

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

September 19, 2025

PRESENT:

**Alexis Hill, Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno (Departed 10:00 a.m.)
Sondra Rosenberg, Deputy Director of NDOT (Alternate)
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel**

ABSENT:

**Devon Reese, Vice Chair, Reno City Council
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.

Daniel “Dan” Golightly addressed the Board regarding alleged underreporting of missed bus trips by Keolis management. He described a practice in which operations managers instructed dispatch staff not to report or to minimize the number of missed trips on the Lincoln and Virginia lines, claiming this resulted in hundreds or thousands of unreported missed trips during his four years with the company. He urged RTC to investigate and hold management accountable, publish liquidated damages paid by Keolis, and ensure public transparency.

Dora Martinez thanked RTC and Mayor Schieve for providing free ADA rides during the ADA anniversary, noting the benefit to riders on fixed incomes. She commended staff responsiveness to her accessibility concerns but expressed safety worries at the Reno transit station following a harassment incident. She requested consideration of a “shoppers route” for Access riders to reduce long trip times with perishable groceries. Chair Hill thanked Ms. Martinez and noted the topic would be discussed later in the meeting.

No additional public comment was received.

Item 3 *APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

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

Items 4 *CONSENT ITEMS*

4.1 Minutes

- 4.1.1 Approve the meeting minutes for the 08/15/2025 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 Planning Activity Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering 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 Outreach Report from the Communications staff. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly summary report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees. (For Possible Action)

4.3 Planning Department

- 4.3.1 Approve a contract with GCW, Inc., for planning services to complete the Rock Boulevard Corridor Study, in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.2 Approve a contract with Parametrix, Inc., for planning services to complete Neighborhood Network Plans 3 & 4, in an amount not-to-exceed \$224,840. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.3 Approve a contract with Parametrix, for planning services to complete the Locust–Kirman–Wells–Taylor Corridor Study, in an amount not-to-exceed \$199,706. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.4 Approve a contract with LiDAR Matrix, Inc., for data collection and analysis services on the LiDAR-Based Multimodal Traffic Data Collection & Analytics Program, in an amount not-to-exceed \$400,000. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Engineering Department

- 4.4.1 Approve a contract with Parametrix, Inc., for design services related to the 2026 Active Transportation Program Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,139,839. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.2 Approve Amendment No. 3 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 \$190,955, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$871,455. (For Possible Action)

- 4.4.3 Approve a contract with AtkinsRéalis USA to provide design and engineering during construction services in connection to the Wedekind Road Pedestrian Improvement Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$575,790. (For Possible Action)

4.5 Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.5.1 Approve modifications to RTC Management Policy P-21, Travel. (For Possible Action)

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

Item 5 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Receive an update on the development of the FY 2026-2030 Move More with RTC Plan, and provide feedback and direction to staff. (Informational Only)

Alex Cruz, Senior Transit Planner, RTC; with presentation by Gary Hewitt, Transportation Management & Design (TMD)

Mr. Cruz introduced consultant Gary Hewitt, Transportation Management and Design, to present an overview of the agency's short-range transit plan, "Move More with RTC." Mr. Hewitt explained that the plan guides operational and capital improvements for the next five years and aligns with the Regional Transportation Plan. This update follows the 2022 Tops Plan but is occurring earlier due to significant regional growth and shifting travel patterns.

Travel trends showed a 38% weekday increase and a 48% weekend increase in trip activity between 2019 and 2024, with evening travel now peaking later. Analysis showed bus service could better match these demand changes, particularly by extending service later in the day and expanding weekend hours. Ridership data indicated continued post-pandemic recovery, with notable increases in FlexRide (up 39%) and Access ridership stabilizing as users migrate to same-day FlexRide service. Half of all weekday boardings occur along the Virginia and 4th/Prater corridors, suggesting key areas for service improvement.

Mr. Hewitt noted that RTC's system performs efficiently compared to peer agencies, operating at \$7.13 per passenger trip versus a \$12.40 peer average. Areas for improvement include bus speeds and route coverage. A public survey is currently open through October 12 to gather feedback on all services, available in English and Spanish via mobile and online platforms.

Board Discussion:

Commissioner Garcia asked about the shift from Access to FlexRide and the resulting cost efficiencies. Mr. Hewitt explained that co-mingling of paratransit and microtransit fleets has improved operational flexibility, and customers prefer same-day scheduling options.

Commissioner Schieve praised the data-driven approach and urged wide promotion of the survey through city and county social media to ensure participation.

Chair Hill asked how current riders are being engaged. Mr. Cruz said banners are running in the RTC Connect and Transit apps, with QR codes in buses and outreach to Keolis drivers to encourage participation.

Chair Hill and Commissioner Schieve discussed ensuring outreach to South Reno residents and institutional partners such as the jail and Jan Evans facilities to include all rider perspectives.

