

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE (BRC) FOR TRANSIT**

**August 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**BRC Members Present**

Alicia Barber, BRC Facilitator  
Lisa Bonie, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living  
LaVonne Brooks, High Sierra Industries  
Bernie Carter, Dacole  
Andrew Clinger, City of Reno  
Kevin Dick, Washoe County Health District  
Steve Driscoll, City of Sparks  
Pat Flynn, Peppermill Hotel Casino  
Phylis Freyer, Renown Health  
Michelle Gardner, Nevada Department of Transportation  
Carl Hasty, Tahoe Transportation District  
Mike Kazmierski, EDAWN  
David Lippincott, Community Advocate  
George McKinlay, Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center  
Connie McMullen, Senior Spectrum  
Cloyd Phillips, Community Services and Development Corporation  
Graham Dollarhide, Carson City MPO  
Tim Ruffin, Colliers International  
John Russell, Laborer's Union  
Grant Sims, CB Richard Ellis  
John Slaughter, Washoe County  
Gerald Smith, The Nell J. Redfield Foundation  
Rachel Solemsaas, Truckee Meadows Community College  
Art Sperber, Community Advocate  
Jean Stoess, Community Advocate  
Grady Tarbutton, Washoe County Senior Services

**RTC Staff**

Lee Gibson, David Jickling, Jeff Hale, Amy Cummings, Stephanie Haddock, Michael Moreno, David Carr, Jacqueline Maldonado

**Guests**

Sharon Zadra, Pete Etchart

The meeting was called to order at the Regional Transportation Commission Boardroom by RTC Executive Director, Lee G. Gibson at 11:10 a.m.

**ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**ITEM 2. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**ITEM 3. DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT IMPACTS THE PERFORMANCE OF TRANSIT ROUTES (POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, DEMOGRAPHICS)**

Lee Gibson, RTC Executive Director thanked everyone who provided a letter of support for the Ladders of Opportunity federal grant program and recognized Sharon Zadra, Regional Transportation Commission vice chair and member of the Reno City Council. A video for the Ladders of Opportunity was played for an example of the physical engineering challenges at the Villanova facility. Lee gave a presentation on what impacts the performance of transit routes. The presentation is available upon request at the RTC Planning Department or at [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com).

Amy Cummings, RTC Director of Planning added that the data items requested from the last meeting, such as ridership correlated with income, will be in topic for next month when transit vision will be discussed. Amy also discussed the Look Ahead Schedule agenda for future meetings, which was requested from the committee. A copy is available at the RTC Planning Department. A discussion of the impacts and where transit is most successful followed.

Bernie Carter commented that UNR does not seem to be shown as high density or low income on the presentation about what impacts the performance of Transit.

David Jickling, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations added that the population and employment density is the most important factor driving transit ridership, discussion followed.

Kevin Dick asked what geographic area is used to map population density and do green open spaces work against being defined as high density?

Lee Gibson commented that RTC uses the Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) for an analysis. He also mentioned that UNR has high-density residential but also a lot of open space. He mentioned floor-area ratio is another potential measure.

David Lippincott asked what consideration has been given into to places like welfare offices, health facilities, etc. in regards to ridership.

David Jickling commented that medical centers and federal offices are taken into consideration when creating routes. He stated some government agencies however; locate new facilities outside urban areas, where no transit is available.

Rachel Solemsaas made an observation that the low income residents are the high users and asked what kind of services or mobility sources RTC provide for them.

Lee Gibson stated that RTC will explore the issues to research the supply of available labor and their skill sets and mentioned that INTERCITY plans for commuter interstate services to the TRI Center and park and ride are being looked at for a very quick need in the future.

David Jickling commented on the transit service for Amazon's new warehouse on Lemmon Drive, which is served by Route 17. This route will need to add more service to accommodate the increased demand. Five hundred to 1,000 employees, many coming from Fernley, will use vanpools or other types of transportation.

**ITEM 4. DISCUSSION ABOUT WHERE TRANSIT IS MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE REGION**

Amy Cummings discussed the transit vision in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Grant Sims asked if RTC considered where low income residents work and areas with high population of seniors.

Lee Gibson suggested that survey data from 2007-2008 can be used for analysis of travel patterns.

David Jickling gave a comment that residents disperse throughout the community for work because of the hub system where people transfer to different routes.

Connie McMullen asked about the ADA accommodations on more populated routes.

Lee Gibson stated that a map can be provided to look at commercial and industrial uses and zoning.

Rachel Solemsaas commented on linking the need for transit to future job opportunities.

Michelle Gardner commented on sharing creative ideas with other transit MPO's and other agencies.

Kevin Dick commented on recreational destinations and limited coverage for biking use on transit for limiting capacity for bikes.

Connie McMullen spoke about encouraging employers to accommodate bike racks for an alternate form of transportation.

Amy Cummings stated that the RTC Bike Rack App will be used to provide data on where bike racks are located and where they are needed. The City of Reno is developing some guidelines for installing bike racks in the public right-of-way.

George McKinlay commented that people with disabilities are not able to get to transit because of the conditions of the sidewalks; especially on Virginia Street he stated the sidewalks are dangerous.

Lee Gibson added that a summary on the ADA transitional plan will be provided at the next meeting.

**ITEM 5. VILLANOVA FACILITY AND BUS TOUR**

Don Penny, General Manager of RIDE and Mitch Bailey, Director of Maintenance for RIDE conducted the Villanova facility and bus tour.

**ITEM 6. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**ITEM 7. MEMBER ITEMS**

There were no member items.

**ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.