

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**FRIDAY**

**9:01 A.M.**

**September 15, 2017**

**PRESENT:**

**Ron Smith, Sparks City Council Member, Chairman  
Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner, Vice Chairman  
Paul McKenzie, Reno City Council Member  
Marsha Berkbigler, Washoe County Commissioner  
Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member**

**Lee G. Gibson, RTC Executive Director  
Dale Ferguson, Legal Counsel  
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, Reno, Nevada, was called to order by Chairman Smith. Following the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country, the Board conducted the following business:

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, OTHER**

**APTA Sustainability Commitment Program, Silver Level Recognition for RTC's Sustainability Achievements and Goals**

Amy Cummings, RTC Director of Planning, addressed the Board and said that APTA had recognized the RTC for obtaining Silver Level recognition through their sustainability program.

E.D. Gibson then introduced Art Guzzetti, Vice President of APTA, who thanked the RTC for hosting the APTA Paratransit Conference and Bus Roadeo and for all of the staff and regional government participation. He then reviewed the milestones considered before awarding Silver Level.

***Item 1        APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

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

***Item 2.1     PUBLIC INPUT***

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

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

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

On motion of Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Vice Chair Lucey, which motion unanimously carried, Chairman Smith 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 3.8 CONSENT ITEMS**

**Minutes**

**3.1 Approve the minutes of the August 17, 2017, meeting (For Possible Action)**

**Engineering**

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

**Public Transportation/Operations**

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

**Planning**

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

**Finance and Administration**

**3.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report (For Possible Action)**

**3.6 Approve modifications of RTC Personnel Rule (6.5) "Vacation Accrual Rate - Full-Time Employees," (6.6) "Vacation Accrual Rate - Part-Time Employees" and RTC Personal Rule (9) "Separations." Approve modification of RTC Management Policy P-3 Policy Against Harassment and Discrimination (For Possible Action)**

**Procurement and Contracts**

**3.7 Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with Sierra Electronics for a Digital Radio Network at an estimated amount of \$1,103,488 (For Possible Action)**

**3.8 Approve an agreement with Porter Group, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$140,500 for Federal Advisory Services and an additional \$50,000 contingency amount for activity on special task orders to be pre-approved by the RTC Executive Director; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (For Possible Action)**

On motion of Vice Chair Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Smith ordered that Consent Items 3.1 through 3.8 be approved.

**Item 4.1 thru 4.3 DIRECTOR REPORTS**

**Item 4.1 RTC Executive Director Report**

E.D. Lee Gibson introduced Lauren Ball, RTC's new Public Information Officer and also welcomed new Ride Right General Manager of RTC ACCESS Geo Jackson and Johanna Duran, Ride Right Operations Manager of RTC ACCESS.

He then updated the Board on the following matters:

- At this week's Reno Council meeting, there was a presentation and discussion about the vision for Virginia Street in the Midtown corridor as part of the Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC) [Virginia Street Bus RAPID Extension Project](#).
- Introduction of the Affordable Housing Study scope of work.
- Status updates on the E.D. goals for the year

Commissioner Jardon asked how quickly the potential partnership on the housing initiative may come together.

E.D. Gibson said he would like to bring a general scope to the October meeting, but first, he would like to do a study of where affordable housing is or isn't vs where RTC transit routes are located and begin diagnosing those issues. The overall schedule will be developed once a better idea of how big the initiative will be. Additionally, there will be an overview of the properties that the RTC owns. There may be some remnant parcels that could be used pending any legal issues.

Commissioner Berkbigler asked if affordable housing means to rent, to buy or a combination of both. She also asked if it is only road building or bus transit or both.

E.D. Gibson responded the answers of combination and both, respectively.

Commissioner Berkbigler remarked that reliable public transportation is a major part of the affordable housing discussion.

Vice Chair Lucey commented that he personally saw morning traffic backed up from the Spaghetti Bowl to just about Red Rock. There is only one major corridor that direction and it is atrocious, as is traffic for all the northern regions, including Sparks.

Commissioner McKenzie added that the RTC can put buses on in the corridor but they will only be stuck in the same traffic jam as everyone else.

#### **Item 4.2 RTC Federal Report**

E.D. Gibson discussed some of the matters provided in the written update which was provided in the agenda materials for this month.

Vice Chair Lucey said he had participated in Congressman Amodei's Infrastructure Summit and believes it is a conversation that must continue as future demands continue to increase. However, it is difficult to build homes without roads, so that needs to be considered as well.

#### **Item 4.3 NDOT Director Report**

NDOT Director Rudy Malfabon provided an update and commented on the rescission of federal funding that hit NDOT and other state DOTs across the nation. However, out of the remaining funds, NDOT was allocated \$21.6 million which is associated with getting the bigger projects started up.

There were two public information meetings on the Spaghetti Bowl project that went well and the NDOT team has been asked to also present to the RTC Board at the October meeting.

There are plans to widen US 395 north but not until 2020 as it is a \$40+ million dollar project and would start at the McCarran interchange and go to the Lemmon Drive interchange. Until the Spaghetti Bowl issues are addressed, any changes to US 395 would simply be “storage until you reach the choke point at the Spaghetti Bowl.”

Dir. Malfabon then touched on some of the federal issues and how the current lack of administrators at the DOT is making things more difficult for the director to get done.

Commissioner McKenzie asked if the recent Executive Order will be at all helpful on the Spaghetti Bowl project.

Dir. Malfabon said that it could potentially help with the environmental issues but it will also depend on how much funding is available to proceed with the project. However, NDOT has some bonding options available that are currently being looked into. He feels the money will hold things up more than the environmental process. He then reminded everyone how committed to this project the Governor is.

#### ***Item 5.1 thru 5.3 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION***

##### **5.1 Acknowledge receipt of an update report on the Bike Share Forum (*For Possible Action*)**

Amy Cummings, RTC Director of Planning, addressed the Board to provide an update on the Bike Share Program. A feasibility study was completed which confirmed that our region is well suited to accommodate bike share but there is currently insufficient funding. There has been a lot of renewed interest in bike share from the region so a forum was conducted in August which affirmed an interest in a public/private partnership to implement a bike share. The next step would be to have an industry forum in October or November bringing a range of vendors in who are interested in bike share to get to the next level of detail and determine what operating platform would be best for the region.

Options are station based bike share which have the highest up-front capital cost or smart bike which is a different style of station based platform. The last type is the dockless bike which does not need to be checked in at a station or any particular place. There are pros and cons to this format; however, no public funding is required. If this were to be the chosen platform, the dockless bike companies would enter into contracts directly with the cities and the RTC would no longer be involved.

Ms. Cummings then reviewed the proposed phases of a bike share and potential docking stations if that were to be the type of program chosen and went over the various funding possibilities.

Commissioner McKenzie has concerns about some of the issues the dockless bikes come with that need to be further reviewed by the city and legal counsels from all jurisdictions before a decision can be made on the operating platform.

Commissioner Berkgigler asked if any other areas in Nevada are currently using a bike share program.

Ms. Cummings said Las Vegas has the station based program and South Lake Tahoe has a pilot program going with dockless bikes. Truckee also has a station based program.

Commissioner Berkgigler asked what the statistics are on bike loss in these programs.

Rebecca Kapular, RTC Planner, explained that in most cases, a credit card must be provided to rent a bike which will be charged up to \$1,000 if a bike is not returned, so that provides good incentive to return bikes.

Chairman Smith asked what happens if he were to rent a bike, go to the store and leave it outside where someone takes it; could that happen.

Ms. Cummings said yes, that could happen.

On motion of Vice Chair Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Berkgigler, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Smith ordered that receipt of the report be acknowledged.

**5.2 Receive a presentation by the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association's February 2017 Nevada Planning Guide and Information about the Nevada Leadership Program-University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno (*No Action Required*)**

Dr. Fred Steinman, Assistant Research Professor, from the University of Nevada, Reno, addressed the Board on behalf of UNR's Center for Economic Development and the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association to present the commissioners with copies of the 2017 Nevada Planning Guide.

Dr. Steinman then gave some background of how the Planning Guide came about and what its purpose is.

Dir. Rudy Malfabon thanked Dr. Steinman for including such a great summary on eminent domain because it is a very important issue for the public and the legalities involved.

No action was taken on this item.

**5.3 Acknowledge receipt of a presentation on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) Regional Plan (*For Possible Action*)**

Lauren Knox, Regional Planner with TMRPA, addressed the Board and gave a brief presentation describing who the TMRPA is, what they do, and to touch on the Regional Plan update. Upon completion, she offered to answer any questions.

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

**Item 6.1 thru 6.2 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND OPERATIONS**

**6.1 Authorize the Executive Director to execute a lease agreement with Greyhound for their use of RTC facilities at either Fourth Street Station or Centennial Plaza (For Possible Action)**

David Jickling, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, addressed the Board and provided background on the prospects of allowing Greyhound to use RTC facilities. Questions were asked at previous meetings which required a bit of research so this was a follow-up to those questions.

Mr. Jickling stressed that because both 4<sup>th</sup> Street Station and Centennial Plaza are federally funded buildings, the RTC is obligated to permit the use by inter-city transit carriers if there is capacity available. This is federally regulated and mandated under Title 49 U.S.C. He then introduced Ray Nunez and his team from Greyhound who gave a brief presentation on the history of Greyhound - they have been in business for 103 years. Upon completion, Mr. Nunez offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Jardon asked of the 158 locations listed in the presentation are stand-alone or co-located with another public transit system and how did it come about that Greyhound in Reno must go from a stand-alone business to needing co-habitation.

Mr. Nunez responded that at one time, it was a major fueling station, a driver training facility and dormitories in that facility. However, times have changed and Greyhound's operating model is changing as well. Now that the Reno facility is mainly a passenger facility and even tickets are purchased online, so the larger space is no longer required. He added that in many cases, Greyhound has co-located with Amtrak facilities for the convenience of their passengers making the transfer to or from the train. There are discussions of possibly partnering with Amtrak in Reno to carry Greyhound passengers to Utah but nothing currently in place.

Vice Chair Lucey asked what would happen if we have a contract with Greyhound to use the RTC facility and then RTC grows their passenger base and needs to then use that space.

Mr. Jickling said that Greyhound would receive a notice of termination.

Mr. Nunez added that Greyhound would then look for other options or even the possibility of building a new transit center, combining funding with the RTC.

Chairman Smith asked what would happen if RTC does not allow Greyhound to use the facilities.

Chief Legal Counsel said he is not positive, but the federal law does say that if the RTC has the capacity to handle the additional buses and passengers, they are obligated to do so.

Mr. Jickling added that when 4<sup>th</sup> Street Station was in the planning stages approximately 20 years prior, the consideration of partnering with Greyhound was taken under consideration.

Commissioner Jardon asked what the timeline is on this as she has questions that are not being answered today.

E.D. Gibson said he doesn't believe there is a great hurry on this.

Mr. Nunez said that he is expecting to have a closing on the sale of their existing facility this October, but even if the sale falls through, they would still like to eventually sell the facility because it's too large. He agreed there is no extreme urgency at this point.

Commissioner Jardon then made a motion to postpone this decision until some of the legal questions could be answered and carry the item over to the December 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously.

On discussion, Commissioner McKenzie would like to know if there will be an increase in security required and E.D. Gibson responded that it is already a part of the agreement being considered.

**6.2 Acknowledge receipt of a presentation and report on branding for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street/Prater Way "Lincoln Line" Bus Rapid Transit project and provide direction accordingly *(For Possible Action)***

David Jickling, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, addressed the Board to give a presentation on the suggested branding of the agency's upcoming RAPID transit line. The 4<sup>th</sup> Street/Prater Way corridor was once known as the Lincoln Highway; therefore, the branding includes graphics of President Abraham Lincoln along with graphics of businesses and events from the same era. He then introduced Nancy Mues who created the design concept.

There was a consensus that the design was really good.

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

***Item 7.1 thru 7.2 ENGINEERING***

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

Garth Oksol, RTC Engineering Manager, addressed the Board and provided a brief update on the current status of this project and offered to answer any questions.

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

**7.2 Acknowledge receipt of a 4<sup>th</sup> Street/Prater Way monthly progress report *(For Possible Action)***

Jeff Wilbrecht, RTC Project Manager, addressed the Board and provided a brief update on the current status of this project and offered to answer any questions.

On motion of Commissioner Jardon, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Smith ordered that receipt of the report be acknowledged.

**Item 8.1      LEGAL REPORT**

Legal Counsel Dale Ferguson said he had no items for discussion but will bring information via either a written communication or an oral report on the legal implications of not allowing Greyhound to use the RTC facilities.

**Item 9 PUBLIC INPUT**

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

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

**Item 11      MEMBER ITEMS**

Director Malfabon said that NDOT recently had someone attempt to use their logo, email extension, etc. to make a large purchase of hard drives and have it look like a legitimate purchase. The shipment was actually delivered to NDOT which is not what the thieves intended and that is how the scam was caught. Director Malfabon just wanted to make everyone aware of this new type of scam going on.

**Item 12      ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.



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RON SMITH, Chairman  
Regional Transportation Commission

(A full copy of all presentations may be obtained by contacting [dthompson@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dthompson@rtcwashoe.com))