

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

November 19, 2010

PRESENT:

**David Aiazzi, Reno City Councilman, Chair
Ron Smith, Sparks City Councilman, Vice Chair
Dwight Dortch, Reno City Councilman
Bob Larkin, Washoe County Commissioner
David Humke, Washoe County Commissioner ****
***via telephone, see notations*

**Lee G. Gibson, Executive Director
Dora Lane, Legal Counsel
Susan Martinovich, Director of NDOT**

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

Item 1(a) RECOGNITION OF DAN GALLIAN FOR 33 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE RTC

Jerry Hall, RTC's first executive director and the man who hired Mr. Gallian, spoke in appreciation of Mr. Gallian's dedication and loyalty to the agency and the public interest. Chairman Aiazzi spoke in recognition of Mr. Gallian and presented a plaque commemorating his tenure with the agency.

Item 1(b) THIS ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA AT THE REQUEST OF MR. ROBIDOUX WHO WAS TO BE RECOGNIZED.

Item 1(c) RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CITICARE FOUNDATION

Chairman Aiazzi presented certificates and spoke in recognition of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, NV Energy, Terry Lee Wells Foundation, Inc., and Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc. for their contributions to the CitiCare Foundation to aid in the purchase of rides on RTC ACCESS. Donna Kollman, President of CitiCare Foundation also spoke words of gratitude to the contributors.

Item 2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Larkin requested to have agenda item 5(c) moved in front of the consent items and to have consent agenda item 4(h) to follow agenda item 6(a), and pull item 4(j) from consent for discussion.

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Dortch, which motion unanimously carried, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved with the aforementioned changes.

Item 3(a) PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Aiazzi 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 Chairman closed public input.

Item 3(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEES SUMMARY REPORT

On motion of Commissioner Dortch, seconded by Vice Chair Smith, which motion unanimously carried, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that receipt of the monthly Advisory Committees Summary Report be acknowledged.

Item 5(c) RENO-TAHOE BID FOR THE 2022 WINTER GAMES BY THE RENO TAHOE WINTER GAMES COALITION (*taken out of order*)

Executive Director (E.D.) Gibson introduced Jon Killoran from the Olympics Committee who provided some historical information and gave a presentation on the potential for winning the 2022 Winter Olympic Games for the Reno-Tahoe area. Mr. Killoran also explained what the economic gains could be for the region should the 2022 Winter Olympic Games be held here.

E.D. Gibson added on conclusion that the RTC staff will be working diligently with the Reno-Tahoe Winter Games Coalition and with NDOT to put in a successful bid.

Item 4 CONSENT ITEMS

- (a) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2010, meeting
- (b) Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Report for the month of November 2010
- (c) Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the monthly Operations Report for the month of November 2010

- (d) Recommendation to approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for an amount not to exceed \$10 million for the I-80 improvements, Robb Drive to Vista Blvd. project
- (e) Recommendation to accept an additional \$10,600 for the Traffic and Street Lighting Retrofit grant from the Nevada State Office of Energy; authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract documents
- (f) Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the RTC RAPID Year 2 Stations Project Update and provide direction as needed
- (g) Recommendation to direct staff to combine the Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
- (i) Recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with Subway Real estate LLC for a lease of the 1,000 square foot retail space inside the north building of the 4th Street Station; and with Daryl Llewellyn to operate a hot dog stand in the outside cart vendor space
- (k) Recommendation to approve an August 2011 service change for implementing service modifications resulting from the Transit System Analysis (TSA)
- (l) Recommendation to authorize a six-month Professional Services Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$211,015.50 with First Transit, Inc., for the management of RTC RIDE
- (m) Accept AFSCME union election results and recognize the AFSME as the non-exclusive collective bargaining unit for the Professional & Technical, Administrative, and Facilities Maintenance groups; authorize the Executive Director or his designee to begin negotiations
- (n) Recommendation to approve a modification to current RTC Management P-22 Drug and Alcohol Policy for appropriate language that is compliant with applicable laws and statutes
- (o) Recommendation to approve clarification of the language of Personnel Rule 15.9 to reflect the practice of paying severance or separation pay in exchange for a release and waiver
- (p) Recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to execute an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA), which provides up to \$150,000 to TMRPA to distribute the 2010 Consensus Forecasts among traffic analysis zones for use in the regional travel demand model upgrade
- (q) Director's Report (information only – no action required)

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that Consent Item 4(a) through 4(g), 4(i) and 4(k) through 4(q) be approved.

