

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**FRIDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

**January 16, 2026**

**PRESENT:**

**Alexis Hill, Chair, Washoe County Commissioner  
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks  
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner  
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director  
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel  
Sondra Rosenberg, Deputy Director of NDOT (Alternate)**

**ABSENT:**

**Devon Reese, Vice Chair, Reno City Council  
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno  
Tracy Larkin Thomason, Director of NDOT**

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The regular monthly meeting, held in the 1<sup>st</sup> 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***

Steve Burlie addressed the Board regarding the Northeast Connector project. Mr. Burlie requested an extension of the public comment period, citing limited public participation due to the timing of the December public meeting and the project's significant potential cost. He expressed opposition to the project based on anticipated neighborhood impacts, funding uncertainty, and broader planning concerns, and requested that public comment be accepted through March.

Gary Troyer spoke in opposition to the Northeast Connector, citing concerns related to cut-through traffic, noise impacts to residential areas, heavy truck traffic, and insufficient mitigation measures. He requested additional time for public comment.

Fred Krueger addressed the Board regarding the Northeast Connector, expressing concerns about project expenditures to date, evaluation of alternatives, impacts to public land, and prior RTC projects that he believes have not fully resolved congestion. He requested an extension of the public comment period.

Joe Mudd spoke regarding the Northeast Connector, expressing conditional support for a connection while raising concerns about preservation of natural and culturally significant areas. He requested an extension of the public comment period.

Sandi Hill and Francis Julien, representatives of Keolis, addressed the Board to express appreciation for the longstanding partnership with RTC and staff. They thanked the Commission for its collaboration and support in delivering fixed-route transit service to the community.

Valencia Ray addressed the Board in opposition to the Northeast Connector, citing concerns related to neighborhood cut-through traffic, air and noise pollution, safety impacts, environmental preservation, and the need for further evaluation of alternative routes. She requested additional time for public comment.

***Item 3        APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

On motion of Commissioner Lawson 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 12/19/2025 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 the RTC staff recommended appointment of Michael Lansborough to the Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC), with a term through June 2026. (For Possible Action)

**4.4    Engineering Department**

4.4.1    Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract with Nichols Consulting Engineers, CHTD, (NCE) for additional design and engineering during construction services for the Biggest Little Bike Network Project, in the amount of \$585,615, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$3,084,535. (For Possible Action)

4.4.2    Approve a contract with Construction Materials Engineers, Inc., to perform construction management services related to the West Fourth Street Safety Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,816,481.30. (For Possible Action)

- 4.4.3 Approve Amendment #1 to the contract with Wood Rodgers, Inc., for construction support services by the design engineer for the West Fourth Street Safety Project, in the amount of \$193,665, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,251,495. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.4 Acknowledge receipt of information regarding an automatic annual increase of 4.5% to the Regional Road Impact Fees as allowed by NRS 278B.225 and required by ordinances adopted by Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.5 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a fee simple interest in, a permanent easement on, and a temporary construction easement on, portions of APN 550-650-01 from Arroyo Homeowners Association, which are needed to construct the Military Road Capacity & Safety Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.6 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a fee simple interest in a portion of APN 550-603-41 from Legacy Pointe Homeowners Association, which is needed to construct the Military Road Capacity & Safety Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.7 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a fee simple interest in, a permanent easement on, and six temporary construction easements on, portions of APN 086-390-32 from North Peak Owners NV, LLC, which are needed to construct the Military Road Capacity & Safety Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.8 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a permanent easement and a temporary construction easement on portions of APN 086-412-02 from Stephen Eto and Margaret Eto, which are needed to construct the Military Road Capacity & Safety Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.9 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire two fee simple interests in portions of APN 552-540-01 and 552-540-02, a permanent utility easement on portions of APN 552-540-01 and 552-540-02, and two temporary construction easement interests on portions of APN 552-540-01 and 552-554-08, from DR Horton INC NNV, which are needed to construct the Military Road Capacity & Safety Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.10 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a fee simple interest in, two permanent easements on, a relocated public utility easement on, and two temporary construction easements on, portions of APN 568-032-01 from SREIT 10990 Lear, LLC, which are needed to construct the Military Road Capacity & Safety Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.11 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a fee simple interest in, a permanent easement on, a relocated public utility easement on, and a temporary construction easement interest on, portions of APN 568-033-03 from SREIT 10991 Lear, LLC, which are needed to construct the Military Road Capacity & Safety Project. (For Possible Action)

On motion of Commissioner Lawson to approve, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that these items be approved.

**Item 5            *DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS***

**5.1    Acknowledge receipt of the 2025 Construction Communications and Outreach presentation. (Informational Only)**

Josh McEachran, RTC Public Information Officer, and Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, presented the 2025 Construction Communications and Outreach overview. Mr. McEachran summarized RTC’s construction communications strategy, emphasizing efforts to clearly communicate how projects impact residents, businesses, and the broader community. He outlined outreach tools including project-specific websites, weekly email updates, text alerts for major traffic changes, social media, traditional media, and direct coordination with affected stakeholders.

