

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**THURSDAY**

**1:00 P.M.**

**October 19, 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 (arrived 1:04)**

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:**

**LEE GIBSON INTRODUCED ADAM SPEAR, RTC'S NEW DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES.**

Mr. Spear addressed the Board and said he has been representing Norther NV municipalities for ten years; most recently with the Tahoe Transportation District as their in-house general counsel. He has some prior work experience with Commissioner Berkbigler as well.

Commissioner Berkbigler had nothing but great things to say about Mr. Spear.

**RECOGNITION OF THE RTC BY THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN NEVADA AND PRESENTATION OF THE OUTSTANDING PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION AWARD FOR THE RTC SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

Mr. Andy Durling, President of the American Planning Association for the Nevada Chapter, presented a plaque and spoke in recognition of the RTC for their great planning processes and implementation. Mr. Durling then explained the criteria for project entry and a brief background of RTC's planning history and awards granted.

The judges in the competition for the best planning project came from as far away as Georgia, which says great things about the projects in our area. The RTC was awarded for Outstanding Plan Implementation for the RTC Sustainability Plan.

E.D. Gibson then thanked RTC staff for their great work and discussed upcoming potential sustainability projects, such as an electric version of a double-decked bus.

***Item 1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

On motion of Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Jardon, 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.

Mr. Kevin Dick, Co-chair of the Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities, thanked the commissioners and RTC staff for their support and partnership in the free medical clinic for homeless and disadvantaged residents that was recently held. The RTC provided multiple coaches for transport between the Washoe County Complex and the Boys & Girls Club on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, where the clinic took place. Over 430 individuals were provided medical service that weekend, worth over \$135,000 in medical care.

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

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

Commissioner McKenzie asked a question about impact fees and offset agreements for the developers who have projects in the 10-year plan and who want to begin their projects.

E.D. Gibson responded but this transcriber was unable to decipher the response on the recording.

On motion of Commissioner Jardon, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, 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 3.12 CONSENT ITEMS***

***Minutes***

**3.1 Approve the minutes of the September 15, 2017, meeting (*For Possible Action*)**

***Engineering***

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

- 3.3 Acknowledge receipt of the SouthEast Connector monthly progress report (*For Possible Action*)
- 3.4 Approve Amendment 01 of the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY 18) Street & Highway Program of Projects (S&H POP) (*For Possible Action*)

***Public Transportation/Operations***

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

***Planning***

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

***Administration***

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

***Procurement and Contracts***

- 3.8 Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute agreements with Sierra Electronics (\$342,000), Trapeze Software Group, Inc. (\$975,000) and Verizon Wireless (\$57,600) for the Digital Radio Network at an estimated total project cost of \$1,374,600 (*For Possible Action*)
- 3.9 Approve Amendment 2 to the Design Services Agreement with CH2M Hill for the SouthEast Connector Phase 2 project, increasing the current agreement amount of \$15,161,082 by \$1,749,951 for a new not to exceed amount of \$16,911,033; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the amendment (*For Possible Action*)
- 3.10 Approve an agreement with Cardinal Infrastructure in an amount not to exceed \$154,000 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*)

***Cooperative Agreements***

- 3.11 Approve the Cooperative Local Public Agency (LPA) Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for the use of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) statewide funds in the amount of \$332,500 for the purchase and installation of one hundred (100) bus shelter solar lights project; authorize the RTC Chair to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)
- 3.12 Approve the Cooperative Local Public Agency (LPA) Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for the use of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) MPO funds in the amount of \$110,277 for the purchase and installation of thirty (30) bus stop solar lights project; authorize the RTC Chair to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)

On motion of Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jardon, which motion carried unanimously, Chairman Smith ordered that Consent Items 3.1 through 3.12 be approved.

## ***Item 4.1 thru 4.3 DIRECTOR REPORTS***

### **Item 4.1 RTC Executive Director Report**

E.D. Lee Gibson updated the commissioners on the following:

The RTC will host the Bike Share Industry Product Review on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 8am to 5pm each day at RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA. Eight bike share vendors are participating and will present their bike share programs, equipment options and business models currently available across the country. A community evaluation team will review the programs and aid in determining the action path to move this alternative transportation option forward within the Reno/Sparks area. Commissioners you will be receiving an invitation to attend the evaluations as an observer with detailed information about the process. A meeting was also held with legal representation from all parties involved to discuss the potential legal ramifications of the various bike share implementation options.

RTC Commissioner Briefings on Federal Initiatives will be held in early November to provide information on activities the RTC has engaged in to achieve the RTC's federal priorities.