On discussion:

- (j) Recommendation to approve Amendment No. 3 to the Professional Services Agreement with Parsons Transportation Group in an amount not to exceed \$1,043,352.00 for the Pyramid/McCarran Intersection Improvement Project EIS (Draft)

E.D. Gibson explained the need for the amendment being discussed, stating that it will allow for the continuation of the public outreach and studies on this project.

Commissioner Larkin asked for the status of the NEPA process.

E.D. Gibson said that a preferred alternative is close and public involvement continues.

Commissioner Larkin asked what project development is being done for an additional \$123,000.

Scott Gibson, RTC Engineer, said that this project has been in process for a very long time and over that period of time the footprint of the project has been reduced. The EIS involved with this amendment will bring the project to 30% completion.

Commissioner Larkin then asked why the NEPA costs are increasing when the footprint is smaller.

Mr. Gibson said that the EIS traffic analysis had not been started and that's what is adding to the cost.

Jeff Hale, RTC Engineering Director, added that the movement of the preferred alternative areas which it will impacts has required additional analysis for the NEPA document.

Commissioner Larkin asked if this could be shared with federal funding and Mr. Gibson responded that it is all being federally funded.

Mr. Hale continued to explain that because of the duration of the project, the movement of the preferred alignment and items that have come up in the public process have all added to the expense.

Commissioner Larkin commented that the cost increases are outrageous.

Chairman Aiazzi asked where the project stands with the overall budget.

Mr. Gibson responded that the right-of-way costs have not changed because even with the shift to the east side of the road, there are still 60-70 homes to purchase, but the construction costs have not been evaluated yet.

Chairman Aiazzi stated that he would like more information brought back to the Board before the project gets too far along.

Vice Chair Smith asked if the homeowners have been surveyed to see if they want to have their homes purchased.

Michael Moreno, RTC Community Relations Officer, responded that the outreach will be occurring over the next six weeks. Individual meetings with the neighborhoods are being planned as well as outreach to approximately 120 homeowners. There has been no door-to-door surveying at this time.

Chairman Aiazzi asked how many people from the east side of the project have been attending the public outreach meetings.

Mr. Moreno stated that he did not have that geographic breakdown.

Chairman Aiazzi then said that he wants more input from the public before spending any more money because the project is already 100% over the original \$25 million dollar budget.

Vice Chair Smith agreed with Chairman Aiazzi that more public input from the people on the east side of the project is necessary before proceeding.

Commissioner Larkin added that he agrees with the Chair and Vice Chair that this agenda item is premature. Commissioner Larkin added that he does not want to see this project or the Southeast Connector project listed under consent in the future.

E.D. Gibson stated that staff will speak with the consultant to review the costs one more time.

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that item 4(j) be continued to the January 2011 meeting of the Board so that additional public input can be acquired.

ITEM 5(a) RTP UPDATE PROCESS

Amy Cummings, RTC Planning Director, gave a presentation and review of the 2.5 year RTP Update process and what is involved in that process.

Commissioner Larkin was pleased that Ms. Cummings spoke about working with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Association (TMRPA). He then asked about the facilities analysis and stated that Rosanna Coombes may have more information on this topic.

Rosanna Coombes, Director of TMRPA, approached the Board to explain the process and added the TMRPA will be working with the RTC throughout the update process. Once the full plan is prepared, it will be submitted for federal conformance as well as conformance with the Regional Plan.

Commissioner Larkin explained that he believes the model could be perfected if the TMRPA participated sooner in the process.

No action was taken on this item.

ITEM 5(b) FEDERAL FUNDING PRIORITIES

E.D. Gibson stated that the document provided included the prior year's federal priorities and explained that in the month of December there would be a meeting of representatives from Washington D.C, the RTCs of Northern and Southern NV, NDOT, and Carson City to begin

assembling a federal priorities list which will be advanced through the federal appropriations process in February 2011.

