve, the motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that the remaining consent items for this meeting be approved.

4.1 Minutes

- 4.1.1 Approve the meeting minutes for the 01/17/2025 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 Engineering Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.4 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation and Operations Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly summary report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Outreach Report from the Communications staff. (For Possible Action)

4.3 Engineering Department

- 4.3.1 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to establish funding commitments for the North Virginia Street Multimodal Improvements included in the US 395 North Valleys Phase 2 Project, in the amount of \$8,498,644. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.2 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation for funding, maintenance, and operations responsibilities on the Veterans Roundabout Modifications Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.3 Approve Amendment No. 3 to the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement Amendment with the Nevada Department of Transportation for the Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection

- Phase 1 Project, to authorize additional federal funds for construction. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.4 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Local Public Agency Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation for the use and reimbursement of federal funds on the Sparks Boulevard Capacity Improvement Project. (For Possible Action)
 - 4.3.5 Approve the qualified list of consultants to provide civil engineering, design, and construction management services for the Traffic Engineering Program and the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program. (For Possible Action)
 - 4.3.6 Acknowledge receipt of an update regarding the McCarran Boulevard Safety and Operational Improvements Project. (For Possible Action) *Pulled for Discussion*

Vice Chair Reese focused on roadway improvements along McCarran Boulevard, particularly at Lakeside and McCarran, where transportation issues and planning projects are ongoing concerns. Vice Chair Reese commended RTC's safety programming and sought updates on project timelines. Deputy Executive Director Dale Keller provided background on RTC's partnership with NDOT, Reno, and Sparks to enhance safety and traffic operations. Two priority areas—Plumb to South Virginia Street and El Rancho to Pyramid Highway—are under design, with efforts to secure construction funding.

Vice Chair Reese also highlighted the Keystone and McCarran signalization project, praised by residents for improving traffic flow. Concerns were raised about jurisdiction over public safety enforcement on McCarran, particularly during summer when motorcyclist incidents increase. Tracy Larkin Thomason, NDOT Director, confirmed ongoing discussions to clarify enforcement responsibilities. The conversation concluded with a discussion on traffic mitigation strategies, including pedestrian safety measures and reviewing hazards like roadside trees planted by HOAs. The City Council will receive further updates on these improvements.

On motion of Vice Chair Reese to approve Consent Item 4.3.6, seconded by Commissioner Schieve, motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that Consent Item 4.3.6 be approved.

- 4.3.7 Approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for additional engineering during construction services needed in connection with the Veterans Roundabout Modifications Project, in the amount of \$351,135, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$680,500. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.8 Approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract with AtkinsRealis USA, Inc., for additional design and engineering during construction services needed in connection with the Pyramid Highway Operations Improvements Project, in the amount of \$2,511,026, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$3,197,506. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.9 Acknowledge receipt of the RTC's Intelligent Transportation Systems Strategic Master Plan. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.10 Approve Amendment No. 3 to the contract with AtkinsRealis USA, Inc., for engineering during construction (EDC) services on the Sparks Boulevard Capacity Improvement Project in the amount of \$817,902, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$9,292,233. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.11 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract with Lumos and Associates, Inc., for engineering during construction services needed in connection with the Arrowcreek Parkway and Wedge Parkway Rehabilitation Project, in the amount of \$665,840, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,550,860. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.12 Approve a settlement between RTC and Alltaken, Inc., dba Wienerschnitzel store number 612, in the amount of \$450,000, to resolve any and all claims related to a business displaced by the Mill Street Capacity and Safety Project. (For Possible Action)

