

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**FRIDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

**February 20, 2026**

**PRESENT:**

**Alexis Hill, Chair, Washoe County Commissioner  
Devon Reese, Vice Chair, Reno City Council  
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks (Via Conf. Call)  
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner  
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno (Via Conf. Call)  
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director  
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel  
Sajid Sulahria, Deputy Director of NDOT (Alternate)**

**ABSENT:**

**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
- 1.3 Special Recognitions
  - 1.3.1 Jennifer Iverson, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, introduced Evy Cardinale, a seventh-grade student at Depoali Middle School, as the winner of the Middle School Bus Art Design competition. Ms. Cardinale briefly addressed the Board and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate. Commissioners congratulated her on her achievement.
  - 1.3.2 Mike Wilhelm, representing the American Public Works Association (APWA), presented two 2025 Project of the Year Awards to RTC. The awards recognized the South Virginia Street and I-580 Exit 29 Safety and Capacity Project (5–10 million category) and the North Virginia Street University Rehabilitation Project (under \$5 million category). Mr. Wilhelm summarized the award selection process and commended RTC’s continued excellence in infrastructure delivery. Commissioners congratulated staff.
  - 1.3.3 Jim Gee, Director of Public Transportation, introduced Taquan Jackson as the new General Manager for Keolis. Mr. Jackson provided remarks regarding his background and commitment to continued service improvements. Commissioners welcomed Mr. Jackson and expressed appreciation for his leadership.

***Item 2 PUBLIC COMMENT***

Heidi Soper, Sun Valley resident and Chair of the Sun Valley Citizens Advisory Board (speaking in a personal capacity), urged support for improvements to Sun Valley Boulevard. She described roadway flooding, congestion, safety concerns, lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and increasing residential development. She requested NDOT participation and support for Agenda Item 6.2.

Steve Burlie, Sparks resident and former RTC employee, spoke in opposition to the Northeast Connector alignment near La Posada and Desert Vista. He described pedestrian activity, lack of sidewalks, school bus routes, and speeding concerns within his neighborhood. He expressed concerns regarding traffic spillover, safety, noise, and impacts to quality of life.

Fred Krueger, Sparks resident, expressed opposition to the Northeast Connector project, citing concerns about neighborhood impacts, safety, communication, and modeling assumptions. He requested additional public outreach and comprehensive evaluation before further advancement.

Dora Martinez raised concerns regarding RTC ACCESS vehicles, including placement of ticket screens, wheelchair lift door height, dispatch responsiveness, and a survey question regarding door-to-door service. She emphasized the importance of maintaining escort service for persons with disabilities.

Juan Martinez expressed concerns regarding door-to-door ACCESS service, particularly for individuals with disabilities and students attending workshops. He emphasized safety concerns if escort services were reduced.

Shout out from Good Neighbors Warming Center, via email on 2/18/2026 at 3:26 p.m. Greetings RTC Board Members! Good Neighbors Warming Center is a community-run program for women+families who are living without shelter in the Reno/Sparks area so that they may get out of the cold winter nights safe from deadly inclement weather. This program saves lives. The county shelters are consistently at max capacity leaving many demographics with nowhere to go. Advocates have come together to organize this program and in its second year has flourished and continues to expand in its support for our most vulnerable citizens. We deeply appreciate RTC's ongoing donations of bus passes for our Warming Center guests so that they may safely get to and from the warming center, resource center and anywhere they may need to travel to. Lack of free and accessible transportation can be a massive barrier so your ongoing support truly has a positive impact on our neighbors who need it. We hope to continue this partnership in our collective efforts towards a more equitable dignified and safe community for all.

***Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

On motion of Vice Chair Reese 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 1/16/2026 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 Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for planning services to complete the Truckee Meadows Safety Action Plan, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,499,243.22. (For Possible Action)

### **4.4    Engineering Department**

- 4.4.1 Approve Amendment No. 2 to the Local Public Agency Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation for the use and reimbursement of federal funds on the Sparks Boulevard Capacity Improvement Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.2 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Local Public Agency Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation for the use and reimbursement of federal funds on the Sierra Street Bridge Replacement Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.3 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Local Public Agency Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation for the use and reimbursement of federal funds on the West Fourth Street Safety Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.4 Approve a contract with Lumos and Associates, Inc., for construction management services associated with the Military Road Capacity and Safety Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,484,950. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.5 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire property and/or property interests on APN 080-771-13 and 080-831-01 from Stonefield 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 property and/or property interests on APN 080-800-001, 080-811-27, 080-812-01 and 568-061-01 from Stonefield II

Homeowners Association, which are needed to construct the Military Road Capacity & Safety Project. (For Possible Action)

#### **4.5 Public Transportation/Operations Department**

- 4.5.1 Acknowledge receipt of this quarterly Construction/Maintenance update on Transit Stops as presented to the Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee on February 4, 2026. (For Possible Action)
- 4.5.2 Approve an update to the 2026 FTA Title VI Program. (For Possible Action)

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

#### ***Item 5 PUBLIC HEARING***

- 5.1 Conduct a public hearing regarding approval of Amendment No. 2 to the FFY 2025-2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP); adopt a resolution approving Amendment No. 2 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, presented Amendment No. 2 to the FFY 2025–2029 RTIP. He summarized the RTIP process and outlined three amendments including: Increased project costs for the I-80 Westbound Keystone to McCarran project; Addition of the “Revving Up Reliability” hybrid bus replacement project; and Addition of a Transit Security Equipment project.