E.D. Gibson began reviewing the prior year's priority list and Chairman Aiazzi stopped him to ask about priority three pertaining to the Collaborative Traffic Management Center. The Chairman asked for an update on the status of using an existing building vs. constructing a new one. E.D. Gibson said that a detailed report was planned to be brought forward at the December meeting.

Vice Chair Smith added that the Board generally supports the Center but not new construction. He asked for information on a retrofitted building vs. a new building because it may save a large amount of money.

Chairman Aiazzi asked if staff had any information on the detailed requirements for the center such as square footage, fiber optics, number of offices, etc.

E.D. Gibson said that in the handout included at today's meeting there is an update available.

Susan Martinovich, Director of NDOT, added that sometimes retrofitting a building is just as expensive as building a new one due to the electrical and technical requirements needed. Ms. Martinovich said that a comparison will be done and specific information on the needs of the center will be brought to the Board in December. This is a facility that is managed by staff 24 hours per day. Ms. Martinovich said that it could also serve as the Emergency Management Center (EMC).

Chairman Aiazzi and Commissioner Larkin both said that there is already an EMC in the region and there was careful analysis for the location of that building so that it would be operational during a major catastrophe.

Ms. Martinovich said that this facility would pertain mainly to transportation and could be closed down during such an event.

Commissioner Larkin asked if the existing EMC could potentially be included as part of the new facility and Ms. Martinovich said that it could.

Ms. Martinovich also clarified that the list of priorities acts more as a placeholder to show the planned project and the exact dollar amount shown is not expected to be received.

E.D. Gibson then continued with the list of prior project priorities. He added that the agency received a \$4.1 million TIGGER grant to buy four electric buses for demonstration purposes and that improvements to the maintenance facilities are going to be a priority.

E.D. Gibson then asked if the Board had any additional priorities they would like to add. There were none suggested.

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioners Dortch and Larkin, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that the report be accepted.

ITEM 6(a) SOUTHEAST CONNECTOR UPDATE

Jeff Hale, Director of Engineering, approached the Board and stated that there had been a risk analysis meeting held to review any potential major risks for the project. The final numbers are not completed but Mr. Hale feels confident that the budget will be less than the amounts currently identified.

Mr. Hale said that staff is still looking into a way to deliver pieces of the project so the local community has an opportunity to bid on the various pieces that are ultimately developed. He then introduced Garth Oksol, RTC Engineer.

Mr. Oksol then provided an update on the project and specified who has been involved with the various processes. Mr. Oksol stated that the Corps of Engineers anticipate a 75 to 145 day review time for the EA once a complete permit application submittal is provided to them.

Mr. Oksol asked for clarification of the October motion of the Board that staff could begin acquisition efforts for the four property owners at the intersection of Sparks and Greg Street, as well as all the other property owners along the alignment, including UNR, City of Reno and the Butler Estates.

Commissioner Larkin said that his recollection is that staff was authorized to begin negotiations with the parcel owners north of the river and bring back a listing of all the property owners. However, staff was not authorized to begin negotiations with the parcel owners south of the river until the kick-off meeting was held and until coordination with the Flood Project had begun.

Commissioner Larkin asked for clarification on whether staff had coordinated with the Flood Project yet and Mr. Oksol responded that staff had reached out to them.

Commissioner Larkin then asked who on the Flood Project had been invited to sit on the SEC team.

Mr. Oksol said that Naomi Duerr, Truckee River Flood Project Director had been invited.

Commissioner Larkin asked who else had been invited and Mr. Oksol responded that Project Manager Paul Urban sits on the team.

Chairman Aiazzi asked if the \$400 thousand mentioned in the report would be to appraise the four parcels north of the Truckee River and Mr. Oksol said that it would be for all 14 parcels in the project.

Chairman Aiazzi then asked what determines if a parcel should be a partial or full taking.

Mr. Oksol replied that he would have to defer the RTC right-of-way manager for that information. However, he believes that it would be a part of the negotiations with the property owners. Mr. Oksol added that the estimate of \$48 million for property acquisition is still considered a comfortable estimate after this analysis was completed.

Chairman Aiazzi reminded staff of his question at a previous meeting asking when it is too late to turn back on a project without being sued.

Ms. Dora Lane, RTC Legal Counsel, responded that it depends on the circumstances of each property owner, whether they have tenants, or if their property values have declined due to RTC's activities, etc. There is no definitive answer.

