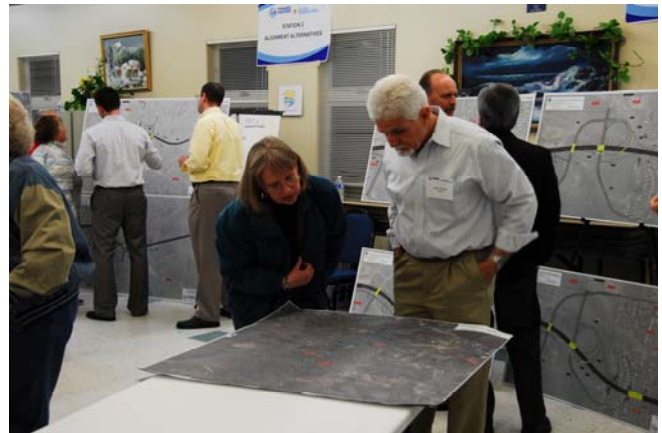

Regional Transportation Plan Update PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION PLAN

April 15, 2011



Regional Transportation Plan Update

PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION PLAN

April 15, 2011

Contents

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION 2
- 2.0 COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKSHOPS 2
- 3.0 COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP (CWG) 3
- 4.0 AGENCY WORKING GROUP (AWG) 3
- 5.0 STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION UPDATES & SPEAKERS BUREAU 5
- 6.0 COORDINATION WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS, BOARDS, and COMMITTEES..... 6
- 7.0 MEDIA OUTREACH..... 7

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) defines the long range planning policies and priorities for the community's future transportation system. It is the region's blueprint to maintaining access, mobility and clean air for our community. The RTP is a key tool for preserving our quality-of-life including short, safe commutes, a vibrant economy, and clear, blue skies. Under federal regulations, the RTP must be updated every four years. The current RTP is valid until July, 2013.

The purpose of the *Public and Agency Participation Plan* for the RTP is to establish a framework for a broad-based outreach effort with local residents, businesses, partner agencies, and other stakeholders. This plan builds on the 2009 RTC *Public Participation Plan* and includes additional details on efforts targeted specifically toward development of the RTP. Public participation/community involvement is critical throughout the process. The public and agency participation process will involve the following key components:

- Community Planning Workshops
- Community Working Group (CWG)
- Agency Working Group (AWG)
- Stakeholder information updates & speakers bureau
- Coordination with elected officials, boards, and committees
- Media outreach

2.0 COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Community planning workshops provide an opportunity for the general public to actively participate in the planning process. By providing technical information such as maps and baseline data, RTC staff and other partner agency facilitators can assist local residents in identifying and documenting transportation issues, concerns, alternatives, and priorities. The workshop format allows people to document their ideas, such as on maps or drawings, in a way that technical staff can use in the planning process.

It is important that a series of community planning workshops occur at key decision points during the RTP development, including:

- Developing the vision and goals for the plan
- Identifying alternatives
- Selection of priorities and recommendations

The workshops will be held at locations within each jurisdiction in the RTC planning area. Spanish language translators will be available at meetings. Meeting materials will be available in both English and Spanish.

3.0 COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP (CWG)

The CWG will assist RTC staff and guide the process to update the RTP. The CWG will be comprised of residents appointed by the RTC Board who are interested in multimodal transportation issues. Planning topics will include public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, the regional street and highway system, and multimodal transportation planning. The group will have 17 members with representation, to the extent possible, from the four quadrants of the region (established by I-80 and US 395/I-580), attempting generally to ensure geographical representation within the region.

Beginning in September 2011, the CWG will meet on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm. The CWG will continue to meet for approximately one year. Meetings will generally last one and one-half hours but may be extended as appropriate. Additional meetings may be called as necessary. The working group will be facilitated by RTC to provide a forum for an effective dialogue about the transportation challenges and potential solutions for the region. Agendas and supporting materials will be mailed electronically to CWG members.

The CWG will assist RTC in addressing key components of the RTP development process. It is anticipated that the topics to be addressed by the CWG will include the following:

- Orientation
- Define RTP Structure
- Identify issues, concerns, and goals
- Establish evaluation criteria
- Integrate transportation issues with land use plans
- Develop concepts and alternatives
- Screen alternatives and set aside options that are not feasible
- Conduct a detailed evaluation of alternatives
- Develop recommendations
- Integrate the input from the public planning workshop
- Review the federal air quality conformity analysis
- Review the Draft RTP document
- Review the Final RTP document

4.0 AGENCY WORKING GROUP (AWG)

The Agency Working Group will be comprised of the RTC's partner agencies in local, state, and federal government. The AWG will work in parallel to the CWG and provide technical input and analysis to the RTC. This group will also collaborate with RTC to ensure that the RTP is consistent with other planning initiatives and policies in the region. The AWG will assist RTC in addressing the key components of the RTP process as described in the Community Working Group section above. The AWG will be an informal committee facilitated by RTC staff. Agendas and supporting material will be mailed electronically to AWG members.

