

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

THURSDAY

2:00 P.M.

May 29, 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 (Connected Via Zoom 2:12 p.m.)
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Tracy Larkin Thomason, Director of NDOT**

A special meeting to approve the FY26 RTC Final Budget was held in the 1st Floor Great Room at Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Reno, Nevada. All Board members attended via Zoom, and the meeting 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. There was no public comment.

Items 3 PUBLIC HEARING

- 3.1 Conduct a public hearing on the FY 2026 RTC Final Budget; approve a recommendation from the Executive Director regarding an employee cost-of-living adjustment and performance-based salary increases to be included in the budget; approve the FY 2026 RTC Final Budget. (For Possible Action)
 - a. Staff Presentation
 - b. Public Hearing
 - c. Action

Christian Schonlau, RTC Director of Finance & CFO, presented the final FY26 RTC budget, emphasizing that no substantive changes had occurred since the tentative version submitted and approved by the Nevada Department of Taxation. The only adjustment was a revision of sales tax revenue forecasts to reflect continued decline: a 4% decrease in the current year and an additional 2% decrease projected for the following year.

Vice Chair Reese and Mayor Schieve raised concerns about the lack of a designated fund for emergent, small-scale, constituent-driven safety projects. They cited examples like Seventh Street and Midtown where immediate responses were needed, often exhausting discretionary funds.

Mr. Schonlau explained that although no specific line item exists for these requests, the budget is structured optimistically to allow flexibility. Projects can be reprioritized, and contingency adjustments can be made as needed. He also confirmed there is inherent capacity to pivot within the existing capital budget and that future augmentations could also be considered if necessary.

Bill Thomas, Executive Director, agreed to bring back options for a more formalized approach to emergency or unplanned project funding for future discussion.

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

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

Item 4 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Chair Hill reported that she, Bill Thomas, and Jim Gee attended a school board meeting to support the Kids Ride Free pilot project. The school board unanimously approved the agreement on consent. A media event celebrating the program will be held on June 3rd at 1:00 p.m., and she encouraged participation. She also noted that Bill is exploring the possibility of wrapping a bus to help promote the initiative as a valuable option for youth transportation.

Vice Chair Reese expressed appreciation for the RTC's student transit access program, emphasizing its importance in providing youth with greater access to transportation for educational, recreational, and basic needs. He highlighted the need for continued communication and outreach to ensure the community is fully informed and able to utilize the program.


Vice Chair Reese also reported on his recent trip to Washington, D.C., alongside Commissioner Garcia and RTC staff. He noted the productivity of their advocacy efforts, especially concerning the Sun Valley Roadway Improvements Project. He commended the bipartisan potential of transportation initiatives and praised the collaboration and leadership of his colleagues and staff during the visit. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn more about APTA and its mission.

Item 5 PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Hill opened the public comment period. There was no public comment.

Item 6 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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