

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

November 20, 2015

PRESENT:

**Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member, Chair
Ron Smith, Sparks City Council Member, Vice Chair
Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner
Paul McKenzie, Reno City Council Member
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner**

**Lee G. Gibson, Executive Director
Dale Ferguson, Legal Counsel
Rudy Malfabon, 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 Chair Jardon. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country, the Board conducted the following business:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, OTHER:

**RECOGNITION OF THE RTC'S SOUTHEAST CONNECTOR PHASE 1 PROJECT AS
THE 2014 PROJECT OF THE YEAR**

Tom Adams, APWA Northern Branch Chair presented a plaque and spoke in recognition of the RTC for the SouthEast Connector Phase 1 project as the 2014 project of the year.

**RECOGNITION OF THE RTC FOR THE PINK BUS AND HELPING TO RAISE
AWARENESS OF DENSE BREAST TISSUE**

Heather Reimer, Chair and Founder of Each One. Tell One. and Wendy Damonte, VP at Renown Health, spoke in recognition of the RTC for their contribution of the pink RAPID bus to aid in bringing awareness to the matter of dense breast tissue with regard to breast cancer.

**RECOGNITION OF THE RTC FOR SUPPORTING THE FESTIVAL AND THE
REGION'S ECONOMIC VITALITY**

Baldo Bobadilla, Executive Director of Future Kind, a local non-profit entity focusing on creative education and who put together the Off Beat Arts & Music Festival, spoke in recognition of the RTC for their sponsorship by providing free bus rides for anyone wearing a festival wristband.

Item 1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Jardon ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved.

Item 2.1 PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Jardon 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.

Mr. Ray Lake, representing the Golden Valley POA, thanked the RTC for their participation in the various North Valleys neighborhood and advisory meetings.

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

Item 2.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES SUMMARY REPORT

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Jardon ordered that receipt of the monthly Summary Report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees be acknowledged..

Item 3.1 thru 3.3 DIRECTOR REPORTS

Item 3.1 RTC Executive Director Report

RTC Executive Director (E.D.) Lee Gibson provided a brief update on the Pyramid/McCarran Intersection project, saying they are in the last of the asbestos abatement of the remaining homes. This needs to be done before construction can begin. Additionally, the bidding period has been opened for the construction contract.

He then reviewed upcoming events in the region, including the Stuff-a-Bus program, Stakeholder Roundtables for the Short-Range Transit Plan, an immunization clinic, and the Food for Fare program.

He also mentioned that our region had been recognized at the bronze level as a bicycle friendly area.

Lastly, the RTC's Road Ahead was recognized as a "Great Show for the Community" by the Public Relations Society of America, Sierra Nevada Chapter, as were RTC staff members Michael Moreno and Joe Harrington.

Item 3.2 RTC Federal Report

E.D. Gibson announced that the House has passed a six year transportation bill and there should be approximately \$54 billion dollars spent per year nationally which is a significant increase.

Item 3.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Director Rudy Malfabon continued the conversation about the transportation bill, saying that it has been about ten years since there has been a long-term bill in place. He then went into some of the negotiations that took place prior to passing the bill.

He went on to say that NDOT has received proposals for the USA Parkway project and they have been scored. The hope is to present a contract to the Transportation Board in December, so could not make any announcements just yet.

Dir. Malfabon then provided brief updates on the I-11 project, the study plans for the North Valleys section of US-395 and the study on the Spaghetti Bowl area. They are looking at ways to shorten the study time for the Spaghetti Bowl yet obtain comprehensive numbers to work with and to come up with some short-term improvements to help out until the longer-term improvements can be implemented.

E.D. Gibson added that the RTC will be going through a new Regional Transportation Plan soon and that provides an opportunity to look at priorities and funding with NDOT and come up with a plan for the region to help with some of these studies, etc.

Chair Jardon and Commissioner McKenzie both expressed their appreciation to the Director and his staff for their efforts.

Item 4.1 thru 4.8 CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

4.1 Approve the minutes of the October 16, 2015, meeting (*For Possible Action*)

Engineering

4.2 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)

Public Transportation/Operations

4.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation/Operations Report (*For Possible Action*)

Planning

4.4 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)

Administration

4.5 1. Approve deletion of RTC Management Policy P-35 Recognition Program and approve the addition of RTC Personnel Rule (13.15) "Service Award" to RTC Personnel Rules section (13) "Benefits." 2. Approve modification of RTC Management Policy P-02 Equal Employment Opportunity-Affirmative Action (*For Possible Action*)

4.6 Approve the Investment Committee report for the quarter ended September 30, 2015, and provide direction accordingly (*For Possible Action*)

Procurement and Contracts

4.7 Approve the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a website hosting and redesign; authorize the RTC Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with a website hosting company based on the results of the RFP (For Possible Action)

4.8 Authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute an agreement with RFI Communications and Security Systems in an amount not to exceed \$82,225 for the relocation and restoration of security system associated with the RTC Villanova Maintenance Facility Renovation and remodel (For Possible Action)

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that Consent Items 4.1 through 4.8 be approved.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Hartung to move Item 7.1 up to follow consent. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Smith and passed unanimously.