Mr. McEachran highlighted the role of early coordination by Engineering staff to minimize construction impacts prior to public outreach, including engagement with businesses and property owners to address access, deliveries, and waste collection. He reported that RTC hosted approximately a dozen public meetings in 2025 for projects in various stages of design and construction, including record attendance of approximately 300 participants at the Northeast Connector public meeting. He noted that attendance at outreach events varied widely depending on project scope and neighborhood interest.

Mr. Nelson described RTC’s ongoing engagement with Neighborhood Advisory Boards, Citizens Advisory Boards, homeowner associations, and business groups, noting that more than 50 presentations are delivered annually by RTC staff. He emphasized the importance of two-way communication, allowing staff to respond to community concerns and coordinate with local jurisdictions and NDOT when questions extend beyond RTC’s scope.

The presenters summarized earned media efforts, reporting more than 700 media mentions in 2025, including weekly “Road Ahead” segments and recurring local television interviews. Staff noted that earned media coverage provides significant public value and broad community reach, particularly for residents who rely on traditional news sources. The presentation also highlighted major project milestones completed in 2025, including multiple ribbon cuttings, roadway improvements, and pavement preservation efforts.

Looking ahead, staff outlined continued outreach efforts for upcoming and ongoing projects, including Sparks Boulevard, Mill Street Safety and Capacity, Arlington Avenue Bridges, and the Northeast Connector feasibility study. Mr. Nelson also discussed federal coordination efforts related to project funding and communications with congressional and federal agency partners.

Board Members thanked staff for their outreach efforts and acknowledged the effectiveness of communicating complex technical information in an accessible manner. Commissioners encouraged continued emphasis on community engagement related to the Northeast Connector and future funding discussions. Board Members also highlighted the importance of communicating pavement preservation needs, maintaining traditional media outreach, expanding Spanish-language communications, and continuing proactive engagement within neighborhoods.

## **Item 6        *REPORTS (Informational Only)***

### **6.1     RTC Executive Director Report**

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

- John Ponzo, our I.T. Manager, is retiring after 29 years with RTC. John has played a critical role – not just in this building but also with the technology at Fourth Street Station, Centennial Plaza, on our buses, and our bus stops. He has overseen a lot of transition during his time here. While we’re sad to see him go, we wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Our new I.T. Manager, Max Day, started on January 5<sup>th</sup>, to allow some overlap time for John to get him up to speed. Max had been working in the private sector in Colorado for the past four years where he focused on software development and I.T. team management. Prior to that, he worked in I.T. for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority for a decade. We are happy to welcome Max and his family back to northern Nevada.
- The Nevada Legislative Commission recently appointed 13 members to the Regional Rail Advisory Working Group. Their task is to study the feasibility of regional rail throughout the state.
- A public meeting was held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, at Lincoln Park Elementary School in Sparks for the Prater Way Rehabilitation Project.
- RTC is partnering with Washoe County, Target, and KOLO TV for the annual Stuff-A-Bus Clothing Drive for children in care. The bus will be parked at the Sparks Target from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> to accept donations.
- Congratulations to Susi Trinidad on her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with RTC. She is an amazing Mobility Services Manager who does a lot of work with our seniors and customers with disabilities. Thank you, Susi, and congratulations on this milestone.
- RTC recently submitted a letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation expressing our concern and opposition to the proposed relaxation of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. As an agency, RTC’s ability to receive federal transportation funding is directly tied to meeting federal air quality standards. From an economic and operational standpoint, any policy changes that make it more difficult to achieve those standards pose a risk to our funding and our ability to serve the community. RTC recognizes that our letter is part of a broader national response, with thousands of similar comments submitted, reflecting widespread concern about the impacts of these changes on air quality and local communities. RTC will continue to monitor this issue and keep the Board informed as it develops.

### **6.2     RTC Federal Report**

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, provided an update on federal appropriations, anticipated timelines for transit grant programs, and RTC’s application for a BUILD grant for the Sun Valley Boulevard Corridor project. He also summarized recent infrastructure cost inflation data and its implications for transportation funding.

### **6.3     NDOT Director Report**

Sondra Rosenberg, Deputy Director NDOT, provided updates on the following NDOT activities:

- Holiday and winter storm response with coordination efforts with the local jurisdictions.

- Pyramid Highway upcoming resurfacing work starts in the Spring, which will repave, add new sidewalks and pedestrian signals.
- Upcoming Lane Switches – U.S. 395 in North Valleys will be shifted from outside to inside lanes.
- The launch of Nevada’s updated Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

**Item 7            COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

Mayor Lawson directed staff to extend the public comment period for the Northeast Connector project with a defined end date and requested an additional public meeting to allow for further community input.

**Item 8            PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carlos Elizondo Reyna addressed the Board regarding conditions at the Fourth Street Station men’s restroom, expressing concerns related to cleanliness, accessibility, and usage by unhoused individuals.

**Item 9            ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.



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ALEXIS HILL, Chair  
Regional Transportation Commission

**\*\*Copies of all presentations are available by contacting Michelle Kraus at [mkraus@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:mkraus@rtcwashoe.com).**