A brief report on the recent Washington DC visit (briefings with FTA officials, Congressional Appropriations staff, and meetings w/ Congressional members).

Nevada Veterans Memorial Dinner will be held on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Peppermill Hotel/Casino at 6pm.

The RTC is now in a 45-day public comment period for the RTC Public Participation Plan.

A brief update on the Pedestrian Task Force which was derived from the two-day Safety Summit last May. The task force meets monthly to bring forward pedestrian safety initiatives.

### **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. He added that the most important issue being followed is the appropriations process and tracking.

Vice Chair Lucey had accompanied E.D. Gibson on his most recent trip to Washington DC and felt their meetings with the Federal Transit Agency (FTA) were very productive.

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

NDOT Director Rudy Malfabon mentioned that his agency had recently met with other state DOTs in September where Transportation Secretary Chow was also in attendance. There was discussion of streamlining of regulations and specifically on fiscal restraint.

Dir. Malfabon said that the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) had been approved by the Transportation Board.

He then thanked the RTC for presenting at the Annual Resource Agency meeting where there was a review of environmental documents and permits by regional, state and federal level partners. These documents and permits are required to advance many of the DOT projects for the state.

There will be a public information meeting held on the Safety Management Plan involving the area east of McCarran Blvd., from Greg to Probasco Way. The meeting is currently scheduled for Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Dir. Malfabon then mentioned that the Glendale Avenue project is nearing completion and has been very successful.

Lastly, Dir. Malfabon said that social media streaming was used during recent public meetings on the Spaghetti Bowl project. Approximately 1,000 people accessed the meeting via social media so he believes it is definitely the way of the future for successful outreach.

He then concluded his report.

### ***Items 5.1 thru 5.3 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)***

#### **5.1 Receive a presentation on Vision Zero and provide direction accordingly (*For Possible Action*)**

Rebecca Kapuler, RTC Planner, addressed the Board to introduce Erin Breen from the Transportation Research Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who gave a presentation on the Swedish safety program called Vision Zero. First, Ms. Breen mentioned that with the implementation of Vision Zero, Sweden has been able to drop their traffic fatalities and critical injuries by 90%. This program is new to America but is considered successful in the cities where it is currently implemented.

She then proceeded with her presentation. The Vision Zero program essentially calls for improvements for the most vulnerable road users. Their philosophy is that by implementing this program, the roads and safety are improved for every road user. Seattle, San Francisco and Denver are all current Vision Zero cities, as is New York City. *(A full copy of this presentation may be obtained by contacting Denise Thompson at [dthompson@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dthompson@rtcwashoe.com))*

Following the presentation there was discussion on the benefits this program could provide in our region. There was also discussion on the many hit and run accidents that occur, speeding issues, related costs, and bringing it to the attention of the region's delegation.

Officer MJ Cloud, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, introduced Officer Roger Markison, who will be replacing her as the coordinator. They both briefly talked about safety measures that have

already been implemented but that are not being used. They agree that early education and continuing education are extremely important for everyone's safety.

Commissioner McKenzie added that many times, it is the parents who don't want to follow the rules, such as crossing at the crosswalk instead of in the middle of the street. It doesn't help things.

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

## **5.2 Receive a presentation on the NDOT Spaghetti Bowl Project and provide input as needed (*For Possible Action*)**

Mr. Nick Johnson, NDOT Project Manager, addressed the Board to provide a presentation update on the Spaghetti Bowl Project. He said there had recently been a second round of public outreach meetings held which had also streamed live on Facebook. NDOT also met with the Reno/Sparks Indian Colony for their concerns and input. The goal is to have no surprises and for everyone to know what is going on and what is planned. Currently, the project planning is about two months ahead of schedule.

Mr. Johnson then discussed the three project alternatives and related challenges. He stressed that the bigger the footprint of the alternative, the more right-of-way will be needed and that can add a significant time delay in the project. *(A full copy of this presentation may be obtained by contacting Denise Thompson at [dthompson@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dthompson@rtcwashoe.com))*

E.D. Gibson asked when cost estimates might be available.

Mr. Johnson responded that they should be available next spring. Dir. Malfabon then explained some of the steps to be taken prior to knowing any potential cost estimates.

Commissioner McKenzie asked when construction might possibly begin.

Mr. Johnson said if they stay on the current path, it could be as soon as five or six years. However, based on what Dir. Malfabon said, there is a possibility that it could begin a little sooner.

