

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

November 21, 2025

PRESENT:

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

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

Johnny Engh, Kyle Speicher, and Dylan Highline, students from the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology, advocated for expansion of bus routes beyond major metropolitan areas into neighborhoods such as Lemmon Valley, Verdi, and the Foothills/Meadows area. The students explained that many bus routes currently require riders to travel several blocks or transfer multiple times to reach destinations such as schools, medical providers, and affordable housing complexes. They presented research showing gaps in stop accessibility and emphasized the economic and environmental benefits of public transit expansion. The Board encouraged them to share their data and acknowledged the value of their participation in the public process.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Schieve to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, 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 10/17/2025 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 Engineering Department

- 4.3.1 Approve Amendment No. 3 to the contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., for additional engineering during construction services in connection with the Mill Street Capacity and Safety Project, in the amount of \$45,855, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,024,705. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.2 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Master Services Agreement with Avenue Consultants, Inc. for services associated with alternative project delivery support, program process improvement, and project management support, in the amount of \$335,000, for a new total not to-exceed amount of \$935,000. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.3 Approve a contract with GCW, Inc., for design services and optional engineering during construction services for the Steamboat Parkway / Rio Wrangler Parkway Roundabout Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$926,950. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.4.1 Acknowledge receipt of this quarterly Construction/Maintenance update on Transit Stops as presented to the Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee on November 5, 2025. (For Possible Action)

4.5 Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.5.1 Acknowledge receipt of a report regarding quarterly progress on the RTC Strategic Roadmap - FY 2026 (Q1). (For Possible Action)

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

Item 5 PUBLIC HEARING

5.1 Conduct a public hearing regarding approval of Amendment No. 1 to the FFY 2025-2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP); adopt a resolution approving Amendment No. 1 to the FFY 2025-2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). (For Possible Action)

- a. Staff Presentation**
- b. Public Hearing**
- c. Action**

Graham Dollarhide, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a comprehensive overview of the purpose and process behind the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, explaining that it serves as the federally required and fiscally constrained implementation plan for projects identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The presentation clarified that this amendment is not accompanied by a corresponding RTP amendment based on federal guidance and alignment with RTC's Public Participation Plan.

Among the notable changes were the adjustment of the State Route 659 (North McCarran Boulevard) project timeline to maintain fiscal constraint, the removal and strategic repackaging of the Pyramid Highway–Sparks Boulevard Interchange project to align its structure with Phase 5 of the broader corridor improvements, and the elimination of the Reno Towing and Recovery Incentive Program due to lack of funding. It was emphasized that this latter cancellation would not affect any existing services because the program had not yet commenced. The amendment also introduced bridge deck surface treatment improvements and an auxiliary westbound lane for I-80 near the Waltham Way interchange, both deemed exempt from air quality conformity requirements.

A public comment period was held from October 30 to November 19 without any comments received, the amendment required no air quality conformity determination, and advisory committees had reviewed the item.

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

Item 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Authorize staff to pursue efforts to deliver the Keystone Bridge Replacement Project using the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) project delivery method, on a parallel path with planned and ongoing efforts to use the Design-Bid-Build project delivery method. (For Possible Action)

Jeff Wilbrecht, Engineering Manager, and Sara Going, Project Manager, summarized the project's goals: replacing Keystone Bridge, improving multimodal connectivity, coordinating with the Truckee River Flood Management Authority, and ensuring safe north–south connections across the corridor.

The project history, alternatives analysis, current preliminary design status, and NEPA environmental work were discussed. Mr. Wilbrecht explained the CMAR (Construction Manager at Risk) delivery process and identified project complexities, such as permitting, constructability, innovative bridge removal needs, community impacts, cost certainty, and risk reduction that support using CMAR in parallel with Design–Bid–Build.

The new bridge will provide multimodal connectivity, including bicycle and pedestrian access that does not exist in the current structure, marking a significant enhancement in safety and mobility for the area. The presentation emphasized the complexity of the project due to its position over the Truckee River and proximity to sensitive infrastructure such as levees, schools, and community facilities. The CMAR delivery method was recommended to support design development, permitting coordination, risk mitigation, and constructability planning, particularly in relation to the Army Corps of Engineers' anticipated 408 permitting requirements.

Board Members underscored the importance of visual access to the river and active transportation integration and acknowledged the opportunity to combine project timing with flood management efforts. When asked about funding, staff confirmed that the design phase is currently supported by federal bridge formula funds, and the project is being structured for forthcoming competitive grant opportunities.

Executive Director Thomas noted that federal priorities strongly favor bridge infrastructure investments at this time, positioning the project well for external funding. Staff noted ongoing communication with the delegation and the attractiveness of bridge investments to federal agencies. Commissioners discussed active transportation improvements and the opportunity to connect communities, including Reno High School and Idlewild Park. Commissioner Garcia inquired about bridge design options and pedestrian placement. NDOT Representative Rosenberg expressed support for the project's progress and the relevance of federal bridge funding priorities.