- 4.3.13 Approve an administrative settlement in the amount of \$79,286 authorizing RTC to acquire certain property interests related to APN: 037-020-42 from Marina Marketplace 2, LLC, for the Sparks Boulevard Capacity Improvement Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.14 Approve an administrative settlement in the amount of \$373,023.67 authorizing RTC to acquire certain property interests related to APN: 012-211-28, 012-220-20, 012-220-37 from Gage Village Commercial Development LLC et al, AM-GSR Holdings, LLC, and AM-GSR Exchange, LLC, for the Mill Street Capacity and Safety Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.15 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a permanent easement and temporary construction easement on portions of APN 030-450-00 from the Owners of Springland Village 5 AMD, which are needed to construct the Sparks Blvd Capacity Improvement project. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.4.1 Approve a contract with Transportation Management & Design Inc., (TMD) for the Transit Optimization Plan Strategies (TOPS) Study, in an amount not-to-exceed \$355,053.95. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.2 Acknowledge receipt of this quarterly Construction/Maintenance update on Transit Stops as presented to the Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee on February 5, 2025. (For Possible Action)

4.5 Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.5.1 Approve a contract with Kaempfer Crowell, LTD, for Nevada government affairs services, in an amount not-to-exceed \$65,000 per year for two years. (For Possible Action)
- 4.5.2 Approval of market adjustments to the salaries of nine RTC employees pursuant to Personnel Rule 5.8.1.iv. (For Possible Action)

Item 5 PUBLIC HEARING

- 5.1 Conduct a public hearing regarding approval of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); adopt a resolution approving the RTP. (For Possible Action)
 - a. Staff Presentation
 - b. Public Hearing
 - c. Action

Vanessa Lacer, RTC Planning Director, presented the final draft of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), following previous board updates and a second round of public engagement. The planning process, which began in Fall 2023, included six agency working group meetings, two rounds of public engagement, travel demand modeling, and an air quality analysis in partnership with the EPA.

Public engagement efforts involved nine community advisory board meetings, media outreach, social media posts, e-blasts, a web survey with 473 responses, and an interactive map for community input. More than 1,700 public comments were analyzed, incorporating feedback from regional stakeholders and planning agencies. This input helped shape the plan's nine primary goals, which set the vision for the region's transportation system over the next 25 years.

A scoring tool was developed to evaluate projects based on these goals, ensuring that selected projects align with community priorities. The final project list, included in Appendix B, is fiscally constrained,

meaning it only includes projects that can be funded with expected federal, state, and local resources. The RTP also considers funding needs for transit services and street and highway programs.

With the plan now complete, today's meeting aims to secure final approval. Once approved, the RTP will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and NDOT. The next steps involve implementing the prioritized projects to enhance the region's transportation infrastructure.

Chair Hill, Thank you, Miss Lacer. I do want to give you major kudos, because I know you stepped into this plan after we hired you and did a lot of work in the background. So, thank you for helping us meet this deadline and thank you to the team who helped with public outreach. I saw so many of you at events and I think RTC should be very proud of the work that we are doing in the community to be in touch with the community. Looking to the board to see if there are any questions about particular projects or recommendations in the plan. I'm not seeing that there is any. This is a public hearing. So, I will open up the public hearing. Madam clerk, is there any public comment?

Madam Clerk, there is no public comment at this time.

Chair Hill, I also want to say I appreciate all your responses to the public who had particular questions about the plan or how we responded to issues that they see in the community. I think you did a very thorough job, so congratulations to you and the whole RTC team for working together on that. We will close the public hearing.

On motion of Commissioner Schieve to approve, seconded by Vice Chair Reese, motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that Item 5.1 be approved.

- 5.2 Conduct a public hearing regarding approval of Amendment No. 5 to the FFY 2023-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP); adopt a resolution approving Amendment No. 5 to the RTIP. (For Possible Action)
- a. Staff Presentation
 - b. Public Hearing
 - c. Action

Graham Dollarhide, RTC Planning Manager, presented Amendment 5 to the federally required Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for fiscal years 2023-2027. The RTIP ensures that transportation projects are prioritized, scheduled, and fiscally constrained to align with the region's long-term goals outlined in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Inclusion in the RTIP is necessary for projects to receive federal funding. Amendments are made to reflect significant changes in project costs, scope, and timing.