Commissioner Jardon asked what the timeline is for some of the interim fixes, such as the variable speed signs.

Dir. Malfabon said at this time there is no plan in place for the I-80 variable speed project but limited access to the Wells on-ramp may come to fruition because of the increasing use.

Commissioner Jardon then suggested that in the meantime, the sound walls on the east to south interchange that are currently protecting nothing but ball fields should be greatly reduced or removed because they serve as a barrier to see what's ahead in traffic. Also, it would be good to install signs or some mechanism to block drivers from darting over at the last minute to make the exit.

E.D. Gibson would like to avoid too much discussion on phasing the project because it could delay project completion significantly.

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

**Time Certain: 2:30 p.m. - Receive a presentation by Girl Scouts members of Troop 1019 on their flag safety program “Be Safe Be Seen in NW Reno”  
(No Action Required)**

The girls from the Girl Scout Troop 1019 (Priyasha, Elly, Elizabeth, Elisabeth, and Annabel) created their own PowerPoint presentation on how the flag safety program works. Essentially, there are flag holders containing brightly colored flags on each end of a crosswalk; you take a flag with you when you cross the road so that traffic can better see you. Once you safely cross the street, place the flag in the holder on the other side. The girls did a great job on their presentation although, unfortunately, the imbedded video clips showing the process in action would not work.

Commissioner Jardon explained that the area this program took place holds a 4-way stop with significant traffic, as well as three schools close by. The intersection is pretty large but has no crossing lights. Parents were even using the flags, so it worked very well. There was concern that the flags would be stolen but they weren't. The total cost of the project was \$1,000.

Espre Landry, Troop Leader and Priyasha's mom, explained everything that the girls did while putting the program together.

Each of the girls also wrote something about the benefits of their program, which they read to the commissioners.

Chair Smith suggested that this troop connect with other troops in the region about this program. He believes it will quickly spread.

Commissioner McKenzie said they had a few of these in place near school bus stops in his ward and they worked very well, even with no instructional signs.

Vice Chair Lucey commended the girls on their safety project, adding that they made a lot of people safer and potentially even saved lives. He believes that this would also be a great idea for use around neighborhood parks.

Commissioner Berkbigler also commended the girls and suggested that they work with Commissioner McKenzie to get these installed in the Stead area.

Chair Smith said that the RTC or the other entities may also be able to help financially if the girls want to grow their program.

Ms. Landry explained that the girls that actually worked on this project were not present except for Priyasha because they had graduated up to Cadet Level. She wanted to make sure that those girls were also recognized.

Commissioner Jardon suggested that a portion of her street and highway discretionary funds from the RTC could be used to fund an intersection project.

Many of the RTC Board members expressed great interest in having Troop 1019 help with the implementation of the program in other areas of the region, so RTC staff will follow up on this with Ms. Landry.

**5.3 Acknowledge receipt of the Commuter Rail Ridership Forecast Report (Phase 1: Reno-Sparks-USA Parkway/TRI Center) and provide direction accordingly (*For Possible Action*)**

Ms. Xuan Wang, RTC Sr. Technical Planner, and Mr. Mark Maloney, RTC Transit Operations Manager, addressed the Board to give a presentation on the study on commuter rail concepts for Phase 1, which would travel between Reno/Sparks and the USA Parkway/TRI Center areas. Ms. Wang explained where the stops might be located, four different potential service scenarios, ridership analysis, and operating costs for the four different scenarios.

She and Mr. Maloney then offered to answer any questions.

Vice Chair Lucey asked for confirmation that the operating cost per passenger in Scenario 1 would be \$7.09 in the year 2040.

Mr. Maloney responded that all scenarios run between \$5.00 and \$8.00. But each scenario cost is ultimately dependent on track use or the building of new tracks, etc. The national average ticket price is approximately \$5.50 for commuter rail.

Chair Smith thinks that some of the businesses at the TRI Center may be willing to subsidize a commuter rail program because it is not affecting only one business, it is affecting them all.

E.D. Gibson said RTC staff had a meeting with the Tesla representatives just the day before and the takeaway was that those businesses want services for this winter because they are worried about employees walking in from the parking lot, as it is quite a distance. They were also very supportive of developing a transportation management association comprised of the businesses who may help fund a “hub” in the parking lot where employees could be picked up.

He went on to agree with Mr. Maloney’s statement that capital costs for a project like this could be wide ranging with so many variables. However, there will be assessments done and other alternatives considered besides rail.