Executive Director Thomas thanked the Board for supporting an efficient transit system and cautioned that many peer agencies face fiscal challenges. He noted that RTC's strong efficiency ensures reliable service continuity despite fluctuating sales tax revenue.

5.2 Receive a presentation on the draft Central Sparks Neighborhood Network Plan. (Informational Only)

Marquis Williams, Senior Transportation Planner, RTC presented the second of twelve Neighborhood Network Plans, following the Central Reno plan. He described the initiative's purpose to implement quick-build pedestrian and bicycle improvements that enhance neighborhood-level connectivity. The plans derive from the 2024 Active Transportation Plan and its goal to improve safety, expand mode share, and strengthen community livability.

Public engagement included three in-person meetings at Sparks High School, Sparks Marina, and El Rancho Public Market, plus an online mapping survey. The Central Sparks draft plan recommends 16.3 miles of new facilities, 12.4 miles of neighborhood byways, two miles of buffered bike lanes, and 1.7 miles of minor improvements such as signage. Dedicated annual funding of \$5 million supports two neighborhood projects per year, with implementation targeted for summer 2026.

Board Discussion:

Mayor Lawson asked whether the plan includes signage identifying the network. Mr. Williams confirmed there would be consistent branding, so residents recognize when they are on a designated safe route.

Commissioner Garcia commended the effort but encouraged broader public outreach, suggesting a region-wide messaging campaign to raise awareness of the new program. Executive Director Thomas supported this recommendation and noted that success will depend on local government leadership embracing new design approaches.

Commissioner Schieve strongly supported innovation and risk-taking, urging staff and local jurisdictions to think creatively and not fear failure in testing new approaches. She emphasized that residents deserve safe, multimodal options and said visible success stories will encourage adoption.

Chair Hill concurred, citing examples of unsafe pedestrian crossings near special events and the need to calm traffic and improve pedestrian visibility. She noted that simple treatments, such as "slow street" signage, have been effective in Reno neighborhoods.

Mr. Williams confirmed collaboration across RTC departments and jurisdictions and credited staff from engineering, planning, and communications for developing the plan in-house.

6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director, reported on the following items:

- The RTC was happy to participate in Senior Fest at the Reno Town Mall a few weeks ago which provided a RIDE bus and a FlexRIDE cutaway for the event. Thank you to Susi Trinidad, Judy Velez, and Ruby Barrientos for setting up a table to provide information to seniors about transportation options.
- RTC provided free transit for two recent special events. The Lincoln Line and Route 11 were both free for customers during the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cookoff and the Virginia Line was free during the Great Reno Balloon Race.
- The RTC and TMRPA are participating in this year's Corporate Challenge. Thank you to everyone that has already donated blood as part of the competition because of its life-saving results. Other Corporate Challenge activities include Pictionary, Softball, Homerun Derby, Darts, Go Kart Racing, Basketball, Bowling, Swimming and Tug-O-War.
- This week is Transportation Demand Management Week, which is a great opportunity for people to think about different ways to commute. The more people that find alternative ways to commute, the better.
- The "Move More with RTC" campaign was launched as part of the TOPS study. A Virtual Public Meeting and two in-person public meetings were held as part of the process, and there is another Virtual Public meeting next Tuesday.
- Thank you to Commissioners Hill and Garcia for taking the time to tour the Arlington Avenue Bridges Replacement Project. Thank you to Bryan Byrne and Dale Keller – not just for giving Board members tours but for the several other tours they have given to different stakeholders.
- RTC is partnering Northern Nevada Public Health, Kiwanis and others to put on the "Wheels, Walks, and Wellness" event. A free bike rodeo and safety fair is next Saturday, September 27th at Teglia's Paradise Park. This event is happening in large part because of the leadership of Commissioner Garcia and Councilman Martinez.
- Congratulations to Lynn Smith and Tom Tsunemoto on their RTC anniversaries. Lynn celebrated his 15th anniversary on September 1st. Tom started at RTC one year ago on September 16th as a Transportation Planner and hit the ground running.

6.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, provided updates on federal legislative matters.

Mr. Nelson reported that Congress is expected to pass a continuing resolution (CR) by the end of September to prevent a government shutdown. Only one of twelve appropriations bills has passed both chambers. The proposed CR would extend funding through November 21.

He noted that the U.S. Department of Transportation may cancel or delay certain grant obligations under programs such as BUILD, MEGA, INFRA, and Safe Streets and Roads for All, though it is unclear whether RTC projects would be affected. Senate Republicans are advancing a rule change to allow batch confirmation of sub-cabinet nominees, including DOT positions, to improve administrative efficiency.

6.3 NDOT Director Report

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

- I-80 Geotechnical Evaluations for Vista Boulevard to USA Parkway for future widening.
- I-80 Roadside Litter Removal was conducted September 7th through September 12th, as trash piles up from the Lockwood dump.

Item 7 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

No announcements or requests were made by commissioners.

Item 8 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

Item 9 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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