Key Updates in Amendment 5:

- **G751 Bridge Replacement Project:** Removed from the RTIP and consolidated into the I-80 East Pre-Construction Project to streamline planning and funding.
- **Sun Valley Boulevard Corridor Improvements:** Expanded scope to include drainage improvements and pavement treatments that were not initially planned, increasing project costs.
- **I-80 East Pre-Construction Project:** Amended to include additional federal funding for the design phase and integrate the G751 bridge replacement.
- **State Route 445 (Pyramid Way) 3R & ADA Project:** Construction phase moved up from FY 2026 to FY 2025, with a total cost increase due to inflation and updated project estimates.

- **US 395 North Valleys Preservation Project:** Increased total cost due to higher bid quantities, increased material costs, and a revised paving strategy.
- **Washoe County Multi-Layer Overlay Project:** A new pavement preservation project for various road segments in Reno and Sparks. Typically, such projects aren't included in the RTIP, but due to state funding shortages, it had to be federally funded and included in this amendment.

Approval Process & Public Comments:

The amendment must be approved at multiple levels, including by the RTC board, state, and federal agencies. A public comment period ran from January 29 to February 18, but no comments were received. The amendment was reviewed by RTC's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizen Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) without opposition. A public hearing was held as part of the approval process.

Chair Hill, this is a public hearing so I will open it up to public comment. Madam clerk, is there any public comment on this item?

Madam Clerk: There is no public comment.

Chair Hill, looking for discussion or questions from the board on this?

Vice Chair Reese, never pass up a chance to be grateful for the work that you're doing here. Mr. Dollarhide, I wanted to just say the Sun Valley Improvement Project really strikes me as transformational. The change in the dollar amount from, we'll just say 30 million to 85 million, I think that is a signal to the impressive work not only of Commissioner Garcia to advocate for it, but also that we have a shared vision for our region that no part of the greater Washoe County is left behind in the process of planning for improvements. Having lived here my entire life and spent lots of time in that area of Sun Valley, I just think it's incredible, it really is a transformational project that I think is going to have impacts across space and time. So, thank you for it and thank you to the colleagues on the board for advocating for it and then making it happen.

Chair Hill, Thank you. Any other comments from the board? Not seeing any, I'm looking for a motion.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia to approve, seconded by Commissioner Schieve, motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that Item 5.2 be approved.

Item 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 Approve the proposed new Fiscal Year 2026 Street & Highway Projects for the RTC Street & Highway Program; approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Reno and Washoe County specifying responsibilities for delivering certain projects; approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Sparks and Washoe County specifying responsibilities for delivering certain projects. (For Possible Action)

Dale Keller, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Engineering, introduced the fiscal year 2026 street and highway projects for consideration, along with two interlocal cooperative agreements (ICAs) outlining project responsibilities.

Key points from the discussion:

- **Transportation Planning & Funding:** The RTC's projects align with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and require authorization under NS 373. Fuel tax revenue funds regional improvements, with approval from the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners and local governments.
- **Annual Work Programs:**
 - **Pavement Preservation** – \$22.5 million annually for regional road maintenance.
 - **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)** – \$10 million per year to improve traffic safety.
 - **Active Transportation Program (ATP)** – Focuses on pedestrian and bike infrastructure.
- **Major Upcoming Projects:**
 - **Highland Ranch Parkway Widening** – Expanding from 2 to 4 lanes (Design: 2026, Construction: 2028).
 - **University Area Roadway Improvements** – Enhancing connectivity around UNR (Design: 2026, Construction: 2028).
 - **Weddington Road Pedestrian Project** – New sidewalks (Environmental Studies: 2026, Construction: 2027).
 - **Boomtown Garson Road Expansion** – Adding a southbound lane after I-80 bridge reconstruction (2028).
 - **Rio Grande Intersection Upgrades** – New roundabout at Steamboat Parkway (Construction: 2026).
- **Ongoing & Completed Projects:** Over 60 active projects, with 20 starting construction in 2025. Notable completions include:
 - I-80 Wells Project.
 - I-580 Exit 29 South Virginia safety improvements.
 - Steamboat Parkway congestion relief at Veterans Parkway.
 - 2024 Pavement Preservation covered 12 million sq. ft. of regional roads, maintaining an 80 PCI rating.