7.1 Acknowledge report about CitiCare funding of RTC ACCESS Non-ADA Subscription Service and provide direction to staff accordingly (For Possible Action)

Vice Chair Smith first disclosed that he is employed by High Sierra Industries (HSI) who employs some staff that currently rides the RTC ACCESS system with rides funded by CitiCare. Vice Chair Smith does not feel that his employment situation will be materially affected; therefore, he would be voting on this matter and participating in any discussion that ensues.

David Jickling, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, addressed the Board to explain the context of the issue at hand. He said that CitiCare has raised over \$2.5 million dollars over the past 15 years and have funded ~112,000 trips on ACCESS. Since approximately 2009, CitiCare has funded all non-ADA mandated area rides. At this time there are approximately 250 passengers living outside of the ADA mandated area. Of those, 17 have a “subscription” trip. This is a trip that is taken on a regular basis and does not require reservations on an as needed basis.

Mr. Jickling went on to say that CitiCare has reviewed their funding and determined that the 17 subscription trip riders are utilizing over 80% of their funding and they do not feel it is in their best interest to continue funding those trips. Unfortunately, most riders do not understand the difference in funding between the RTC and CitiCare and will most likely perceive this discontinuation of the subscription service to those 17 riders as the RTC taking it away.

Mr. Jickling further explained the history of the ACCESS service and related reduction of the ADA mandated service area due to the recession and specific fixed routes that were cancelled. He added that the RTC does not have enough funding or vehicles to provide the trips outside of the ADA mandated area which is one reason why CitiCare had taken over the funding for those rides.

Options for the Board to consider were to eliminate all service outside of the ADA mandated service area; raise fares for the subscription trips; cutting the fixed route service area and use the savings to expand paratransit services, or lastly, move the half of the 1/16th sales tax currently allocated to the roads program over to transit. He then asked for direction from the Board.

Vice Chair Smith asked if the 17 subscription riders are eligible for Medicaid and if so, are they directed to speak with Logisticare.

Mr. Jickling confirmed that yes, 12 of the 17 are eligible for reimbursement for the provision of rides during their Medicaid related trips.

Vice Chair Smith said that HSI had been considering running their own bus to transport some employees and now that he sees there are many HIS employees who utilize this subscription service, he believes they should look into it further.

Commissioner Hartung suggested potentially utilizing the Catholic Services program to assist in these transit needs. They currently assist the County with the "Meals on Wheels" program and it has been very successful.

Vice Chair Smith asked Dr. Aryel, President of CitiCare, if CitiCare will be funding any trips at all going forward, or are they only cancelling the subscription rides.

Dr. Aryel responded that it is only the subscription rides being cancelled because those trips, with only 17 riders, consume 80% of their entire budget and it would be more prudent spread that 80% to as many riders as possible. He added that it is not to diminish the importance of those 17 riders in any way; it is simply because funding has gone down and they are trying to be smart with the funds they have. Those 17 riders would still be able to call to reserve a ride going forward like all other riders.

Chair Jardon asked when was the last time rates were increased.

Mr. Jickling replied that it was raised in 2009.

E.D. Gibson suggested that staff notify the 17 subscription riders to let them know this service will no longer be provided by a specific date, assist the 12 Medicaid eligible riders with getting squared away on their ride reimbursements, and then work with the remaining 5 riders to see what kind of arrangements can be made. Staff can then report back to the Board on the status at a future meeting.

Mary Bryant, CitiCare Grant Writer, mentioned that the Sierra Transportation Coalition had also been started with the help of RTC to try to come up with transportation alternatives for people; she is hoping to get grant funding for the Coalition.

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that staff proceed with E.D. Gibson's suggestion to work with the 17 individuals involved as described.

