

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:01 A.M.

December 18, 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**

NOT PRESENT:

Rudy Malfabon, Director of NDOT

The regular monthly meeting, held in the Chambers of the Washoe County Commission, 1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada, was called to order by Chair Jardon. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country and the roll call, the Board conducted the following business:

SPECIAL MENTION OF THE VENUE CHANGE FOR RTC BOARD MEETINGS:

RTC Executive Director (E.D.) Lee Gibson explained that due to unforeseen pre-construction activities at the RTC Villanova boardroom location, this meeting was moved to the Washoe County Commission Chambers. Additionally, all RTC Board meetings for the next year will be held in the County Commission Chambers unless otherwise specified on the agenda.

Item 1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

E.D. Gibson requested that Item 3.3 be removed from the agenda as NDOT Director Malfabon was not in attendance and did not have an alternate attending for him.

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Jardon ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved with the removal of Item 3.3 as requested.

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.

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

Item 2.2 *ADVISORY COMMITTEES SUMMARY REPORT*

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, 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

E.D. Lee Gibson mentioned that he and the Chair had attended and presented at the State Transportation Board meeting and that the Governor had seemed very receptive of their report on regional projects. He added that almost 70% of the regions larger projects are paid for with local funds.

He also mentioned that the Governor seemed pleased the RTC is including such projects as the North Valleys and the Spaghetti Bowl into their updated planning documents which are currently being worked on.

Chair Jardon agreed and believes everyone is of the same thinking when it comes to the Spaghetti Bowl needs and that those needs should be met sooner rather than later.

E.D. Gibson continued his report, saying that the bids had been opened for the construction of the Pyramid/McCarran intersection widening and two bids had been received, one from Q&D Construction and one from Granite Construction. The “apparent” winner was Granite Construction at \$30.7 million while Q&D came in at \$30.9 million.

Next, the E.D. said that over 5,600 lbs. of food was collected from RIDE passengers during the Food for Fare event which benefits the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. He added that there was also an increase of nearly 1,500 rides during this two day event.

He then announced upcoming events, including the RTC New Years’ Free Ride program.

Mr. Gibson went over the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding allocation history and the potential revision of that allocation at the request of the RTC of Southern Nevada. The RTC of Washoe County does not have any issue with further discussion of the revisions but believes that the current, established priorities in the STIP and TIP, which are based on current funding allocations, should be seen through to the end prior to making any changes. Rudy Malfabon should be making a decision on this topic in January 2016.

Amy Cummings, RTC Planning Director, added that under the new F.A.S.T. Act, the CMAQ funding that comes to the state will increase over the next five years to a little over \$35 million dollars. Currently, the Pyramid/McCarran Intersection project is being paid with these funds. CMAQ is also making up part of the matching funds for the 4th/Prater and the Virginia Street

projects, and is the primary source for buying replacement buses over the next five years. These funds play an important role in the RTC of Washoe County's program.

Chair Jardon and Commissioner McKenzie presented two checks to Vice Chair Smith, each in the amount of \$2,500 from their individual Board Discretionary funds, to be put toward the Veterans Memorial project.

Lastly, E.D. Gibson congratulated Chair Jardon on her reappointment to the RTC Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Hartung thanked staff for all of their hard work on the Pyramid/McCarran project and he is excited that it has finally moved on to the bid process for construction.

Item 3.2 RTC Federal Report

E.D. Gibson said that in January, Anja Graves and Jon Porter would be attending the next meeting to give a detailed breakdown on the new F.A.S.T. Act transportation bill. In the meantime, he said, the preliminary assessment indicates that there could be \$2 million dollars or up to a 6% increase in the surface transportation program, urbanized area, amount. There are new discretionary funds, especially in the freight transportation area, which the RTC could potentially tap into.

He added that it looks like the new bill will fund future bus facilities with up to \$695 million dollars in funding for the program which is a huge increase.

Item 3.3 NDOT Director Report – *pulled from the agenda per Item 1.*

Item 4 .1 thru 4.* CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

4.1 Approve the minutes of the November 20, 2015, meeting (*For Possible Action*)

Engineering

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

4.3 Approve the Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a temporary easement on APN 027-132-09 from The Norma I. Lagomarsino 1991 Trust Dated December 12, 1991, to construct the Pyramid Way & McCarran Boulevard Intersection Improvement Project (*For Possible Action*)

4.4 Approve the attached Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a permanent utility easement and a temporary easement on APN 027-131-05 from Lepori Partnership, a Nevada Limited Partnership, to construct the Pyramid Way & McCarran Boulevard Intersection Improvement Project (*For Possible Action*)

