

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**FRIDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

**August 28, 2009**

**PRESENT:**

**Bob Cashell, Mayor of Reno (alternate)  
Ron Smith, Sparks City Councilman, Vice Chair  
Dwight Dortch, Reno City Councilman  
Bob Larkin, Washoe County Commissioner  
David Humke, Washoe County Commissioner  
  
Derek W. Morse, Interim Executive Director  
Stan Peck, Legal Counsel**

The special meeting, held in the Board Room of the Jerry L. Hall Regional Transportation Center, 2050 Villanova Drive, Reno, Nevada, was called to order by Vice Chairman Smith. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country, the Board conducted the following business:

**Item 1        APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion unanimously carried, Vice Chairman Smith ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved.

**Item 2(a)    PUBLIC INPUT**

Vice Chairman Smith opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on topics relevant to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) that are not included in the current agenda.

There being no one wishing to speak, the Vice Chair closed public input.

**Item 3(a)    I-580 AT MEADOWOOD INTERCHANGE PROJECT**

Michele Dennis, RTC Engineer, addressed the Board and gave a presentation regarding the I-580 at Meadowood Interchange Project, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item.

Michele reviewed the funds currently allocated to this project as well as the expenditures to date. At this time, the RTC has spent just over \$10 million on capacity improvement studies and design, right-of-way acquisitions, right-of way utility relocations, etc. Those funds came from fuel taxes, RRIF fees, indexed RTC-5 funds, and equivalent RRIF credits issued.

To date, the RTC has received a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and an approved change of access request from the FHWA.

Final design plans, specifications, and opinion of probable cost are completed. The right-of-way certification is expected to be complete on or before December 15, 2009, and the advertisement for bids is expected to occur no later than February 2010.

This project is expected to create upward of 1,500 jobs right away that will continue for at least 24 months.

Vice Chairman Smith opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on topics relevant to this agenda item.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, local resident, brought some incidences with the RIDE bus service that he had experienced. (Mr. Elizondo misunderstood the instruction for *general* public comment and spoke under this agenda item on a topic not related.)

Mr. Craig Holt, local resident, did not wish to speak but submitted his vote in favor of this project.

Mr. Norm Dianda, Q&D Construction, spoke in favor of this project. He added that this should be considered one of the most important projects in our region and it's ready to go and will create local jobs so construction should get started as soon as possible.

Mr. Steve Muchicko, representing the Carpenters Union 971 and their 1,700 families, spoke in favor of this project. Mr. Muchicko sat on the RTC Blue Ribbon Committee which discussed this project and stated that it was a very comprehensive process. He brought several union members who are also in favor of this project and would like it to move forward as quickly as possible.

Mr. Perry DiLoreto, representing multiple parties, spoke in favor of this project and complimented the Board on their due diligence in re-examining the justification of this project. Mr. DiLoreto read two letters into the record pertaining to the Hard Rock Resort and Casino which is potentially going to be built near the location of the Meadowood Project and could bring additional jobs and tourists. Ultimately, if this project is not completed it could possibly jeopardize the construction of the hotel.

Mr. William C. Thornton, a local resident who owns the Super 8 Motel near the project site, spoke in favor of this project. Discontinuing this project could harm the success of his business and the businesses around him.

Mr. Tony Vail, representing the customers, merchants and ownership of Meadowood Mall, spoke in favor of this project. The congestion in the area causes numerous customer complaints and inquiries.

Mr. Jim Nadeau, local resident, spoke in favor of this project. He reminded the Board that the realtors group that he represents supported the passing of RTC-5 which included creating jobs and helping the community. This project was on the list of planned projects considered on that ballot question and should continue.

Tray Abney, representing the Reno/Sparks Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of this project. He reiterated Mr. Nadeau's concern about this project being cancelled after it was specifically planned to be partially funded by the RTC-5 fuel tax. The Chamber supported the RTC-5 ballot question with money and education of their members with the thought that the Meadowood Project was always at or near the top of the listed priority projects. It jeopardizes their credibility with their members.

