



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

January 18, 2019

AGENDA ITEM 3.5

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Amy Cummings, AICP/LEED AP
Director of Planning/Deputy
Executive Director



Lee G. Gibson, AICP
Executive Director

SUBJECT: RTC Planning Department Report

RECOMMENDATION

Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report.

PLANNING STUDIES

Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project

Staff continue to support community outreach efforts and provide technical support for the Small Starts process for this project. The Virginia Street project team continues extensive outreach activities with Midtown businesses and other stakeholders, identified under community outreach activities.

South Meadows Multimodal Transportation Study

The South Meadows Multimodal Transportation Study started in December and is moving forward. RTC staff met with the consultant project managers to discuss detailed scope of work and plan for next steps. The TAC kickoff meeting is scheduled in January 2019. Project progress will be updated on the RTC website under Metropolitan Planning, Corridor Studies. This multimodal study of the South Meadows area will identify needs and transportation improvements for regional roads in the study area. The study will focus on traffic operations, safety, pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, and transit service needs.

ADA Transition Plan Update

Data collection occurred in November and December on 360 transit stops. The data collected will be analyzed and ADA improvements identified and prioritized at transit stops. Public meetings will occur to gather public input on plan recommendations. Stakeholder meetings continue to take place on a monthly basis to update project stakeholders and provide input on the project. This project is on schedule.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

RTC is collaborating with other partner agencies on several initiatives to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety & facilities:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Program – RTC has conducted bi-annual bicycle, pedestrian and wheelchair counts at 40 locations throughout the region. The most recent round of counts were conducted during the month of September. A draft of the fifth annual report for this program has been completed.
- The RTC has conducted a planning level alternatives analysis regarding bicycle facilities on Center, Sierra, and Virginia Streets in Reno. This analysis evaluated the feasibility of a two-way protected bike lane on Center, paired one-way protected bike lanes & standard bike lanes on Center and Sierra, and a center-running protected bike lane on Virginia Street. A community meeting was held on August 20th to seek public input. The analysis and public input received were presented to Reno City Council on August 22nd. Reno City Council recommended a two-way cycle track on Center Street, consistent with the majority of public comments. A Draft Alternatives Analysis Report was presented to the TAC and CMAC for comment on November 7th. These comments have been incorporated into a final report which will be presented to the RTC board for acceptance in January.
- 2018-2019 Bike Maps have been completed and are produced in both English and Spanish. These maps will be distributed throughout the community and are available online at www.rtcwashoe.com.

Vision Zero

The week of November 27th Vision Zero Task Force members conducted field surveys and talked with pedestrians about safety and concerns in each focus area. During the field evaluation and pedestrian interviews, the task force talked one-on-one with a total of 569 pedestrians:

- 277 pedestrians in the University of Nevada, Reno focus area
- 92 pedestrians in the Midtown, Reno focus area
- 110 pedestrians in the West 4th Street focus area
- 90 pedestrians in the Downtown Sparks focus area.

The survey is [available online in English](#) and [in Spanish](#). Surveys may be submitted until January 4, 2019. There have been 865 surveys collected online to date. The Vision Zero Task Force of the Truckee Meadows also updated crash data to include 2017 data in the four focus areas. The data and surveys will be used to identify and prioritize safety improvements in each of these four areas. The task force will also use the information gathered in these four areas and apply it to community-wide safety efforts. The next task force meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2019.

Sustainability Planning

RTC has created a Green Team of agency staff to advance initiatives outlined in the RTC Sustainability Plan. Thanks to the work of the Green Team, RTC received a certificate of recognition for its commitment to Environmental Compliance and Corporate Social Responsibility through the American Consumer Council's Green C Self-Certification Program. Achieving a

Green Business Certification was identified as a short-term goal in the Sustainability Plan. The Green Team has started producing a monthly sustainability newsletter for RTC staff to be better informed about RTC sustainability efforts as well as helpful tips to become more sustainable in their day to day lives. The Composting Pilot Program launched at the Terminal Way building on August 13th. This program will help reduce the carbon footprint of the agency by diverting food waste from the local landfill. The Sustainable Purchasing Policy (included in P-13 update) has started to take effect and staff are beginning to actively purchase more sustainable items. To date, the program has helped the RTC purchase more environmentally friendly office products with a higher amount of environmental certifications and recycled content. The Green Team worked with IT to install a paper-tracking software which will help in identifying the total amount of paper printed throughout the agency. This will assist the RTC in tracking the impact of paper reduction strategies in an effort to reduce paper usage by ten percent. RTC is also participating in the City of Reno Sustainability & Climate Advisory Committee and continues to be an active member in the regional SPINN Committee.