Vice Chair Lucey would like to see the priority on this be sooner rather than later due to the number of crashes on I-80 between Sparks and the TRI Center.



E.D. Gibson then made an official request to Dir. Malfabon to present at the next State Transportation Board meeting.

Commissioner McKenzie would like everyone to keep in mind that we are the RTC of Washoe County and the TRI Center is in Storey County. All of those businesses must agree to participate financially before the RTC gets too far along because there are many things needed in Washoe County first. Those businesses located out there so they wouldn't have to pay the higher expenses to be located in Washoe County, but now they want our services and funds to help them.

Commissioner Jardon said that when this was discussed a year or two prior, there was no intention by the businesses out there to coalesce on this project and she believes they still feel the same. Therefore, she agrees with Commissioner McKenzie.

Commissioner Berkbigler said she had the impression that E.D. Gibson said the businesses are stepping up now. If that's true, it definitely helps. She added that trying to negotiate a deal with Union Pacific for use of their tracks is next to impossible and the cost would be phenomenally high. She also agrees with Commissioners McKenzie and Jardon's position.

Chair Smith, who attended the Tesla meeting, had asked the Tesla representatives if the businesses at the TRI Center had spoken with Storey County yet and they said no.

Vice Chair Lucey said that 90% of that workforce lives in Washoe County and spends their money in Washoe County, so there is actually an economic benefit to Washoe County.

E.D. Gibson reminded the Commissioners that no Fuel Tax money may be spent on a transit project; it is statutorily restricted. Road money collected in Washoe County is spent in Washoe County, and at this time, there is no transit money available for this type of project.

Commissioner McKenzie added that the RTC struggles to provide transit within our own community and we have significant freeway back-ups as well.

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

## ***Item 6 ENGINEERING***

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

Mr. Jeff Wilbrecht, RTC Project Manager, addressed the Board to give a brief presentation update on the current status of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street/Prater Way BRT project.

The contractor is approximately halfway through the project and the costs are currently at \$12.2 million dollars out of \$42 million.

Items of note:

- Utility work is almost complete (TMWA, NV Energy, etc.)
- Storm drain work in Sparks is finishing up
- Additional utility work below Record Street near the train tracks will take place soon
- Dry utility conduit near Victorian Avenue is completed
- A lot of work is happening in the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Street section of Prater Way
- Much of the curb, gutter and sidewalk was completed in Sparks between Pyramid and Rock Blvd.
- The contractor has been speaking with the residents and businesses on a daily basis to keep them informed of what's happening.
- The northern side of Prater Way between Pyramid and Rock is paved and the other side will be paved within a week
- Rock Blvd. will be closed the next weekend for paving and public outreach has been occurring on that
- Dry utility and conduit work will continue
- BRT stops will be mocked up to ensure they are meeting architectural criteria

Lastly, Mr. Wilbrecht showed the commissioners the new interactive website where anyone can go to click on a specific area of the project and a box pops up stating what is happening in close to real-time.

Commissioner McKenzie asked why the contractor is 39 days behind when weather days should have been already included in their contract.

Mr. Wilbrecht responded that the contract does not include those weather days, holidays or special closures, such as for the days before Hot August Nights and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, when the City of Sparks asked them not to work.

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

### ***Item 7 LEGAL REPORT***

Legal Counsel Dale Ferguson updated the Board on the favorable order in the case pertaining to audio recording at the fare box by U.S. District Judge Miranda Du. This is an ongoing case with Teamsters Local 533 who represent the MV Transit coach operators. However, a notice of appeal has also been received as has a request for a stay of the judge's order. A judgement is pending.

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

**Item 10      *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 else wishing to speak, the Chair closed public input.

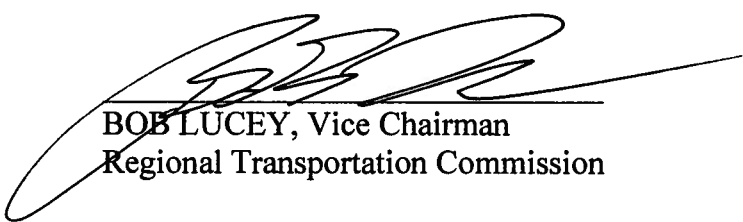
**Item 11      *MEMBER ITEMS***

Chair Smith announced that the next meeting will be held Friday, November 17, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the Washoe County Commission Chambers.

Commissioner Jardon asked that a discussion on discretionary funds be brought to the November meeting.

**Item 12      *ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.



BOB LUCEY, Vice Chairman  
Regional Transportation Commission