

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
October 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

- CAC Members Present:** Scott Carey, Terri Compton, Jaime Edrosa, Evan Gadda, Albert Garcia, Geoff Kettling, John Kreiger, Laura Langner, Gwendolyn Lomas, Michael McCaw, Travis Petchell, Jerry Purdy, Bob Schrimpf, Naveen Yelamanchili, Rajan Zed
- CAC Members Absent:** Paul Arnold, Ron Aryel, Jenny Brekhus, Art Gutmann, David Hankinson, Jeff Miller
- RTC Staff:** Amy Cummings, Roger Hanson, Garth Oksol, Howard Riedl

A regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 in the RTC Board Room, 2050 Villanova Drive, Reno, Nevada 89502. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Chair Scott Carey. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the following business was conducted:

Chair Carey announced that a quorum of 11 members must be maintained throughout the meeting; if a quorum is lost due to members leaving before all agenda items have been addressed, the meeting must end. Chair Carey requested that comments be concise and questions directed through the chair in order to keep the meeting moving and concluded as close to 7:00 pm as possible.

**Item 1: Approval of Agenda.** Chair Carey announced that Item 5 "Update on the Status of the Regional Population and Employment Forecasts" and Item 9 "Discussion and Recommendation on the Draft Washoe County Transportation Improvement Program" had been pulled from the agenda. The agenda was approved as modified.

**Item 2: Public Comment.** Albert Garcia commented that the RAPID stations under construction look nice.

**Item 3: Approval of September 7, 2011 Meeting Minutes.** The minutes of the September 7, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

**Item 4: Update on the SouthEast Connector Project.** Garth Oksol, RTC Project Manager, presented a PowerPoint on the SouthEast Connector project. As background, the road project will be a 6-lane high access control arterial, 5.5 miles in length beginning at the north end of the intersection of Sparks Blvd and Greg St and tying in at the south end intersection of South Meadows Pkwy and Veterans Pkwy. No residential sites will be impacted. Four years ago it was anticipated that 10 acres of wetlands would be involved; currently less than two acres of wetlands will be impacted. Existing nine holes of the Rosewood Lakes Golf Course will not be affected; nine holes will be rebuilt just north of Pembroke on three parcels of land owned by the City of Reno.

A multi-use bicycle-pedestrian path will be extended from the current 10-ft path at Sparks Blvd along the west side of the road. Beyond the bridge, the path will loop down around and over to the east side of the road closer to the stream restoration.

RTC has submitted its permit to the Army Corps of Engineers; public comment has closed; responses to public comment will be provided on November 15, 2011. Michael McCaw asked about winter snow/ice chemical treatment runoff impacts to the wetlands. Garth stated that as good stewards of the environment, a different approach will be taken with this

project. A pervious surface will be built along the edges of the road so anything that washes off goes through what looks like Rice Krispie bars; the water filters through into drain rock which is wrapped in a fabric containing microbes that eat hydrocarbons (oils, antifreeze, lubricants) resulting in clean water which percolates into the soil and groundwater.

Bob Schrimpf asked about the RTC Board action on the Rosewood Lakes golf course. Garth informed the committee that in August 2011 the RTC Board moved to postpone action until October 2011. During the next meeting in September, the RTC Board amended the motion made in August and voted to approve \$6 million for the City of Reno to move forward with mitigation of impacts to the golf course.

Rajan Zed asked about the project cost and what steps would be taken to mitigate human pollution in the creek. Garth advised that the project is estimated at \$170 million (\$30-40 million less than originally assessed). As for pollution, in most areas the creek is far enough away from the road to evade trash and other pollutants from traffic. The RTC hopes to establish an endowment fund for long term maintenance; from an environmental standpoint, the final project will be self-sustaining.

**Item 5: Update on the Status of the Regional Population and Employment Forecasts.**  
Item removed from the agenda at the request of RTC staff.

**Item 6: Discussion and Recommendation on the Service Improvement Plan Task of the Transit Service Analysis.** Roger Hanson, RTC Senior Transit Planner, presented a PowerPoint on the service improvement plan task of the Transit Service Analysis and briefed the committee on the contents of the report. Open Houses are scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> Street Station on October 6 and Centennial Plaza on October 7.

Travis Petchell asked how often the system was changed. Roger responded that the last time RTC did a system-wide change was in 1999.

Jerry Purdy commented that no matter what concept is adopted, RTC should fund and place bus shelters at as many stops as possible, as well as relocate shelters from stops no longer served.