The RTC remains committed to advancing these infrastructure improvements, with many projects progressing into the next phase of development.

Vice Chair Reese acknowledges the challenge for those unfamiliar with RTC's planning process, particularly in understanding different planning periods (20 years, 5 years, and 2 years). Vice Chair Reese seeks clarification on a slide indicating the current project phase and asks whether the identified projects are imminent.

Dale Keller explained that the slide represents the transition from planning to engineering. Projects within the five-year window are in the implementation stage, but final design and funding still need alignment. Vice Chair Reese inquired if the funding is secured for these projects. Dale Keller clarified that ICAs (Interlocal Cooperative Agreements) facilitate moving forward but that funding sources, including federal opportunities, are still being evaluated. While some projects have designated funds, others rely on state and federal support, which remains uncertain.

Vice Chair Reese shifted focus to the Boomtown Garson Road Interchange project, emphasizing its importance to Reno City Council's ward. The project is scheduled for construction in 2028, but what is the certainty on this timeline, expressing concerns about misleading constituents. Dale Keller responds that while the project is planned for 2028, multiple factors, including bridge replacements in the Verdi

area, must align for timely execution. Funding remains a concern, particularly given federal budget uncertainties. Some projects, like Pyramid have secured funding, but others depend on potential grants and legislative decisions. Due to financial constraints, transportation officials must carefully allocate limited resources.

Vice Chair Reese appreciates the transparency and realistic approach, then requests clarification on the term "ultimate condition."

Tracy Larkin Thomason explained that it refers to constructing infrastructure to meet long-term needs rather than temporary fixes.

Vice Chair Reese highlighted concerns about ensuring the new bridge design accommodates the growing community, including pedestrian and bicycle access.

Amanda Callegari, RTC Engineering Manager, confirmed that the project includes a multi-use path and improved connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists, in collaboration with Boomtown.

Vice Chair Reese stressed the importance of forward-thinking infrastructure planning, given the anticipated growth of 5,000 homes in the area. He expressed confidence in the project team's approach and appreciated their efforts to modernize the bridge. I would like to thank the team for their work and transparency.

On motion of Vice Chair Reese to approve, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that Item 6.1 be approved.

Item 7 REPORTS (Informational Only)

7.1 RTC Executive Director Report

Madam Chair and board members, I wanted to start today by reiterating how Vanessa Lacer, Planning Director, stepped in at a very critical time on that RTP, which is our most complex planning document. Being new to RTC, she was able to successfully pull off working with her team, and as you all have pointed out, working with the collaborative staff from the three local governments to get this plan completed. I wanted to publicly acknowledge her not only for her effort, but also the quality of her effort. So, thank you Vanessa.

I also want to remind the board that our next board meeting is our annual retreat. I'm looking forward to all of you participating on the 14th of March at 9 a.m. at the Reno Sparks Convention Center. We will have again Erica Olson be our facilitator. Please plan on spending four hours and we look forward to that. It's a very important time for me, personally as your executive director, but also the staff.

1. We attended Transportation Day at the Nevada Legislature on February 4th – the second day of the session.
 - This was a great opportunity for transportation professionals to let our lawmakers know our priorities during the 20-25 session. We set up an exhibit table, gave a presentation to the Senate and Assembly Growth and Infrastructure Committees, and met with several legislators. Thank you to NDOT, RTC of Southern Nevada, CAMPO, the TRPA, and all of our sponsors for making this a successful event.