He noted the public comment period yielded no comments and that advisory committees reviewed the amendment.

Being a public hearing, no public comment was received.

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

#### ***Item 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS***

- 6.1 Receive a presentation on the status of the Meadowood/Hidden Valley & Sun Valley/Panther Valley Neighborhood Network Plans. (Informational Only)**

Marquis Williams, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a status update on neighborhood network planning efforts, including outreach, data-driven analysis, steering committee input, and quick-build improvement concepts. He outlined funding allocations and anticipated implementation timelines.

Commissioners commended the outreach efforts, particularly engagement with schools and community events. Discussion included equity considerations, potential traffic calming treatments, school zone improvements, and future evaluation of funding sufficiency.

**6.2 Receive a presentation and approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation establishing funding commitments and roles and responsibilities for design, construction, and subsequent roadway relinquishment for the Sun Valley Boulevard Corridor Improvements Project. (For Possible Action)**

Amanda Callegari, Engineering Manager, presented the proposed cooperative agreement with NDOT for the Sun Valley Boulevard Corridor Improvements Project. She outlined project scope, drainage improvements, multimodal facilities, funding structure, and a proposed \$87 million estimated project cost. She explained the requirement to secure \$25 million in discretionary federal funding and the framework for roadway relinquishment to Washoe County.

Commissioner Garcia provided historical context regarding infrastructure deficiencies in Sun Valley and expressed appreciation to NDOT and RTC staff. Commissioners expressed support for the collaborative funding approach and acknowledged the long-standing community need.

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

**6.3 Receive a report on the results of a Market Study on an Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Fee from Michael Hillerby and provide direction; authorize the Executive Director to present the report to the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners and request an advisory ballot question be placed on the November 2026 ballot. (For Possible Action)**

Michael Hillerby with Kaempfer Crowell presented the results of a public opinion survey regarding a proposed electric and hybrid vehicle registration fee. He summarized declining fuel tax revenues, equity considerations, and national trends. Survey results indicated approximately 61% initial support for a \$250 annual EV fee and proportional hybrid fee, with similar support after pro and con messaging.

Commissioners discussed ballot language clarity, equity considerations, and next procedural steps. Discussion emphasized transparency, parity among roadway users, and legislative coordination.

On motion of Vice Chair Reese to authorize the Executive Director to present the report to the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners and request placement of an advisory ballot question on the November 2026 ballot, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that 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 has extended the deadline for public comment through March on the Northeast Connector Alignment and Feasibility Study. RTC is also planning two additional public meetings on March 10th at Mendive Middle School and also at the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center that same day.
- RTC is the winner of the APTA AdWheel Award for marketing taking home the prize in the Nonridership Social Media Category for our Spanish language campaign called “Si RTC”. This is the second year in a row that we’ve won an AdWheel Award. Thank you, Public Transportation and Comms Teams, and Celtis Ventures for their hard work on these campaigns.
- In connection with RTC’s TOPS plan, a “Move More” survey was launched to gather public input on how we can improve service recommendations. The survey is available on our website and will remain open through March 20, 2026. We anticipate bringing the final plan to the Board for consideration and potential adoption in May.
- Transit Driver Appreciation Day is March 18<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to join Keolis and MTM to recognize the important work that the drivers do for our community. Keolis and MTM will both provide lunch for their drivers to show their appreciation.
- RTC partnered with Washoe County Human Services, KOLO TV, and Target to collect winter clothing donations for foster and adoptive children through our Stuff A Bus for Children in Care Program. This year, we collected \$7,000 worth of donations. We are also working on a partnership with Baby’s Bounty to hold a Stuff A Bus event in the coming months to collect diapers for families who could use a little extra help.
- RTC will provide free transit on all of our services for St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th. Free service will run from 4 o’clock in the afternoon to 2 o’clock in the morning. We do this every year to give our residents a safe option to get from place to place, especially if they plan on drinking.
- Congratulations to Nancy Mues on her 20<sup>th</sup> RTC anniversary. She is a valuable member of the communications team, doing incredible work as one of our Senior Graphic Designers. Thank you for all of your hard work over the last 20 years – and many more to come.
- After 20 years at RTC, Susi Trinidad is retiring in March. Susi started working with us in 2006 and has done an amazing job as our Mobility Services Manager – doing a lot of work with our seniors and customers with disabilities. She oversees a lot of important programs like ACCESS, FlexRIDE and Senior RIDE Taxi Bucks. Thank you and congratulations to Susi on her well-deserved retirement.

### **7.2     RTC Federal Report**

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, reported on federal appropriations updates, community project funding allocations, Surface Transportation Reauthorization developments, and pending federal administrative changes.

### **7.3 NDOT Director Report**

Sajid Sulahria, Deputy Director NDOT, provided updates on regional projects including Pyramid Way preservation, US 395 North Valleys improvements, I-80 projects, and appreciation for maintenance crews during recent winter storms.

#### ***Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES***

Commissioners provided updates regarding community events, including the Western States Illuminated Art Festival and appreciation for regional road maintenance crews. A suggestion was made to evaluate succession planning within RTC staffing.

#### ***Item 8 PUBLIC COMMENT***

Steve Burlie provided additional comments regarding traffic speeds and safety concerns related to the Northeast Connector project and requested continued consideration of neighborhood impacts.

#### ***Item 9 ADJOURNMENT***

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 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).**