The AWG will consist of the RTC Technical Advisory Committee (shown below denoted by *) and representatives of the following additional agencies:

- City of Reno Community Development*
- City of Reno Public Works*
- City of Sparks Community Development*
- City of Sparks Public Works*
- Washoe County Community Development*

- Washoe County Public Works*
- Nevada Department of Transportation (Headquarters)*
- Nevada Department of Transportation (District II)*
- Washoe County District Health Department/Air Quality Management Division*
- Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency*
- Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority*
- Federal Highway Administration*
- Washoe County School District
- Carson City
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Storey County
- Lyon County
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
- Federal Transit Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- RIDE
- ACCESS
- University of Nevada, Reno
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- State Historical Preservation Office
- Nevada Department of Environmental Protection
- Nevada Department of Public Safety
- Corps of Engineers
- Nevada Department of Environmental Protection
- Nevada Department of Public Safety
- Nevada Association of Counties (NACO)

5.0 STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION UPDATES & SPEAKERS BUREAU

A contact list of community and business organizations will be maintained so that information about the RTP planning process can be shared effectively. Stakeholder groups will be kept up to date about the issues presented to the CWG and AWG. Stakeholder groups will be invited to participate in discussions that relate to their specific areas of expertise or interest, although they are welcome to participate at any point throughout the process. An email distribution list will be maintained to provide regular updates about the project and opportunities for input and participation. In addition, RTC staff will be available to make presentations to various stakeholder and community groups.

The stakeholder group will be comprised of representatives of the following groups:

Business/Community Groups

Associated General Contractors
Association of Realtors
Downtown Improvement Association
Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN)
Hidden Valley Homeowner's Association
Hispanic Business Network
Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful
Nature Conservancy
Northern Nevada Builders Association
Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
Northern Nevada Transportation Collaborative
Other HOA's (to be identified)
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Reno/Sparks Indian Colony
Senior Groups (to be identified)
Sierra Club
Sparks Disability Committee
Northern Nevada Chamber of Commerce
Truckee Meadows Tomorrow
Western Industrial Nevada (WIN)
Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Northern Nevada Chamber of Commerce
EDAWN
Reno Sparks Cab Company
Whittlesea Taxi
Yellow Cab Company
Terminal Manager/Greyhound Bus Lines
Hispanic Services of Nevada
National Association of Industrial and Office Properties
Union Pacific Railroad
Nevada Motor Transport Association
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
AARP
Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center
Senior Spectrum

Service Clubs

- Kiwanis Clubs (to be identified)
- Rotary Clubs (to be identified)
- Soroptomist Clubs (to be identified)

6.0 COORDINATION WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS, BOARDS, and COMMITTEES

RTC staff will coordinate with local elected officials and provide updates about the RTP process to the RTC Board, Regional Planning Governing Board (RPGB), Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), Reno City Council, Sparks City Council, and Washoe County Commission. Monthly updates will be provided to the RTC Board. It is anticipated that presentations will be made to RPGB and TMWA at key decision points. It is anticipated that presentations to the Reno and Sparks City Councils and Washoe County Commission would be made two times during the planning process or as requested by RTC Board members or local government staff.

RTC will also provide an update on the RTP planning process to local citizen advisory boards, as listed below:

Citizen Advisory Boards/Committees

- City of Reno ACCESS Committee
- City of Reno Citizens Traffic Advisory Committee
- East Washoe Valley CAB
- Galena-Steamboat CAB
- Gerlach/Empire CAB
- Incline Village/Crystal Bay CAB
- North Valleys CAB
- Southeast Truckee Meadows CAB
- Southwest Truckee Meadows CAB
- Spanish Springs CAB
- Sparks CAC
- Sun Valley CAB
- Verdi Township CAB
- Warm Springs CAB
- West Truckee Meadows CAB
- West Washoe Valley CAB
- Ward One Downtown NAB
- Ward Two Central NAB
- Ward Two South NAB
- Ward Three Southeast NAB
- Ward Four North Valleys NAB
- Ward Four Northeast NAB
- Ward Five West University NAB
- Ward Five Northwest NAB
- Sun Valley GID

7.0 MEDIA OUTREACH

Media outreach will be used to share information about the RTP planning process with the general public. Among the vehicles to disseminate information are:

- Mainstream and minority newspapers, radio, and television
- Editorial Board meetings with opinion leaders
- Public Affairs programming
- Paid advertising
- News releases, feature stories
- Social media

In addition to traditional media, RTC will develop an electronic/on-line public participation forum. This approach will make project information and feedback opportunities accessible to residents unable to attend meetings in person. Web-based surveys, interactive mapping, social media outlets, and smart phone applications can be used to gather broad-based community input about issues and solutions.

Figure 1: Public and Agency Outreach Schedule