Item 5.1 thru 5.2 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

5.1 Acknowledge receipt of data on the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) regarding the societal costs of crashes at the I-80/I-580/US-395 interchange (*For Possible Action*)

Ken Mammen, Chief Traffic Safety Engineer with NDOT, addressed the Board and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the societal costs of vehicle accidents at the I-80/I-580/US-395 interchange. These charges consist of Nevada Highway Patrol, REMSA ambulance services, and fire department services. The average cost for a three year period at the I-80 East to I-580 South interchange is \$130,737. This number excludes any fatality incidents as there were none during the timeframe reviewed. It also does not include Reno Police Department staff or Washoe County Sheriff staff.

Commissioner Hartung asked if the crash rate went down during NDOT's construction where drivers were forced to stay in one lane.

Mr. Mammen did not have that information with him but said he could look into it.

Commissioner McKenzie asked if Mr. Mammen could also see if crash rates went up in other areas during the construction.

Chair Jardon asked if the Spaghetti Bowl is the worst accident area in the region.

Mr. Mammen said it is one of the worst but is not the absolute worst; there are actually several areas that are very bad. He then offered to prepare a report containing this information for a future meeting.

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that receipt of the data be acknowledged.

5.2 Receive a report pertaining to the North Valleys Region Multimodal Transportation Study (For Possible Action)

Amy Cummings, RTC Planning Director, addressed the Board to provide a brief update on the study. She said the consultant contract had been approved, a kick-off meeting had occurred, and currently, staff is in the phase of data gathering and listening for the project. She then announced upcoming community meetings related to the project.

On motion of Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that receipt of the report be acknowledged.

Item 6.1 thru 6.2 ENGINEERING

6.1 Acknowledge receipt of the Pyramid Highway and U.S. 395 Connection Project Status Report (For Possible Action)

Doug Maloy, RTC Project Manager, addressed the Board to provide an update on the status of this project. He began, saying that staff is anticipating approval on the Record of Decision in early 2016 and then he proceeded to review the history and purpose of the project, which is to alleviate traffic congestion.

Mr. Maloy also discussed the phasing plans for the project and said that, should funding become available, construction would begin in approximately 8-10 years. This length of time will also allow for US-395 improvements to be made north of the Spaghetti Bowl, prior to the Connector meeting up with it. He then offered to answer any questions.

A copy of the full presentation is available by contacting Dthompson@rtcwashoe.com.

****Chair Jardon stepped out of the room****

Commissioner McKenzie thanked Mr. Maloy for his report and fully supports this project.

Commissioner Hartung hopes that other alternatives are also being reviewed, such as for access to Stead and the Stead Airfield.

****Chair Jardon returned to the dais****

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that receipt of the report be acknowledged.

6.2 Acknowledge receipt of the SouthEast Connector monthly progress report (*For Possible Action*)

Garth Oksol, RTC Project Manager, addressed the Board and showed some of the activities occurring on the SouthEast Connector (SEC) project. He said the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA had been received and was the last item required in the Special Use Permit from the City of Reno. Receipt of that document allows construction to move south of Pembroke. Mr. Oksol also stated that as of the October 31st billing, the RTC has spent over \$23.5 million on the project and the project is at about 15% completion; also, they are 100 days into the 600 working day contract. This means the numbers are matching up nicely.

He finished his report with photos of activities and equipment on the project.

Chair Jardon asked if the golf course will be able to open in the spring as planned.

Mr. Oksol responded that they will not be able to open due to continuing construction activity at that time. The soil in the golf course area has to be replaced to support the future road and once the soil is place it must sit for several months to settle and compress. Because of the unforeseen delays in the project CLOMR and 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, and not being able to move south of Pembroke, this portion of the work was delayed. It had been originally been planned for in 2015 so that the golf course could open in 2016.

Vice Chair Smith thanked Mr. Oksol and the entire SEC team for their work. He is excited to see the road completed. He would like to have a date chosen to start calling it the Veteran's Parkway, which will be the official name once it's opened.

Commissioner McKenzie also expressed his appreciation to the team.

Commissioner Hartung asked how soon traffic could start driving on the first phase of the project.

Mr. Oksol replied that the entire road will be opened at one time after completion.

E.D. Gibson also thanked the RTC staff involved with this project as well as the attorneys.

Chair Jardon concurred with the sentiment.

On motion of Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that receipt of the report be acknowledged.

Item 7.1 thru 7.2 OPERATIONS

7.1 Acknowledge report about CitiCare funding of RTC ACCESS Non-ADA Subscription Service and provide direction to staff accordingly (*For Possible Action*)

****This item was moved up to follow the Consent items****

7.2 Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement for professional services to update the 2011 Virginia Street Transit Corridor Alternatives Study (Streetcar Study) with Shiels Obletz Johnsen (*For Possible Action*)

David Jickling, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, addressed the Board to discuss the purpose of this request. He reminded the commissioners that the RTC had hired Shiels Obletz Johnsen back in 2011 to study the feasibility of a streetcar at that time. The commissioners then decided to move forward with a rapid transit system and shelve the streetcar idea.