2. The RTC is the winner of an AdWheel Award.
 - The award is for the Ed Pass Advertising campaign. Our communications and public transportation teams worked with Celtis Ventures to make this a successful campaign to let college students and employees know that they can ride the bus for free. Josh MacEachern and Celtis will accept the award at the APTA Communications and Marketing Conference in Long Beach, next week.
3. RTC was also Recognized as one of three best workplaces for commuters in Nevada from bestworkplaces.org
 - The City of Henderson and Intuit were the other two from our state. This recognition is because we offer free bus passes to employees, compressed work week, telework, guaranteed ride home, and Vanpool and carpool matching. RTC always encourages the use of public transit and Smart Trips.
4. The RTC partnered with Washoe County Human Services for a Stuff A Bus event, late last month.
 - Staff from both agencies collected donations for more than 600 foster and adoptive children in our community. Mayor Lawson also took time out of his day to help accept donations. We collected 71-hundred dollars worth of gift cards, cash and clothing donations. We are always happy to help people in our community that can use a little help.
5. If you look outside, you'll see one of our buses.
 - The picture on the side was created by one of the winners from Safe Routes to School Pedestrian Safety Poster Contest. The artist of that poster is Mahima Soares – a 3rd grader from Huffaker Elementary School. The middle school winner is Laina Schwendener – a 7th grader from Marcy Herz – and Galena Junior, Jameson Hilton is the high school winner. Safe Routes to School will give a new bike and iPad to each of the winners and we have some school assemblies planned next week. Thank you to every student who participated in this contest to promote safety on our roads.
6. Once again, we will provide free transit on all of our services for St. Patrick's Day, March 17th.
 - The free service will run from 4 o'clock in the afternoon to 2 o'clock in the morning. This will give all of our residents a safe option to get from place to place, especially if they plan on drinking.
7. Congratulations to Judy Velez and Trisha Starkey on their anniversaries with RTC.
 - Judy Velez has been with us for 10 years as of February 9th. Judy does a great job as one of our Paratransit Eligibility and Mobility Specialists – so she provides an important service to our community.
 - Trisha Starkey made it to the one-year mark February 13th. She is an Administrative Associate who you would recognize from the front desk. She has done a great job over her first year and we're looking forward to her success for many more to come.
8. The MTM Employee of the Month for December is Robert Cain.
 - Robert has been with MTM for nearly two years. He likes to make a positive impact on the community as part of a rewarding job. Robert is a Native Nevadan – born in Fallon. He is a gamer and target shooter in his spare time. He's also a Cincinnati Bengals fan but he picked the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl.
9. The Keolis Driver of the Month is Ronda Lay-booth-ee-air.
 - Ronda has worked as a bus operator for RIDE since June of 2019. Her accomplishments in January consist of a 97 percent on-time performance, zero preventable accidents, and no customer complaints. Ronda enjoys spending quality time with her grandchildren and she also likes horseback riding, kayaking, and sewing.

7.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, before I get started, I do want to invite all of you up on the board to go out for a photo op after the meeting in front of the bus.

We have been in the process of applying for the Protect Grant for the Sun Valley Community Gateway project. That one has been paused for the time being, so we are hoping that it will come back online soon and that we can finish that application. It's \$40 million, so it's a big chunk of money and very important for this project.

Part of President Trump's unleashing American Energy executive order paused all disbursements of IRA and IJA programs related to the Green New Deal. The problem with that is that the Green New Deal is not in statute, so it's kind of vague. Previously paused formula funds are now flowing, but some discretionary awards and obligations are still stuck on the highway side, particularly for projects that are funded for zero emissions transportation infrastructure. The administration has said that this is a POS, so we do expect those federal funds to start flowing again.