Development Review

RTC staff routinely review development proposals from the local jurisdictions of Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks. Staff from Planning, Engineering, and Public Transportation have reviewed and commented on the following number of development proposals from each of the jurisdictions since the June Board meeting:

- Washoe County – 2
- City of Reno – 3
- City of Sparks – 3

This does not include proposals that were reviewed on which staff did not have any comments.

COMMUNITY AND MEDIA OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

RTC staff conducted the following outreach activities from November 26 – January 18:

November 26	Vision Zero Walking Surveys - Midtown
November 27	Vision Zero Walking Surveys - Downtown Sparks
November 28	Vision Zero Walking Surveys - West 4th Street
November 28	OPTUM Health Winter Wellness Fair for seniors
November 29	Oddie/Wells Design Project Meeting
November 30	Vision Zero Walking Surveys - University District
December 5-6	Stuff-A-Bus Food Drive for Food Bank of Northern Nevada
December 6	Virginia Street Project Community Meeting
December 6-21	12 Merry Days of Midtown Promotion
December 11	12 Merry Days of Midtown Cookie Delivery Outreach to Professional Services
December 14	4 th Street/Prater Way Project & Lincoln Line Grand Opening Event
December 21	Midtown Holiday Event
December 31	New Year's Eve FREE Safe RIDE

Media Relations & Social Media

The RTC issued six news releases and participated in 28 media interviews on various topics, including the New Year's Eve free safe RIDE, RTC holiday hours and bus schedule information, the Virginia Street Project progress and the potential for one-way traffic on Virginia Street, RTC's electric bus program and plan to have an all-electric fleet by 2035, the ASCE report card on Nevada's infrastructure, the grand opening of the 4th Street/Prater Way Project and the launch of the Lincoln Line, the future widening of Pyramid Highway, the 12 Merry Days of Midtown promotion for the Virginia Street Project, the Stuff A Bus holiday food drive, the Vision Zero pedestrian safety survey, the Oddie Wells Project community meeting and more.

Social media was used to promote the 12 Merry Days of Midtown, RTC holiday office hours and transit information, the Lyft discount for rides to Midtown during the Virginia Street Project, RTC's weekly missed transit trips on RIDE, the grand opening of the 4th Street/Prater Way Project and the launch of the Lincoln Line, the Celebration on the Corridor on E. 4th Street, the RTC Board Meeting, the video showing the design of the Virginia Street Project, the Stuff A Bus holiday food drive, the passing of President George H. W. Bush and his contributions to the transit industry, the Vision Zero survey, a livestream of the Oddie Wells Project community meeting, and information about teams collecting ADA information at bus stops for the ADA Transition Plan.

Social media metrics the month of December: 57,078 people reached on Facebook and Twitter

Informational Materials and Video Production

Eight topics were broadcast on KOLO-TV for The Road Ahead with RTC. Segments included the Oddie/Wells Project community meeting, two updates on the Virginia Street Project, Snow Routes, the 4th Street/Prater Way BRT Project grand opening, the New Year's Eve FREE Safe RIDE, a segment about transit safety and security, and an update on RTC's VANPOOL Program.

COORDINATION WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA)

The RTC continues to have coordination meetings with staff from the TMRPA as the agencies progress with the Shared Work Program. Areas for collaboration include population and employment forecasts, the Regional Plan update, affordable housing studies, and analysis of demographic and socioeconomic issues. RTC is a participant in the weekly Regional Plan Update meetings with the local jurisdictions and other stakeholder agencies.

Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)

The RTC continues to have coordination meetings with staff from NDOT. Areas for collaboration include development of local public agency agreements between NDOT and RTC, the upgrade of the regional travel demand model, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, transportation alternatives projects, coordination regarding funding and the State Transportation Improvement Program, One Nevada statewide plan, the I-80 and US 395 widening and improvements to the Spaghetti Bowl, and other ongoing transportation studies.

Statewide Transportation Planning

RTC meets monthly with staff from NDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), RTC of Southern Nevada, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Transportation District and the Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to discuss statewide transportation planning issues. Other topics addressed include statewide data for performance measures analysis, comments on proposed rulemaking, reauthorization of federal transportation legislation and preparation of the statewide plan.