Mr. Jickling continued, stating that at the October 2015 RTC Board meeting, the commissioners had approved the preferred alternative for the Virginia Street RAPID extension; therefore, staff has been moving forward with the implementation of a RAPID system up to UNR. However, there are interested private sector parties who are still very interested in the possibility of a future streetcar in this area, so staff believes it is a good idea to freshen up the 2011 study by looking at the assumptions and noting what is different today. He added that the RTC has no funding for a streetcar at this time and are actually short by a minimum of \$37 million and more realistically, short by about \$56 million dollars.

The contract authorization being requested is less than \$50,000 for Shiels Obletz Johnsen to review the information in their report and provide the data needed.

Mr. Jickling then said if the commissioners desire to move forward, the next steps would be to execute the agreement, define the project, do the cost estimate, roll some of it into the Short-Range Transportation Plan, identify which legislative changes and priorities may be necessary for 2017, and then consider adding the project as unfunded into the Regional Transportation Plan. It will take a significant amount of time.

Vice Chair Smith does not like the idea of spending \$50,000 to study this project when those funds could be spent elsewhere, such as on the transportation funding shortfall. He would be interested in a study of a phased in project that starts in 10, 15 or 20 years, and would put streetcars in the entire region rather than only on Virginia Street. He thinks the number of people who would use a streetcar on Virginia Street is actually very small.

Commissioner McKenzie agreed with Vice Chair Smith. He added that there is a large development coming to North Reno who may be interested in contributing to the funding of a light rail type of project. He would also like to know if the private sector interested parties would be willing to pay for this study.

Chair Jardon agrees and believes it is an exciting possibility. She also has a concern about the legislative changes that need to be made before anything can be done. The chair would also like to see if the Streetcar Coalition participants would be willing to pay for this study just to show they are serious.

Commissioner Lucey reminded everyone that there is a connectivity problem in our region and does not wish to shelve this study. He added that this is definitely not a priority and there are other, more pressing areas in the region that should be looked at first.

Commissioner McKenzie said he would like this study to be increased to a regional study rather than only looking at the Virginia Street corridor. He would also like to see if the Streetcar Coalition is willing to pay for all or part of the rail to be laid on Virginia Street. He would like to know if they are willing to be “true” partners in this endeavor.

Chair Jardon suggested inviting the Coalition members to the table to see what their appetite is and how much they are willing to fund.

Commissioner Lucey added that the RSCVA and Airport Authority should also be invited to see if they have an appetite to be included and make it more of a collaborative project.

Chair Jardon concluded the discussion, stating the RTC is not currently in a position to divert funding from other programs to pay for this study; so if the Streetcar Coalition wishes to move forward with the study they can explore potential funding from all interested parties.

On motion of Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that staff not proceed with the execution of this agreement to update the study, with the direction given.

On discussion:

Commissioner McKenzie reiterated that the intent is not to shelve this project, only to see if there are other funding options available for the study and to legitimize the public/private partnerships for the project.

Commissioner Lucey added that as the project potentially moves along, he would like staff to look into the option of battery operated “streetcar” vehicles and the possibility of partnerships with Tesla and other manufacturers of those types of products.

Item 8 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION/LEGAL REPORT

Legal Counsel Dale Ferguson stated that there was a voluntary dismissal on November 19th of the lawsuit that had been brought by the Upper South East Communities Coalition against the US Army Corps of Engineers and the RTC.

E.D. Gibson thanked the staff, especially Garth Oksol, for their continued work on the project while also working on affidavits and other court required materials at the same time.

Item 9 PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Jardon 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 Chair closed public input.

Item 11 MEMBER ITEMS

Chair Jardon commented on the enormous success of the new Reno Works program and thanked the RTC for the bus passes given to the graduates to help them get to and from their new jobs. She would like to see if a brief class can be arranged near the graduation time of future Reno Works program students to help them understand the bus system and how to use it.

Commissioner McKenzie also commented on the great success of the program.

E.D. Gibson announced that the final RTC Board meeting to be held in the Villanova location would be on December 18th. ****Update – Due to unanticipated preconstruction activities at the Villanova location, the Board meetings will be held in the Washoe County Commission Chambers beginning December 18th and continuing in that location until further notice.****

Item 12 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.



NEOMA JARDON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission