

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

December 19, 2025

PRESENT:

**Devon Reese, Vice Chair, Reno City Council
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks
Clara Andriola, Washoe County Commissioner (Alternate)
Dale Keller, RTC Deputy Executive Director (Alternate)
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Sajid Sulahria, Deputy Director of NDOT (Alternate)**

ABSENT:

**Alexis Hill, Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner (Via Phone)
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
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 Vice Chair Reese. The Board conducted the following business:

Item 1 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 PUBLIC COMMENT

Dora Martinez addressed the Board regarding concerns affecting RTC ACCESS drivers and riders. Ms. Martinez stated that ACCESS drivers do not receive holiday work schedules until approximately 24 hours in advance, limiting their ability to make family plans during holidays, and encouraged the Commission to consider providing schedules earlier. She also expressed safety concerns related to floating bus stops, particularly for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and requested follow-up regarding prior voicemail messages she had left with RTC staff. Ms. Martinez emphasized the importance of accessibility and independent mobility for riders with disabilities.

Justin Haghighi left a voicemail comment on December 18, 2025 @ 12:40 p.m. Mr. Haghighi congratulated the RTC on winning a federal grant to purchase new hybrid buses and commended the strategic use of grant funding to preserve local revenue for critical transit operations. He also raised concerns about the Board's July 2025 decision to discontinue purchasing battery electric buses due to past reliability and infrastructure issues with Proterra. He believes a complete discontinuation creates future risk, as trusted manufacturers now offer battery electric options, ending purchases would lead to a loss of institutional knowledge, and continued experience with alternative fuel technologies is necessary to remain competitive for future grants and innovation.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Items 4 CONSENT ITEMS

4.1 Minutes

- 4.1.1 Approve the meeting minutes for the 11/21/2025 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 DJ&A for planning services to complete the Truckee River Path Implementation Plan, in an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Engineering Department

- 4.4.1 Approve a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., to provide engineering services for ITS Program Support 2026 through March 31, 2027, in an amount not-to-exceed \$430,000. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.2 Approve a contract with Avenue Consultants, Inc., for design and engineering services for the Traffic Design Standards Project through March 31, 2027, in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.3 Approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract with Lumos and Associates, Inc., for additional engineering support services during construction of the Military Road Capacity & Safety Project, in an amount of \$75,200, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,829,944. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.4 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a permanent easement, a permanent utility easement, and a temporary construction easement on portions of APN 086-421-05 from Richard Pelter, which are needed to construct the Military Road Capacity and Safety project. (For Possible Action)

- 4.4.5 Acknowledge receipt of the RTC's Sparks Intelligent Corridors Final Report. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.6 Approve an administrative settlement in the amount of \$86,556 authorizing RTC to acquire a fee simple interest in the entirety of APN: 086-422-01 from Eng Ming Chen and Shirley Chen, co-trustees of the Eng & Shirley Chen Family Trust, for the Military Road Capacity and Safety Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.7 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract with LMN Architects, LLP for additional professional services in connection with the University Area Transportation Project I-80 Crossing Study, in the amount of \$57,600, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$156,600. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.8 Approve a contract with GCW, Inc., for engineering design services and engineering during construction for the Rock Boulevard and Hymer Avenue Intersection Improvement project, in an amount not to exceed \$494,620. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.9 Approve a combined settlement authorizing RTC to acquire certain property interests related to APN: 019-360-15 from Center Line Group LLC-Reno Services, for the Virginia Street Utility Relocation Project and for the Virginia Line Bus Rapid Transit Project. (For Possible Action)

4.5 Public Transportation/Operations Departments

- 4.5.1 Approve a contract with Pavion Corp to replace the existing antiquated security camera system on 53 fixed-route buses with a cloud-based Verkada security camera system, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,452,947.99. (For Possible Action)
- 4.5.2 Approve a contract with New Flyer to purchase nineteen (19) hybrid diesel-electric buses utilizing the State of Washington's Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for Transit Buses Master Contract No. 06719-0110, in an amount not-to-exceed \$23,425,495.77. (For Possible Action)

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

Item 5 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Receive a report on the FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County and authorize staff to submit the document to the Nevada Department of Taxation. (For Possible Action)

Christian Schonlau, RTC Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, summarized the statutory and federal requirements governing the report, including single audit requirements related to federal funding. Mr. Schonlau reported that the audit resulted in an unmodified opinion, with no findings, misstatements, or issues related to grant compliance. He noted that the ACFR supports future budgeting, the Capital Improvement Program, and long-range transportation planning efforts.