As you probably know, the Senate confirmed Sean Duffy as Secretary of Transportation by a 77 to 22 vote. The no votes were by Democrats, who were mainly protesting the Trump administration's memos to pause disbursements of the IRA and the IJA programs. Those memos have been since rescinded. The House and Senate Budget committees have released a fiscal year 2025 budget resolution that unlocks a pathway for reconciliation legislation. The budget resolution includes tax exemptions, energy and immigration reforms, and a \$4 trillion increase to the debt limit. The House package could also include cuts to Medicaid, Snap and the elimination of climate measures. Appropriations leaders are still working on the fiscal year 2025 spending bill that's due on March 14th. The two sides are still negotiating on a top line spending figure to develop the spending levels of the 12 appropriations Subcommittees. If they can't agree, they'll have to pass another CR. That could be a short term CR, or it could go to the rest of the fiscal year. And that concludes my report.

Chair Hill, Thank you very much, Mr. Nelson if you have a second, I think that we're all concerned about grants on the federal level and especially reimbursement grants. I'm assuming that many of our grants that come down from the federal level are reimbursement grants. There are many unknowns on this piece, but I just wanted to reflect my concerns on that.

Christian Schonlau, RTC CFO, for the record, I will say RTC took proactive steps to ensure that we did draw down any available funds prior to the freeze. We did not have any difficulties obtaining those funds, and some of them did include known low emissions funding from the last IJA. So, to date we have not seen impacts long term. We are uncertain, but we are monitoring and aware of what funds could be at risk.

7.3 NDOT Director Report

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

- Winter Storm Response
- Transportation Day 2025
- Daytime Headlight Signage Installation
- Local Infrastructure Safety Program
- McCarran Boulevard and Keystone Avenue Traffic Signal

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Vice Chair Reece raised concerns about a violent attack on a bus driver, expressing his distress and requesting an update on the driver's condition. Don Swain from Keolis provided an update, stating that the driver, a 78-year-old veteran, is recovering and receiving support from a longtime colleague. This colleague volunteered to stay with him and is being compensated for his time. The driver may also move to a veteran's guest house for additional support.

Board members emphasized the need for increased safety measures on buses. RTC has already committed to installing protective barriers on all buses, but supply chain delays have slowed implementation. Newer buses have factory-installed barriers, while older buses are awaiting custom-fitted versions. Additionally, a new AI-enhanced camera system is being planned to improve passenger monitoring and security.

Discussion also covered existing safety measures, including panic buttons for drivers that alert dispatch immediately. Board members suggested exploring additional emergency response options for passengers, such as a public distress button. They also stressed the importance of safety training for drivers and employees to better handle emergencies.

Several members expressed their outrage over the attack and appreciation for those who assisted, including a former driver who was the first to help the injured driver. The board reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring driver safety and urged continued improvements in security measures.

Vice Chair Reese invited everyone to the Western Lights Festival that's going on in downtown Reno tonight and tomorrow night. It's sort of like Burning Man arrived in downtown Reno, you've got lights and food vendors and art and music.

Item 9 PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Hill 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.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, local resident, addressed an incident that occurred on January 31st at 9:42 a.m. at the Harvard station while boarding an inbound bus. As he entered, he was unaware that passengers were exiting due to limited visibility caused by advertisement signs on the bus windows. The driver reacted angrily, which he felt was unfair. Seeking to address the issue, he contacted customer service representative Karen Kelly, who responded in what he perceived as a rude and dismissive manner, telling him to "be more respectful before getting on the bus." Feeling unsatisfied, he then approached another representative, Jim, to discuss the matter, but he also did not acknowledge his concerns. Mr. Elizondo emphasized frustration with the lack of fairness in handling the situation, expressing that if the driver was not consistently enforcing rules for all passengers, then it was unfair to single them out. As a senior citizen, he highlighted the inconvenience of having to get on and off the bus unnecessarily and that Karen Kelly displayed a lack of discipline and professionalism in her response to the complaint. I'm urging for fairness in such situations and thanking the listeners for their time. Chair Hill acknowledged the complaint and assured that the incident will be looked into.

Item 10

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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