- 4.5 Approve the attached Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a permanent utility easement and a temporary easement on APN 027-131-02 & APN 027-131-08 from Lepori Ranch, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company, to construct Pyramid Way & McCarran Boulevard Intersection Improvement Project (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.6 Approve the attached Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire temporary easements on APN 027-132-10 & 11 from Stak 2 Holdings, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company-series "B", to construct the Pyramid Way & McCarran Boulevard Intersection Improvement Project (*For Possible Action*)

Public Transportation/Operations

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

Planning

- 4.8 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.9 Approve the revisions to the RTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Statement of Purpose, Objectives, and Procedures (*For Possible Action*)

Administrative Services

- 4.10 Acknowledge receipt of security/safety initiatives of the RTC (*For Possible Action*)

Procurement and Contracts

- 4.11 Approve an agreement with the Orr Ditch Company (ODC) for the Pyramid Way and McCarran Boulevard Project; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.12 Approve a two-year cooperative agreement in the amount of \$150,000 with the Center for Advanced Transportation Education and Research (CATER), UNR Civil Engineering Department; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.13 Authorize the Executive Director to exercise the final option year with The Continuum to provide paratransit eligibility evaluation services (*For Possible Action*)

On motion of Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that Consent Items 4.1 through 4.13 be approved.

Item 5.1 FINANCE

- 5.1 Receive a report on the FY 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC) and authorize staff to submit the document to the Nevada Department of Taxation (*For Possible Action*)

Stephanie Haddock, RTC Director of Finance and CFO, addressed the Board to provide a presentation report on the FY 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and audit results. She said that the auditors, Eide Bailey, issued the RTC an unmodified opinion which is the highest possible rating and added that there was one finding, but no management comments on the

financial statement audit. The finding was an overstatement of expenditures on the schedule of federal awards which was an accounting error that was not caught by the RTC's reconciliation procedures. However, the procedures have been enhanced for the next year to avoid any similar findings. There were no additional findings or management comments.

Ms. Haddock then continued, reviewing the RTC's assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses, etc., and offered to answer any questions of the Board.

Vice Chair Smith asked if the expenses for RIDE and ACCESS went up or down.

Ms. Haddock said it was about even but that the revenue is down almost \$200,000.

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the report be accepted.

Ms. Haddock then thanked her staff and all RTC employees for all of their hard work.

Item 6.1 thru 6.3 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

6.1 Receive a presentation on the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) development process and provide direction accordingly (*For Possible Action*)

Amy Cummings, RTC Planning Director, addressed the Board and said that federal regulations require that a new RTP be developed every four years and the deadline for this RTP is April 2017.

She said that input is being requested of the Board on the agency and public participation plan and then proceeded with her review of the tentative plans going forward.

Chair Jardon asked how many meetings are anticipated and in what timeframe.

Ms. Cummings responded that in calendar 2016 there will be three major public workshops but the number of focus groups has not been finalized and there may be multiple roundtables for each subject area. Additionally, staff will go before the various elected bodies and planning commissions to provide updates and based on input at this meeting, a more detailed schedule will be created and brought back to the Board in January.

Chair Jardon said there were very complimentary words from Commissioner McKenzie during their City Council Meeting on how the RTC's outreach has improved and staff is connecting more with the public in a way that they feel heard.

She went on to say that the Reimagine Reno survey that the city had done was very successful so RTC staff may want to confer with Maureen McKissick at the City on some of those focus groups and learn from that process.

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the report be accepted with the direction given.

6.2 Acknowledge receipt of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Data Collection Program annual report (*For Possible Action*)

Amy Cummings, RTC Planning Director, addressed the Board to provide the RTC's annual report on the bicycle/pedestrian and wheelchair count program. She said there are approximately 40 locations where data is collected across the region as suggested by the RTC's Advisory Committees. On a quarterly basis, three different counts are done at each location to follow the current trends in bicycle and pedestrian activity.

She said that the September counts gave the highest recorded bicycle and pedestrian levels in the two years of data collection. It is a ratio of about 5:1 pedestrian to bicycle use, with 4th Street at Evans having the highest pedestrian usage. She then reviewed some of the other quarterly counts and offered to answer any questions.

There were no questions asked.

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the report be accepted.

6.3 Receive a report pertaining to the North Valleys Region Multimodal Transportation Study and the Northern Nevada Transportation Study (NNTS) *Spaghetti Bowl Traffic Study (For Possible Action)*

Amy Cummings, RTC Planning Director, addressed the Board to provide an update on the North Valleys Regional Multimodal Transportation Study. For this study, the RTC is focusing on the regional roads for the North Valleys and NDOT is focusing primarily on the freeway facilities. However, the two entities have been coordinating closely throughout the project. Additional comments were gathered at recent CAB and NAB meetings and staff is working on a public meeting for early February, the structure of which will be to gather the information received so far, along with the technical analysis that's been done on existing traffic and safety issues, and to identify four or five short-term improvements that could be implemented in the next one to two years with relatively lower cost. They would like to get input from the meeting attendees on which are the highest priorities for them as well as more information on long-term needs. She then introduced Jeff Lerud, NDOT project manager for the Northern Nevada Traffic Study, who is her counterpart on the study.

