

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
CITIZENS MULTIMODAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2025**

CMAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Sue-Ting Chene, Chair
Michael Gawthrop-Hutchins
Panah Stauffer
Kathie Stanfield
Damien Cole

Amanda Nelson
Ryan Bernadette, Vice Chair
Kelly Orr
Juan Martinez

CMAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Hewen

Richard Landon

RTC STAFF

Marquis Williams
Lolita Davis

Vanessa Lacer

CMAC GUESTS

Dora Martinez

1. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

The Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) meeting was conducted as a Zoom Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Marquis Williams.

2. VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS REQUIRED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 219 (2023)

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Amanda Nelson commented on route 13 outbound where a right turn onto Kietzke Lane followed by a left onto Linden Street requires cutting across three lanes of traffic. This turn is illegal and very dangerous. Also, on route 4 outbound, where making a left turn from Sierra Highlands Drive onto 7th Street is risky due to the lack of a four-way stop and poor visibility leading to accidents. RTC previously mentioned adding a stop, but nothing has been done. She mentioned if route 4 returned to traveling straight up 7th Street, it would improve safety and save time.

4. APPROVE THE JUNE 4, AND JULY 9, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The CMAC June 4, July 9, 2025, and August 6, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS.

ITEM 5.1: PROVIDE INFORMATION, ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN.

Vanessa Lacer, RTC Planning Director, gave a presentation on the Draft Public Participation Plan.

Panah suggested the RTC could better utilize public resources like libraries, social media, and community spaces for outreach. She pointed out that the RTC heavily relies on its website, which she finds difficult to navigate for information about public meetings. Also, Panah emphasized the importance of using flyers and bulletin boards in public places, such as grocery stores, to reach a broader audience and urged RTC to incorporate informal outreach methods such as surveys on social media and senior citizen locations. She proposed partnering with local agencies to amplify communication, utilizing social media outside of RTC platforms, and using public spaces for outreach in multiple languages. Vanessa Lacer, RTC Planning Director, appreciates the suggestions and mentioned that RTC is already implementing many of these ideas, noting a recent successful campaign that enlisted an influencer to reach a wider audience and mentioned she will try to get some of these suggestions included in the Public Participation Plan.

Damien expressed concern regarding the Zoom link for CMAC meetings that is on the meeting agenda. He mentioned it is not easy for the public to access as it is not clearly displayed. He suggested flyers be placed on buses to inform riders about the CMAC and include a QR code to the meeting page and possibly add the call in phone number on the webpage. Vanessa acknowledged Damien's concerns and will take back to staff to see what can be implemented in the changes happening with the website.

ITEM 5.2: PROVIDE INFORMATION, ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE DRAFT CENTRAL SPARKS NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK PLAN.

Marquis Williams, RTC Senior Technical Planner, gave a presentation on the Draft Central Sparks Neighborhood Network Plan.

Damien expressed concerns about bike lanes in the area and the possibility of creating protected intersections using flexi posts or buffers. He also asked if there is a planned vehicular closure for Victorian Square to add dashed lines. Marquis, RTC Senior Technical Planner, responded that it is part of a pilot project from the City of Sparks that initially closed Victorian Square but has been reopened except on special event days like the Rib Cook Off. He mentioned RTC plans to improve minor signage and striping projects to enhance that area.

Ryan asked if the Sparks project is expected to be finished by summer 2026. Marquis stated the plans are to start construction in May, but the completion date is really dependent on the weather. This is a quick build however, all the details on how the phasing and rollout will go have not been worked out but implementation should be fast. Ryan also asked if implementation of the Central Sparks Plan and Central Reno Plan will be at the same time. Marquis responded that the two plans are being approached as one project.

Juan raised the issue of potential hazards for blind pedestrians due to the bike lane's width across the street from Western Village. Marquis agreed and mentioned that floating bus stops are new to the area. If successful, RTC will explore ways to implement them in their bike network project to improve safety and accessibility.

Sue-Ting spoke about a challenging bike lane situation that connects California Avenue to Virginia Street going north. The bike lane ends at a tricky spot just before Liberty, where riders merge into a shared road with cars. Sue-Ting suggests that even a simple solution, like adding green pavement, could improve that location. Marquis Williams acknowledged the location and mentioned that there are existing projects near that intersection but noted that they may not directly affect Virginia Street. He encouraged bringing up the intersection at future meetings but cautioned not to expect immediate changes.

Michael Gawthrop-Hutchins discussed the pedestrian experience in relation to safety and representation during walking tours conducted by focus groups. He noted that the focus groups, often made up of 10 to 15 people wearing high-visibility vests, do not reflect the real-life experiences of the average pedestrian, as most people walk around in regular clothes without drawing attention. He expressed concern that this setup may create a false sense of safety and does not adequately represent the dangers that ordinary pedestrians face, such as being overlooked by drivers. Marquis agreed with Michael, emphasizing the importance of safety while working and acknowledged the need to understand real pedestrian experiences. He mentioned that their comment map allows individuals to report specific areas where they feel unsafe. Additionally, the value of LIDAR data collection, which tracks incidents like near misses and crashes, provides insights that short observation periods cannot capture.

ITEM 5.3: APPROVE THE ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TO SERVE FROM SEPTEMBER 3, 2025, UNTIL JUNE 30, 2026, CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 9C OF THE “STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND PROCEDURES.”

Marquis Williams, RTC Senior Planner, announced that Ryan volunteered to be Chair, and after confirming there were no further nominations, a vote was held, and Ryan was elected. Ryan then facilitated the election for Vice Chair. Panah was nominated by Ryan, and after confirming no additional nominations, a vote took place, resulting in Panah being elected as Vice Chair.

6. RTC STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marquis Williams, RTC Senior Technical Planner, announced plans for the committee's membership. An email will be sent to all members asking if they wish to continue participating. A lack of response will be taken as a no. There will also be a call for new members to bring fresh perspectives. Members are encouraged to share the email with anyone who might be interested.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Doralee Martinez urges the committee to include people with disabilities, like Juan, in their planning discussions. She emphasized that designing for accessibility from the start is more efficient and cost-effective. She expressed her intention to provide public comments on the website's issues and asks for contact information to discuss the inaccessible map. Doralee also inquired about website accessibility standards and suggested they upgrade to the latest version. She thanked Vanessa for her efforts and expressed appreciation for the app they received during a recent river walk.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.