Chairman Aiazzi asked how staff is coordinating with the Flood Project to see if the RTC's money could be considered local match funds to the Corps of Engineers or to potentially have the Flood Project purchase the properties near the river and then the RTC could buy it directly from them.

Mr. Oksol said that staff is working diligently to ensure that no property is being purchased twice and that if the RTC does purchase directly, it could be a credit toward the local match.

Commissioner Larkin asked to have a Flood Project representative attend our meetings to address certain questions pertaining to this project.

On motion of Commissioner Dortch, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that the report be accepted.

ITEM 4(h) AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE FY 2012 RRIF AND F/T POP
(taken out of order)

Recommendation to approve Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2012 RTC Regional Road Impact Fee (RRIF) and Fuel Tax (FT) Street and Highway Program of Projects (POP) to include \$2,000,000 for the construction of sound walls along Vista Boulevard, \$1,300,000 for the Geiger Grade Re-Alignment, \$400,000 for preliminary design and right of way acquisition for the Southeast Connector (SEC) Project, and to move Socrates Drive from the FY 2012 FT POP to the FY 2011 FT POP and Delucchi Lane from the FY 2011 FT POP to the FY 2012 FT POP

Commissioner Larkin mentioned the Vista sound walls and asked if the property association had reached a consensus as to who will maintain the walls once installed.

Mr. Hale said that he did not know if there was a consensus at this time.

Vice Chair Smith said that he believes the issue is that there is a tax to the homeowners potentially being implemented by the homeowner's association. Per Commissioner Larkin, this tax was authorized by the State of Nevada.

Vice Chair Smith said that he didn't think the issue is the maintenance of the walls because the City of Sparks plans to maintain them.

Chairman Aiazzi asked when the decision must be made about installing the walls and Vice Chair Smith said that it is up to the homeowners. There is apparently a costly levy which will be applied to each homeowner.

Mr. Oksol, who previously worked on this project, said that there are differing opinions and concerns amongst the various homeowner's associations at this time so no decisions have been made.

The Board agreed that if all the affected homeowners of a particular association do not agree to putting in sound walls then no sound walls will be installed.

On motion of Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Vice Chair Smith, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that consent item 4(h) be approved excluding the Vista Blvd. Widening project.

ITEM 7(a) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE RTC RIDE FIXED-ROUTE SERVICES

David Jickling, Director of Operations and Public Transportation, approached the Board and explained that the contract eventually granted will replace the current contract which was approved to extend First Transit's agreement to June 30, 2011. The new contract will have the same expiration date as the ACCESS Paratransit contract.

All FTA requirements in terms of an open and competitive procurement process will be met and a recommendation to award the contract will be brought before the Board in April 2011.

Mr. Jickling then explained many of the responsibilities that the contractor will be held to. He added that the RTC will continue to do the service planning and the Board will continue to make the policies, set the fares and hold all other responsibilities that the MPO and transit provider are required. The RTC will continue to own the facilities and the buses, and due to the tax advantages received, will continue to provide fuel. The customer service department will also continue to be managed by the RTC.

Mr. Jickling continued to review the responsibilities of the RTC vs. the contractor and the planned schedule for the process. The goal is to have a contract in place and everything ready to go by July 1, 2011.

Chairman Aiazzi asked how many companies are expected to bid.

Mr. Jickling estimated that the four companies who have already expressed an interest are expected to bid.

Commissioner Larkin asked if any of the Board members have an interest in being on the evaluation team and there were none.

Mr. Jickling said that he will come back monthly with updates.

On motion of Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Vice Chair Smith, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that the request to issue an RFP for the provision of RTC RIDE Fixed-Route Services be approved.

ITEM 7(b) BUS STOP CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Christina Leach, RTC Assistant Transit Planner, approached the Board and gave a before and after presentation which showed many of the bus stop and platform improvements that have been completed over the past calendar year.

No action was taken on this item.

Item 8(a) REPRESENTATION ON THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (RTC), REGIONAL PLANNING GOVERNING BOARD (RPGB) AND THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNING BOARDS OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION (WRWC)

Commissioner Humke called in via telephone at the start of this item (11:35 a.m.) and hung up at the conclusion of this item (11:39 a.m.).