Bob Schrimpf asked when the productivity improvements would be implemented. Roger advised that the next transit service change will be in May 2012 subject to RTC Board direction; the last service change was in October 2009.

Geoff Kettling recommended RTC make a diligent effort to get this information out to RTC ACCESS riders, as well as the various neighborhood advisory boards, senior citizens centers and Reno Access Advisory Committee. Roger responded that extensive contact will be made with proposed route changes in the future.

Roger stated that the survey that will be available to those attending the open houses will also be available on the RTC website. Geoff Kettling commented that all online documents must meet 508 Accessibility Standards for people who have screen readers (visually impaired). Also, any route redesign needs to be looked at how is that going to impact the paratransit users. If routes are restructured, how will that impact the paratransit service area? Roger responded that so far all of the concepts presented do not reduce the service area.

Chair Carey announced that he had very serious concerns with the way some of these concepts were presented relative to where he lives in the community; those concerns had been forwarded to Roger via email and encouraged members to do the same.

Bob Schrimpf moved to recommend approval of the Service Improvement Plan task of the Transit System Analysis; motion seconded by Naveen Yelamanchili. Chair Carey stated that he would not support the motion; concepts in the present form would be detrimental to the elder transit community. A vote was taken by show of hands; the motion failed (6 in favor; 8 opposed).

**Item 7: Discussion and Recommendation on Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2011-2015 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.** Amy Cummings, RTC Planning Director, briefed the committee on the first amendment to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program adopted in April 2011. Amendment No. 1 sets forth five years of construction projects, including but not limited to, the Sutro/Kirman Complete Streets project (FHA grant for sidewalks, ADA accessibility and bus stop improvements on Sutro between North McCarran and Mill Street) and an additional \$500,000 for sidewalks and ADA accessibility improvements.

Albert Garcia recommended, especially with the new 3-ft passing law of bicycles by motorists, that public education and perhaps posting of signs alerting motorists and cyclists be included as part of the improvements.

Evan Gadda moved to recommend approval of Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2011-2015 Regional Transportation Improvement Program; John Kreiger seconded the motion; vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

**Item 8: Presentation on the RTC's Proposed Congestion Management Process.** Amy Cummings, RTC Planning Director, briefed the committee on the federal requirement for the RTC to develop and maintain a Congestion Management Process. A public workshop will be held on December 8; details will be provided.

**Item 9: Discussion and Recommendation on the Draft Washoe County Transportation Conformity Plan.** Item removed from the agenda at the request of RTC staff.

### **Item 10: Senior and Disability Transportation Issues.**

Michael McCaw stated several distressing incidents he experienced as a user of RTC ACCESS involving the taxicab service. There being no representative of First Transit, the operator of the paratransit service, to address his concerns, Mr. McCaw was asked to contact Hollie Young directly.

Albert Garcia commented that it was his understanding that it costs RTC more for a cab than for the ACCESS vans.

### **Item 11: Member Items.**

Travis Petchell asked if the sustainability policy was adopted by the RTC Board. Amy Cummings replied that it had been.

Jerry Purdy commented that he hoped RTC would consider the human aspects of any transit services change; many people have purchased or rented housing near established bus stops to get to work, for their kids to go to school, close to hospitals and businesses.

Jaimie Edrosa asked for a report or a presentation on ACCESS on what other communities have that is similar to ACCESS (paratransit service) and how RTC compares in terms of service.

Geoff Kettling commented that with regard to transit service changes, the committee would like the opportunity to address individual route changes in the proposal stage.

Mr. Kettling announced that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In November, UNR is hosting a big event that may be of interest to the community and the committee. On Monday, November 28, UNR is hosting a presentation by Dr. Temple Grandin in Nightingale Hall, followed by a book signing reception.

**Item 12: Reports.** No discussion.

**Item 13: Agenda Items for Future CAC Meetings.**

- a. Regional Population and Employment Forecasts (Item 5)
- b. RTC ACCESS: paratransit service peer comparison
- c. Road Bicycle Lanes: informational signage; proper use of lanes
- d. McCarran Pyramid Intersection Project update

**Item 14: RTC Staff Items.** None.

**Item 15: Public Comment.** Roger Vogel asked if RTC participated in the evacuation of Stead following the airplane crash at the Championship Air Races on Friday, September 16. Roger Garza, MV general manager of RIDE, reported that nine booster buses had been scheduled to take riders to the races that morning; four coaches were in the area at the time of the incident; five were directed to Stead immediately following; two supervisors and one manager were on site. RTC and MV do have an emergency response plan; however, additional coaches had already been scheduled well in advance of the event.

**Item 16: Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.