Mr. Lerud gave his presentation on the current status of the study, first stating the limits of the study and then explaining the different aspects of the study and in which areas they will take place. He then proposed having a future "field trip" with interested Board members to the Reno Operations Center which has cameras monitoring the freeways and it would be much safer to travel to than standing on the side of the freeway itself. The cameras can zoom in on any area for a better view as well.

Mr. Lerud also discussed the potential implementation of travel time signs which have now been implemented in Las Vegas and actually save drivers a significant amount of time by allowing them to plan their routes accordingly. He then offered to answer any questions.

E.D. Gibson said he had discussed many of the issues with both Mr. Lerud and Rudy Malfabon which should help everyone build, maintain and sustain a consensus on the needs of the area. He believes there may be a lot of areas in the F.A.S.T. Act which can be taken advantage of to move design and construction of projects forward.

Commissioner McKenzie expressed community concern for the traffic issues in the North Valleys and in the Pyramid Corridor, and supports moving forward as soon as possible with fixes on some of these issues.

Commissioner Hartung also supports and appreciates the work being done by NDOT. He also suggested implementing a system forcing drivers to stay in their own lanes near interchanges such as are currently used in California.

Mr. Lerud said that he has discussed bringing some interim options to the charrette such as the Active Traffic Management system which tells drivers the current speed limits of each lane so they can act accordingly by slowing down or changing lanes as needed.

Commissioner Lucey agreed with the other commissioners but added that things are getting worse day-by-day and there are many new businesses opening which adds to growth and congestion quickly. He is concerned some of these new businesses may leave if it becomes too much of an issue in the future.

Chair Jardon reiterated that this has been a concern of hers for the past two years so she is happy to see some action being taken at last.

Commissioner McKenzie suggested that a quick, no cost fix to the I-80 eastbound to I-580 southbound congestion and accident problem is to close the Wells Street on-ramp with cement barriers.

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

Item 7.1 ENGINEERING

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

Garth Oksol, RTC Project Manager, addressed the Board to provide the monthly update on the SouthEast Connector project activities. He specifically mentioned that there is another matter pending action by the US Army Corps. of Engineers (Corps) where a timeline for action included in a memorandum of agreement has not been met on their part. He added that there is no ramification if the Corps does not meet this obligation so there is no option but to wait on the construction area the issue affects. However, Granite is now on notice, per the terms of their agreement, to look at an impact recovery schedule to re-sequence work and shuffle things around so that work does not shut down while we are waiting for the Corps.

E.D. Gibson said that Jeff Hale, RTC's Engineering Director, had been in contact with the Corps and they responded that they are "working on it." Their one archeologist for this particular issue is not available at this point due to work on another project but, apparently, the Corps has recently put an ad out for a similar position, so they may be adding to their staff to help with these things.

The RTC had previously offered to fund positions in their agency to help with any of these type of issues and they turned down the offer at that time.

Commissioner Hartung expressed his desire to have the SEC open in segments in order to get the road in use and possibly push the Corps forward in their actions.

Mr. Oksol said that all options are being looked at, including segmented opening.

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the report be accepted.

Item 8.2 LEGAL REPORT

Chair Jardon asked Ms. Cathy Brandhorst for clarification on the item for which she wished to speak. She had listed Item 8.1 but due to a discrepancy on the agenda numbering, there was actually no Item 8.1. Therefore, Ms. Brandhorst said she would like to speak on Item 8.2

Cathy Brandhorst proceeded to speak about matters of concern to herself.

Legal Counsel Dale Ferguson then said he had no legal items for discussion.

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.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

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

Item 10 MEMBER ITEMS

Vice Chair Smith asked for staff to look into adding transit to the Galleria shopping area of Sparks and Commissioner Hartung agreed with this request.

Vice Chair Smith would like a full discussion on the I-11 Corridor at the January 2016 meeting.

Vice Chair Smith then thanked Commissioners Jardon and McKenzie for their contributions to the Veterans Memorial.

Chair Jardon mentioned a fatality accident that had occurred in Mogul and asked for some sort of warning system such as signage, flashing lights or whatever it takes to make the area safer for everyone.

Item 11 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.



NEOMA JARDON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission