

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**FRIDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

**September 16, 2016**

**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  
Marsha Berkgigler, Washoe County Commissioner**

**Lee G. Gibson, RTC 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. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Bldg. A, 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:

***Item 1        APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

On motion of Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, 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. Robert Fitzgerald, local resident, spoke in opposition of the prioritization of the draft list of projects in Item 7.1 and where RTC money is spent.

Ms. Angela Fuss, representing CFA, spoke in opposition of the prioritization of the draft list of projects in Item 7.1 and where RTC money is spent.

Mr. Bob Lissner, representing Lifestyle Homes, spoke in opposition of the draft list of projects in Item 7.1 and would like to see more Impact Fee funded improvements made on US 395 and the Spaghetti Bowl.

Executive Director Lee Gibson stated for the record that Regional Road Impact Fees (RRIF) may not be used on US 395 or the Spaghetti Bowl and the RTC relies on federal and state

appropriations for those projects. Additionally, those are NDOT facilities. There was no NDOT representation in attendance to respond to this comment.

Mr. Peter Lissner, local resident, spoke in opposition of the draft priority list of projects in Item 7.1 and would like to see more improvements made on US 395 and the Spaghetti Bowl.

Mr. Tom Gallagher, representing Summit Engineering, commented that he and would like to see the improvements to Red Rock Road moved up on the timeframe to accommodate all of the new housing being built. He added that if that road was in the five-year plan they could go ahead and build the road using RRIF credits.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, local resident, commented on the cleanliness conditions of Fourth Street Station and would like to have it cleaned more throughout the day. He also thinks the security staff should be nicer to people.

Ms. Alis Marriott, local resident, spoke in opposition of the draft priority list of projects in Item 7.1 and would like to see more congestion relief projects in the North Valleys as well as more public transportation.

Ms. Jenna O'Neil, local resident, spoke in opposition of the draft priority list of projects in Item 7.1 and would like to see more congestion relief projects in the North Valleys as well as US 395 and the Spaghetti Bowl. She would also like to see more public transit, HOV lanes, light rail or something else to help traffic congestion.

Ms. Victoria Edmondson, local resident, spoke in opposition of the draft priority list of projects in Item 7.1 and feels that so much housing development should not occur in the North Valleys until transit can be restored and roadways can be built.

Mr. Chris Coombs, representing Lansing Companies, spoke in opposition of the draft priority list of projects in Item 7.1 and would like to see the North Valleys projects moved up on the list along with US 395 and Spaghetti Bowl projects.

Ms. Laurel Rodriguet, local resident, advised the audience that there is currently a task force in place currently studying the issues in the North Valleys and US 395. However, they take a great deal of time to complete, along with right-of-way and funding issues. She added that the potholes and cracks on US 395 will be filled in the near future.

Mr. Chris Askin, representing the Community Foundation, thanked the RTC for installing posters on all of the buses containing information for the homeless and specifically, homeless youth, on where they can go to get help. Mr. Askin said they have had a noticeable uptick in people coming to them for help since this information has been in place.

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

Due to the amount of public comment received pertaining to Item 7.1, a motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie to move Item 7.1 up on the agenda so that it follows Item 3.4. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lucey and passed unanimously.

## ***Item 2.2      ADVISORY COMMITTEES SUMMARY REPORT***

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Berkgigler, 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 3.4 DIRECTOR REPORTS***

### **3.1      RTC Executive Director Report**

Lee Gibson, RTC Executive Director (ED), first thanked staff from the RTC and MV Transit for their participation in the Extreme Mobility Challenge.

Commissioner Lucey also participated in the Extreme Mobility Challenge and said the RTC team did a phenomenal job on the challenge.

E.D. Gibson then announced some roadway and pedestrian improvements that are almost completed or will be starting in the near future. He specifically mentioned North Valleys projects that should help with some of the congestion and safety issues.

There was discussion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraising dinner for the NV Veterans Memorial to be built at the north end of the SouthEast Connector.

### **3.2      RTC Federal Report**

Congressman Jon Porter (Ret.) addressed the Board and provided an update on recent events occurring at the federal level and specifically, those that touch our region.

E.D. Gibson said there is an interest in putting together another Shared Federal Framework group for the region to meet with federal legislators in Washington, D.C. in February.

### **3.3      Accept receipt of information regarding the homeless camps in I-80 right-of-way through downtown Reno and provide direction accordingly (*For Possible Action*)**

E.D. Gibson said that at the Chair's request, the RTC reached out to involved parties to start a discussion on the homeless encampments along the I-80 corridor and related safety issues.

He then introduced Thor Dyson from NDOT who updated the Board on current efforts being made to move the homeless residents out of the right-of-way areas and clean the areas of trash and bio-hazard materials. NDOT has partnered with RPD, NHP and a local security firm to coordinate the relocation and clean-up efforts. To date, NDOT has spent \$65,000 on bio-hazard alone.

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

### **3.4 NDOT Director Report**

Director Rudy Malfabon was not in attendance, nor was his alternate; therefore, no update was given.

#### **7.1 Receive status report about the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and approve the draft project listing (For Possible Action) *Moved up per motion made after Public Comment above.***

E.D. Gibson first explained that there are currently projects in the works to aid in the congestion relief efforts in the North Valleys. Efforts are being made to expedite wherever possible; unfortunately, there are processes, laws and funding issues that take time to work through.

Chair Jardon then opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on topics relevant to this item.

Ms. Teresa Maloney, representing the Echeverria Family, spoke in favor of the draft project list but would like to see more of the North Valleys and US 395 projects moved up on the list.

Mr. Doug Roberts, representing Panattoni Development Co., spoke about the employment centers his business builds and the need for more of the North Valleys and US 395 projects moved up on the project list to accommodate the increase in residents and employees in that area. They would also like to help with congestion issues in any way they can.

Mr. Robert Fitzgerald, local resident, feels that the Spaghetti Bowl is the critical project that must be completed first but would also like to see more North Valleys and US 395 projects moved up on the project list.

Mr. Ken Krater, representing Krater Consulting Group, said his team has been working together with the RTC and Councilman McKenzie to help with the prioritization of the project list and is pleased with the RTC's staff's plan for short-term improvements in the North Valleys. He pointed out a couple of the interchanges with US 395 that could use immediate improvement. Lastly, he would like Washoe County to allow 8' fences instead of having the current 6' restriction for better noise abatement.

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

Dan Doenges, RTC Acting Director of Planning, then addressed the Board to provide a presentation update on the status of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item.

Mr. Doenges said the most updated consensus forecast numbers for population and employment had been received and it shows population growth is expected to reach 120,000 by 2040 and employment should grow by 93,000. What was not expected was the great amount of employment growth at the Tri Center. There is a lot of growth anticipated within the McCarran loop and the North Valleys as well.

He then reviewed some of the main projects being looked at and the public meetings that have been held pertaining to the Plan. All public input received is given great consideration.

He said this draft list was brought to the Board for their consideration and clarified that adjustments may be made at the Board's discretion.

Vice Chair Smith had a concern that Spanish Springs was not shown on the maps and it is the area expected to have the highest growth in Sparks.

Mr. Doenges said staff will absolutely look into it for the Vice Chair. He then continued with his presentation, naming some of the larger projects in the plan, and offered to answer any questions. *(A full copy of this presentation is available by contacting Denise Thompson at [dthompson@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dthompson@rtcwashoe.com))*

Commissioner Lucey is concerned that the number of jobs projected for the Tri Center is going to have a huge impact on our roads and highways so believes traffic flow will need to improve through the East Truckee River Canyon in some manner.

Vice Chair Smith agrees that the Spaghetti Bowl and US 395 are major priorities but added that there is already a plan for another road from I-80 to Spanish Springs that needs to be closely studied again because Pyramid Highway and Vista Blvd. are currently the only roads out of that area and the population is expected to grow drastically.

Commissioner Berkgigler wondered why the US 395/Pyramid Connector is so far down the list when it could provide much needed congestion relief on some of the other corridors.

Vice Chair Smith responded that the current cost projection for that project is \$600 million so he would rather divert any funding allocated over to the Spaghetti Bowl improvements because that project alone could relieve many of the pressure areas in the system.

Chair Jardon agreed with Vice Chair Smith that the Spaghetti Bowl should be the number one priority.

Commissioner McKenzie strongly believes that if the congestion relief projects for traffic are not completed in the near future, development will need to be stopped until those projects can be completed. Otherwise, traffic will be at a standstill with all the new housing developments currently planned. He added that there are continuing issues that need to be addressed with the development approval processes between the City of Reno Planning Commission, the RTC (RRIF program) and the TMRPA.

Commissioner Berkbigler said she agrees with Commissioner McKenzie but added that it's not only the North Valleys. She stated she has a problem with the TMRPA having any say about traffic or roads and it should be left to the RTC staff alone. She does not want Reno to end up with the same type of traffic situation that Las Vegas has experienced.

Vice Chair Smith said that if all of the short-term fixes are made in the North Valleys, we will only succeed in getting the residents to the traffic jam at the Spaghetti Bowl sooner. Unfortunately, the funding for the Spaghetti Bowl comes from the federal and state governments and it takes time.

Chair Jardon asked everyone to put the Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> State Transportation Board meeting on their calendars to participate and voice opinions.

Engineering Director Jeff Hale then addressed the Board to say that some funding has been found to do some of the congestion and safety improvement projects in the North Valleys immediately. Construction will occur this fall. He then provided information on projects that will follow the ones completed this fall, and that may be put into the ten-year plan so that the developers can build roads using the impact fee program and offsets.

Mr. Doenges again approached the Board to remind them that the RTC does work closely with the local entities to review plans and to try to keep up with development.

Commissioner McKenzie would like to see the Red Rock and Lemmon Valley interchanges moved up on the list.

Commissioner Berkbigler would like to see the widening of Red Rock Road moved into the ten-year capacity improvements so the developers can move forward on that project.

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Jardon ordered that receipt of the report be accepted with direction to staff to bring back a modified list per discussion under this item.

#### ***Item 4.1 thru 4.12 CONSENT ITEMS***

##### ***Minutes***

**4.1 Approve the minutes of the August 19, 2016, meeting (*For Possible Action*)**

##### ***Engineering***

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

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

##### ***Public Transportation/Operations***

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

##### ***Planning***

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

### ***Finance and Administration***

- 4.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Financial Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.7 Approve modifications of RTC Personnel Rule (3.12) “Call Back Pay” under RTC Personnel Rules section (3) “Compensation” and RTC Personnel Rule (6.8) “Maximum Vacation Accumulation” under RTC Personnel Rules section (6) “Attendance and Leaves.” (*For Possible Action*)**

### ***Procurement and Contracts***

- 4.8 Approve an agreement with Trapeze Software Group, in an amount not to exceed \$124,917, for the TransitMaster software upgrade; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.9 Approve the RRIF Offset Agreement with Ryder NV Management, LLC and the City of Reno for RRIF Waivers for offset-eligible improvements to the intersection of Arrowcreek Parkway/Wedge Parkway (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.10 Approve the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the selection of a firm to provide Right-of-Way Services supporting the Virginia Street RAPID Transit Extension project; authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the contract (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.11 Approve an amendment with Proterra Inc. to exercise the contract option to purchase five shop chargers, one charging station, related civil works and installation in an amount not to exceed \$748,000; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the amendment (*For Possible Action*)**

### ***Inter-Governmental Agreements***

- 4.12 Approve the renewal of an Interlocal Contract agreement with State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP/Medicaid), to provide paratransit services for Medicaid eligible recipients, who are also paratransit eligible. Authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement, including any subsequent amendments as may be required (*For Possible Action*)**

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Chair Smith, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that Consent Items 4.1 through 4.12 be approved.

### ***Item 5 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION***

- 5.1 Acknowledge receipt of the ACCESS RFP Progress Report and direct staff accordingly (*For Possible Action*)**

David Jickling, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, addressed the Board to provide a brief update on the RTC ACCESS RFP in progress, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item, stressing that staff has received input from the public and from focus groups to help define the RFP. More electronic technologies will be included in the RFP, such as a mobile phone payment system. There is a goal to put the ACCESS program agreement more in-line with what the RTC does on the fixed route (RIDE) agreement.

Mr. Jickling then reviewed some of the other changes planned for the near future with this contract to bring the system up to date with some of the things going on in other parts of the country.

There was brief discussion from Chair Smith who asked about driver complaints, ridership decreases and potentially adding service to the North Valleys and Spanish Springs. He also requested a workshop to discuss transit in more depth.