Chairman Aiazzi stated that everyone knows what the issues are because this item was initiated by elected officials and not staff. He then asked for questions or comments.

Upon hearing no questions or comments, Chairman Aiazzi said that this item started a couple of years ago and has come back around. It went to something really big and now is back to being something really small again. It is just to broaden the membership of the Board of the RTC.

To clear up any confusion, Chairman Aiazzi went on to say that every entity would still be able to appoint who they choose to each Board of these entities. It would be a step forward to help people to understand what the Board of the RTC actually does. The RTC is a large entity who spends a lot of public funds, the meetings are always public but there is not a large public attendance and the media does not report a much on these meetings. The Chairman believes it is in everyone's best interest to have more people on the RTC Board. Additionally, if the entities eventually merge, and the people who sit on the RPGB are the same people who sit on the RTC Board, he thinks it would be a good thing. He added that the public just voted that if it benefits taxpayer money then some of the boards and commissions should be merged and this may be the first step in doing that.

Commissioner Dortch said that he does not think that more members make you more efficient. He thought the purpose behind this was to have the same members on many of the Boards to allow for one large meeting instead of several separate meetings. He added that this makes sense if there is

overlap but it was determined the previous year that there wasn't any overlap. During the joint meetings there were still two separate agendas with no overlap and one meeting would end then they would go right into another meeting. Commissioner Dortch is in favor of consolidation where there are efficiencies and he does not see efficiencies here.

Chairman Aiazzi said there would be efficiencies here if the Boards were merged in the future. But to get through the legislative portion it is necessary to increase the size of the Board first. The Chairman added that during the joint meetings with the RPGB, the attendees who were not on the RTC Board were not interested in RTC business.

Vice Chair Smith said that one of the charges was to see if there could be better collaboration with the RPGB and it was decided that there was no communication gap. Collaboration was already occurring and continues to occur. Therefore, if this path is followed we are saying that there is a problem and there is no collaboration. The Vice Chair added that both the E.D. of the RTC and the Director of the RPGB both say that the two entities are getting along just fine so he believes this is an unnecessary step.

Commissioner Dortch repeated that the voters said to look for efficiencies and if there are some to move in that direction. No one has presented anything to him to this point that shows there are any efficiency in doing this.

Chairman Aiazzi then asked for a motion.

Vice Chair Smith made a motion that we do not pursue this path and move on with the boards as they are. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dortch.

Chairman Aiazzi does not support the motion.

Commissioner Dortch again stated that if he could be shown any efficiencies by doing this he would support it 100%.

Chairman Aiazzi said that even the extra rent being paid for the Governing Board could be saved by doing this.

During a brief pause, Denise Thompson, Secretary to the Board, repeated the motion for Commissioner Humke on the telephone. Commissioner Humke stated that he was having a difficult time hearing everyone because of his phone but that he agrees with the motion.

Chairman Aiazzi stated that if Commissioner Humke can't hear the meeting then he can't legally be there, so is his vote on the record?

Chairman Aiazzi then asked Commissioner Humke if he could hear him speaking and Commissioner Humke said that he could hear the Chairman. Chairman Aiazzi then repeated the motion to not go forward with this proposal; and asked Commissioner Humke if he had any

discussion or should they go right to the vote. Ms. Thompson repeated the question to Commissioner Humke over the telephone.

Commissioner Humke agreed with the motion as he understands it and casts a yes vote. He then excused himself from the meeting because he couldn't hear well.

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Dortch, which motion carried 3-2 with Chairman Aiazzi and Commissioner Larkin opposed, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that the RTC Commission does not pursue this path and will continue on with the existing boards as they are.

Item 8(b) RTC PAY-FOR PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Steve Burlie, RTC Administrative Services Director, reviewed the changes being implemented in the agency's Pay-for Performance program.

On motion of Commissioner Dortch, seconded by Vice Chair Smith, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that the changes to the Pay-for-Performance program be accepted.

Item 8(c) LEGAL REPORT

There were no legal issues to report.


Item 9 MEMBER ITEMS

There were no member items.

Item 10 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Dortch, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, Chairman Aiazzi ordered that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.



DAVID AIAZZI, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission