

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

May 16, 2025

PRESENT:

**Alexis Hill, Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Devon Reese, Vice Chair, Reno City Council (Via Phone)
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner (Via Phone)
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Sondra Rosenberg, Deputy Director of NDOT (Alternate)**

ABSENT:

**Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno
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 COMMENT

Chair Hill opened the public comment period.

Adam Searcy, CFO, Washoe County School District, expressed strong support for Item 4.3.1, concerning a proposed MOU with RTC. He emphasized the importance of improving student access to schools, extracurricular activities, and healthy community programs. He conveyed the district's commitment to actively market, manage, and support the pilot initiative, highlighting the strength of interagency collaboration and appreciation for RTC staff, particularly Mr. Thomas and Jim Gee.

Colleen Westlake, Trustee for the Washoe County School District, shared her gratitude for RTC's support of students and families. She praised the positive community impact of the proposed program and expressed heartfelt thanks on behalf of the trustees and the district.

Chair Hill pointed out that kids will ride free with this program and expressed her excitement and gratitude for all involved.

Vice Chair Reese thanked Mr. Gee, Commissioner Garcia, and Chair Hill for their leadership in supporting the school district project. He emphasized appreciation for the commissioners' strong advocacy for students and in the program's rollout and ensuring it reaches as many students as possible.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director, moved to remove Items 7.1 and 7.2 in consideration of time.

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

Items 4 CONSENT ITEMS

4.1. Reports

- 4.1.1 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.1.2 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.1.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.1.4 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation and Operations Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.1.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Outreach Report from the Communications staff. (For Possible Action)
- 4.1.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly summary report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees. (For Possible Action)

4.2 Engineering Department

- 4.2.1 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract with Wood Rodgers, Inc., for additional design and engineering during construction services needed in connection with extending the project limits and the contract performance period for the Virginia Line BRT Improvements Project, in the amount of \$189,740, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,621,715. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.2 Approve a contract with Nichols Consulting Engineers, CHTD for design and engineering during construction services for the Galletti Way Rehabilitation Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$212,035.50. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.3 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract with Nichols Consulting Engineers, CHTD, for additional design and engineering during construction services needed in connection with the Sun Valley Boulevard Corridor Improvements Project, in the amount of \$4,342,410, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$5,573,485. (For Possible Action)

4.3 Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.3.1 Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Washoe County School District (WCSD) for a one-year pilot program to provide free transit passes to students in the 2025-2026 school year. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.2 Acknowledge receipt of this quarterly Construction/Maintenance update on Transit Stops as presented to the Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee on May 7, 2025. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.3 Approve an Interlocal Contract Agreement with Storey County to contribute funding toward the RTC's Rail Service Planning Study, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.4.1 Approve Resolution 25-09 to augment the FY 2024-2025 Budget of the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County as it relates to the Metropolitan Planning Fund. (For Possible Action)

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

Item 5 PUBLIC HEARING

- 5.1 Conduct a public hearing regarding approval of Amendment No. 6 to the FFY 2023-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP); adopt a resolution approving Amendment No. 6 to the FFY 2023-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). (For Possible Action)**
- a. Staff Presentation**
 - b. Public Hearing**
 - c. Action**

Graham Dollarhide, RTC Planning Manager, provided an overview of the TIP process and summarized changes under the amendment, including:

- Budget adjustments for NDOT-led projects based on scope changes and updated cost estimates
- Reallocation of scope and budget between projects
- Addition of three new projects and minor timing updates
- Consolidation of four RTC projects into the "Biggest Little Bike Network"
- Minor funding mix change for an additional RTC project

He noted that a public comment period was held from April 24 to May 14, with no comments received, and the amendment was reviewed by CMAC and TAC.

Chair Hill and other Commissioners had no additional questions. No public comment was received during the hearing.

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

Item 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 Receive a presentation on improvements made to RTC's web content for ease of accessibility. (Informational Only)**

Laura Freed, Director of Administrative Services briefed the Board on new ADA Title II web accessibility rules and confirmed that RTC is largely compliant. She noted ongoing efforts to update the website, mobile apps, and report formatting. An RFP is underway for a more accessible web platform compliant with WCAG 2.2 standards.

Chair Hill thanked staff for prioritizing accessibility. Commissioner Garcia and Vice Chair Reese also expressed support.

No action taken.

6.2 Acknowledge receipt of the 2024 Annual Report. (Informational Only)

Bill Thomas, Executive Director presented a short video summary of 2024 accomplishments, including major infrastructure projects and public transportation highlights. He acknowledged RTC partners and staff.

Vice Chair Reese commended innovation and staff dedication. Commissioner Garcia noted the significance of 32 consecutive months of ridership growth and praised community outreach.

No action taken.

6.3 Evaluate the Executive Director's annual performance as it pertains to the duties and obligations of the position and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2025, 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, outlined the review process governed by Mr. Thomas's employment contract and RTC policy.

Chair Hill presented her evaluation summary, highlighting unanimous Board praise for Mr. Thomas's performance. Strengths noted included implementing Board priorities, staff development, strategic partnerships, and progress on Sun Valley, Tahoe, and Truckee River initiatives.

Commissioner Garcia praised Mr. Thomas's leadership and communication. Vice Chair Reese emphasized his adaptability and praised his humility and commitment.

On motion of Chair Hill to approve an 8% salary increase and a \$5,000 bonus for Executive Director Thomas, seconded by Vice Chair Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that this item be approved.

Mr. Thomas thanked the Board and credited staff and the Board's shared vision for RTC's success.

Item 7 REPORTS (Informational Only)

7.1 RTC Executive Director Report *(Item Removed from Agenda due to time constraints)*

7.2 RTC Federal Report *(Item Removed from Agenda due to time constraints)*

7.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Deputy Director Sondra Rosenberg gave a presentation and a summary on the following topics:

- Matley Lane Reconfiguration - Villanova Drive to Plumb Lane
- U.S. 395 North Valleys Lane Switches
- Work Zone Safety Week – Go Orange Day – April 23rd

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Garcia promoted Biketopia, a community bike safety event on May 17 at the Reno Public Market, and thanked RTC staff and local partners for their support.

Chair Hill reminded Commissioners of the FY 2026 budget hearing scheduled for May 29 at 2:00 p.m.

Item 9 PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Hill opened the public comment period.

Michael Gawthrop-Hutchins, local resident emailed a comment on May 13, 2025 at 8:14 a.m. He fully supports the agreement between WCSD and RTC to provide free transit for WCSD students. He suggested extending the pilot program to four years to better measure its impact and recommended expanding free transit access to students at non-WCSD public charter schools and including FlexRide service areas for broader coverage. He noted that current bus on-time performance is over 90% and urged raising the official goal from 85% to at least 90% to maintain high standards, suggesting a stretch goal of 92.5%. He requested this topic be added as a future agenda item for further discussion

Item 10 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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