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

6.2 Approve Amendment #5 to the contract for operation and maintenance of fixed-route transit services with Keolis Transit Services, LLC, to authorize the Executive Director to exercise RTC's option for the second three option term, and increase the Revenue Vehicle Hour Rate for normal service and special/extra service in the second three option years to \$126.05 in FY27, \$132.35 in FY28, and \$138.97 in FY29, and increase the Fixed Monthly Cost in the second three option years to \$347,783 in FY27, \$365,172 in FY28, and \$383,430 in FY29. (For Possible Action)

Jim Gee, Director of Public Transit & Operations, reviewed the existing fixed-route operations contract and its capital/operations division of responsibilities.

Mr. Gee provided an in-depth explanation of the current contract with Keolis Transit Services, noting that RTC owns and provides the fleet, facilities, and fuel, while Keolis supplies operational personnel, maintenance staffing, training, and safety programs.

This amendment would exercise the final three-year extension of the original 2019 agreement. Staff discussed projected cost increases driven primarily by labor requirements under the new collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters, including a \$3 per hour wage increase effective December 31, 2025 and a pension contribution increase next July. Additional upward pressure was attributed to parts pricing, particularly for aging diesel and discontinued electric buses, with maintenance teams adapting innovative strategies such as 3D printing components to maintain vehicle availability. The Board was informed that service performance has exceeded expected benchmarks, with over 90 percent on-time service, 39 consecutive months of ridership growth, a 9.2 percent reduction in complaints, and a six percent reduction in accidents. Several Board members commended both the workforce and the union's efforts, citing improvements in safety, reliability, and customer satisfaction. Staff committed to evaluating whether future service delivery should continue to be outsourced or considered for internalization as part of the long-term transit strategy.

Commissioners praised performance improvements, union collaboration, and service reliability. Commissioner Garcia noted the significance of improved customer outcomes. Chair Hill emphasized transparency in evaluating operational models.

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

Item 7 REPORTS (Informational Only)

7.1 RTC Executive Director Report

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

- RTC's Low No Bus and Bus Facilities Grant application was successful. The FTA is awarding the RTC with more than 21.5 million dollars to purchase 19 diesel hybrid buses, which will allow us to retire our Proterra all-electric buses, which have been problematic. Thank you to Jim Gee, Jeremy Lattin and the team for submitting this successful grant application.
- The government shutdown caused a hardship for people in our community, including those who rely on SNAP benefits. The RTC provided 3,000 two-trip bus passes for people to get to the various food pantry locations for feeding their families. Thank you to Commissioners Hill and Garcia for their leadership to find solutions during that uncertain time.
- RTC's annual Stuff A Bus Holiday Food Drive to help provide food to people in our community will be on December 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will park a bus at Sam's Club on Kietzke Lane to collect non-perishable food items.
- RTC is holding a public information meeting at Red Hawk Golf Course on December 17th. We will be getting a feasibility report from our consultants on what we're now calling the Northeast Connector, which is the most optimum route to have a road that connects the City of Sparks and Spanish Springs to the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center.
- I recently signed a letter to FTA Administrator Marcus Molinaro in support of expanding paratransit options for our customers. In particular, we're advocating for updates to the FTA's regulations around the use of taxis and Ride Share Companies to supplement our services.
- Please join me in congratulating Lon Harter on his recent promotion. Lon has been doing a great job as one of our I.T. Analysts and now he is moving into his new position as Senior I.T. Analyst.

- Four of our employees are celebrating their anniversaries at RTC: Nichole Neri is celebrating her one-year anniversary as our Agency Services Supervisor. Shay League is celebrating her one-year anniversary as our Senior Transportation Planner. Amy Zheng is celebrating her 10th year at RTC as our Accounting Specialist. Ruby Barrientos is celebrating her 20th anniversary at RTC as our Mobility Specialist in the Public Transportation and Operations Department.

7.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, briefed the Board on federal budget negotiations, appropriations timelines, potential impacts to transit funding, surface transportation reauthorization trends, EV/hybrid fee proposals, and national transit ballot outcomes. He noted bipartisan resistance to eliminating state flex authority for FHWA funds and explained upcoming congressional dynamics.

7.3 NDOT Director Report

Sondra Rosenberg, Deputy Director NDOT, provided an update on NDOT's ongoing work and readiness for the winter season.

Ms. Rosenberg introduced Bhupinder Sandhu, District II Engineer, to discuss statewide snow operation priorities and resource allocation on winter coordination with local jurisdictions, equipment limitations, mutual aid practices, and communications during storms.

Ms. Rosenberg also reported progress on the I-80 West Reno widening project, reopening of Stoker Avenue, Crash Responder Safety Week activities, and statewide TIM (Traffic Incident Management) training.

Updates were provided on the I-80 East widening project toward the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, noting environmental approval and forthcoming progressive design-build contracting, while flagging construction impacts anticipated over multiple years.

Winter conditions and current crash information can be found at www.NVRoads.com. NDOT also has the Nevada 511 app for real-time maps and alerts.

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioners thanked staff and NDOT for collaboration on winter readiness, community safety initiatives, and project responsiveness. Chair Hill acknowledged staff follow-up on school crossing safety concerns. Commissioners discussed psychology-based traffic safety education events and emphasized continued public messaging around crosswalk and pedestrian safety.

Item 9 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

Item 10

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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