Board members acknowledged the audit results and commended staff for maintaining strong financial stewardship during a year with staffing changes and regulatory challenges.

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

5.2 Approve the proposed new Fiscal Year 2027 Street & Highway Projects for the RTC Street & Highway Program; approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Reno and Washoe County specifying responsibilities for delivering certain projects; approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Sparks and Washoe County specifying responsibilities for delivering certain projects. (For Possible Action)

Dale Keller, RTC Deputy Executive Director, presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Street and Highway Projects and associated Interlocal Cooperative Agreements with the Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County. He explained the project authorization process, statutory criteria under NRS 373.14, and RTC's role in administering projects on behalf of local jurisdictions. Mr. Keller summarized the three annual programs—pavement preservation, traffic operations and ITS, and active transportation—and outlined proposed funding levels.

He highlighted three new projects proposed for FY 2027: the Keystone Avenue Safety Project, the O'Brien Pass Safety Project, and the South Virginia Street Rehabilitation and Virginia Line BRT Improvements. Mr. Keller also provided an overview of current construction and design projects across Reno, Sparks, and unincorporated Washoe County, emphasizing the scale of regional investment and project coordination.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding North Valleys project information and coordination between safety and bridge improvements along Keystone Avenue. Staff confirmed that project sequencing and funding coordination would avoid duplicative work.

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

5.3 Approve RTC Federal Priorities and provide direction accordingly. (For Possible Action)

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, presented the proposed RTC federal priorities, including potential discretionary grant and earmark opportunities. He highlighted priorities such as the bus maintenance facility replacement, transportation expansion to the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center, Sun Valley Boulevard corridor improvements, the Keystone Avenue Bridge replacement, and the University Village connection.

Board members commended staff for recent public outreach efforts related to the Northeast Connector feasibility study and discussed coordination between the Keystone Avenue safety and bridge projects. Staff clarified that bridge funding is currently limited to design and that federal priorities are intended to position the projects for future construction funding.

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

Item 7 REPORTS (Informational Only)

7.1 RTC Executive Director Report

Dale Keller, RTC Deputy Executive Director, reported on the following items:

- RTC partnered with Northern Nevada Public Health to provide 28 flu vaccines at Fourth Street Station and 29 at Centennial Plaza.
- A public meeting was held at Red Hawk to let residents and stakeholders know about our Northeast Connector Feasibility and Alignment study to connect Sparks and Spanish Springs to the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center.
- RTC held two meetings for the Neighborhood Network Plans, one at Hug High School and the other at the Meadowood TMCC Campus.
- Congratulations to Scott Gibson, RTC Project Manager, for receiving the 2026 Network Hero Award from the Pavement Preservation and Recycling Alliance.
- Thank you to everyone who went out to Sam's Club for our Stuff A Bus Holiday Food Drive last Thursday – either to volunteer or to donate food.

7.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, reported on recent federal transit grant awards, including funding for new hybrid buses, upcoming BUILD grant opportunities, congressional appropriations timelines, and anticipated early engagement on FY 2027 earmark requests.

Board discussion included clarification regarding public comments on bus technology transitions, with staff explaining operational and safety considerations related to hydrogen, hybrid, and battery-electric buses.

7.3 NDOT Director Report

Sajid Sulahria, Deputy Director NDOT, provided updates on statewide and regional highway projects, including water quality improvements at Marlette Creek, updates to Nevada's Strategic Highway Safety Plan, progress on US 395 North Valleys Phase 1B, I-80 West McCarran/Keystone improvements, upcoming bridge rehabilitation projects west of Reno, and future North Valleys expansion phases.

Board members discussed funding challenges, construction impacts, and the importance of continued coordination and advocacy.

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

There were no commissioner announcements or updates.

Item 9 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

Item 10 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.



DEVON REESE, Vice Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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