Mr. John Madole, representing the Associated General Contractors (AGC), spoke in favor of this project. He agrees with the previous speakers and their comments about supporting the RTC-5 ballot question. Mr. Madole also mentioned that construction costs are down by 16-28% below budget so millions of dollars could be saved if this project moved forward immediately.

Mr. John Rusell, local resident, did not wish to speak but submitted his vote in favor of this project.

Mr. Grant Sims, local resident, spoke in favor of this project.

Mr. Jay Bushman, owner of Nothing to it!, LLC, submitted a letter in favor of this project. Mr. Bushman feels that this project is imperative in ensuring the continued success of this area as a vital retail and office hub for the city and county.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the Vice Chair closed public input.

Upon discussion, Commissioner Larkin asked for the juxtaposition of this project, the I-580 Expansion Project and the Pyramid/McCarran project. Derek Morse, RTC Interim Executive Director, provided an update on each as requested. Each of the areas mentioned are in great need of congestion relief. There is funding for all of the projects now that the RTC-5 ballot question was passed and the Board has previously approved any additional funding in previous meetings.

Commissioner Larkin then asked Derek to explain the NDOT and federal processes that must be completed to obtain financing. Derek replied that those processes are extremely complex and could take twice as long to complete. They also cost more because each year that a project is delayed adds approximately another 5-6% to the overall cost. The three projects under discussion do involve the federal process but Meadowood is at the very end of that process. Northbound 395 is in the middle of the process but required no right-of-way access required which streamlined the project; and the Pyramid/McCarran project could be expedited if the Board and the community should choose to de-federalize it. However, the federal funding for that project would then be applied to the Pyramid EIS and the outer ring EIS. Funding for 80% of that project has always been planned with local funds.

Discussion ensued about the competing projects for the funding being applied to the Meadowood Interchange project and Derek explained the manner in which the other projects will be completely covered in the next couple of years.

Commissioner Larkin asked for confirmation that, using the assumptions currently in place, all three of the projects mentioned will be able to move forward within the next 24 months or so.

Derek concurred with that statement pertaining to the Meadowood and Northbound 395 projects, however, the Pyramid/McCarran project will need to be de-federalized to move ahead.

Commissioner Humke asked for an update on the condemnations that are underway and are irreversible. How much money would be lost if this project did not proceed? Stan Peck, RTC Chief Legal Counsel, stated that if the RTC were to withdraw from the current negotiations it would not be well received by the parties who have willingly participated in those negotiations. There could be legal ramifications if the project did not move forward.

Commissioner Humke then asked how much the expansion of the Meadowood Mall is predicated on the completion of this project and Michele Dennis read in the agreement that if this project does not go through, a new traffic study will be required addressing traffic impacts without the interchange for consideration by the Planning Commission and Reno City Council, including traffic improvements. The Commissioner then commented that he felt this project is necessary.

Commissioner Dortch asked what projects could be completed in lieu of the interchange if it were to be cancelled. Derek responded saying that the list of priority projects which was approved by the Board in December 2008 would be used if that were to happen. However, there are no projects on that list which would make up for the economic loss that would be felt by not moving forward with this project.

Mayor Cashell stated that he thinks this project definitely needs to move forward and that the Pyramid/McCarran project must be at the top of the list of priorities in order to relieve their ongoing congestion issues.

Commissioner Larkin asked what intersection has the highest level of congestion in the region and there was consensus on the Glendale/Rock intersection. South Virginia and McCarran has one of the highest level of safety issues.

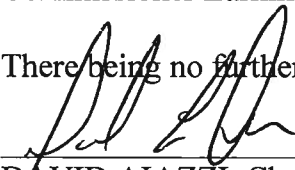
Commissioner Larkin then asked what effect this interchange will have on the new roundabout and Michele replied that it will work very well with the roundabout.

On motion of Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion unanimously carried, Vice Chairman Smith ordered that receipt of the update be acknowledged and provide direction to continue to proceed with the Meadowood Interchange project as originally designated.

#### **Item 4 MEMBER ITEMS**

Commissioner Larkin requested that staff bring back the juxtaposition of the I-580 project.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

  
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DAVID AIAZZI, Chair  
Regional Transportation Commission