*\*\*Commissioner McKenzie stepped out of the meeting at approximately 11:00\*\**

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

Chair Jardon then called Mr. Ray Lake to the podium for public comment on Item 7.1, adding that she had previously missed his request form.

Mr. Lake, representing the GVPOA and NVCAB, said he was pleased to see so many North Valleys residents in attendance and encourages them to go to the State Transportation Board meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>. He also said that anything that can be done to expedite the Spaghetti Bowl project should be done and he agrees with Commissioner Berkbigler and Vice Chair Smith that the US 395/Pyramid Connector is a needed arterial, but at this time it will only add to the congestion on US 395.

The Chair then closed public comment.

#### ***Item 6           ENGINEERING***

##### **6.1   Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire one (1) public utility easement on APN 008-264-03 from Kathy Walker, necessary to construct 4<sup>th</sup> Street & Prater Way Bus Rapid Transit Project from Evans Avenue to Pyramid Way (*For Possible Action*)**

RTC Legal Counsel Dale Ferguson explained the purpose of acquiring the public utility easement, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item. He then introduced Jeff Hale, RTC Director of Engineering, who offered to answer any questions of the Board. There were none.

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Chair Smith, which motion carried 4-0 with those present, Chair Jardon ordered that the resolution be approved.

#### ***Item 7           METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)***

##### **7.1   Receive status report about the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and approve the draft project listing (*For Possible Action*) *Item moved up to follow Item 3.4.***



**7.2 Receive a report about megaregions and considerations for transportation planning  
(No Action)**

E.D. Gibson and Dan Doenges, RTC Acting Director of Planning, both addressed the Board to provide information on what a megaregion is and how our region currently fits into the Northern California megaregion, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item.

The focus of conversation was on freight movement, efficiency and capacity improvements.

Commissioner Lucey believes the RTC needs to be present and involved in the megaregion process and growth, and the Shared Federal Framework is a great use of resources to make that happen.

Vice Chair Smith said that if you add in Washington and Oregon to the Northern California megaregion, going 125 miles in, it represents 17% of the nation's GDP and could be worth billions to this area so is well worth the efforts.

There was no action taken on this item.

*\*\*Commissioner McKenzie returned to the meeting\*\**

**Item 8 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION/LEGAL REPORT**

**8.1 Acknowledge receipt of the RTC website re-design progress report (For Possible Action)**

E.D. Gibson asked if this item could be held over to the October meeting.

On motion of Chair Jardon, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the item be held over to the next regular meeting of the RTC.

**8.2 Discussion, consideration and possible action concerning selection of an alternative date for the October 2016 RTC Board meeting, and the rescheduling of the regular monthly meeting of the Regional Transportation Commission to the third Thursday of each month (For Possible Action)**

Legal Counsel Dale Ferguson spoke on behalf of Board Clerk Denise Thompson, who had no voice, to let the Board know that Vice Chair Smith had requested the October meeting date be moved so he could attend another event on the 21<sup>st</sup>. He added that the County Chambers were available on the 14<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon and the 28<sup>th</sup> is a state holiday.

Secondly, he said there is a desire to potentially move the regularly scheduled monthly Board meetings to the third Thursday of each month (unless otherwise scheduled).

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting be moved to October 14<sup>th</sup>, starting in the afternoon.

On discussion about moving the regularly scheduled meeting, Commissioner McKenzie said that if the meetings are held in the afternoon it would be no problem for him.

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Chair Smith, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the regularly schedule RTC Board meetings occur in the afternoon timeframe on the third Thursday of the month, to begin in January 2017.

### **Item 8.3      Legal Matters**

Legal Counsel Dale Ferguson said he had no 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.

Ms. Laurie Rodriguez, local resident, asked if the RTC has any input on where the new I-11 would come in to Northern Nevada.

Chair Jardon said that the RTC had done a resolution stating that Washoe County was the preferred alignment.

E.D. Gibson added that the RTC does not have a formal authority over projects outside of Washoe County but our recommendations are certainly taken into consideration.

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

### **Item 10          MEMBER ITEMS**

Commissioner Berkgigler would like a workshop scheduled to discuss transit.

### **Item 11          ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

  
NEOMA JARDON, Chair  
Regional Transportation Commission