



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

February 15, 2019

AGENDA ITEM 3.4

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 was held on January 31st, 2019.

The project team is working to prepare the first public meeting. 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

Information on the data collection that occurred in November and December on 360 transit stops was shared with the TAC and CMAC on February 6, 2019 and with Stakeholder partners on February 12, 2019. The data collected will help identify ADA improvements and prioritize improvements at transit stops. Stakeholder meetings continue to take place on a monthly basis to update internal 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.
- During the January RTC Board meeting, the Board approved the Center Street Cycle Track and bike lanes on Sierra Street.
- 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 Vision Zero Task Force had a booth at the Community Enrichment Fair on February 5, 2019, which was in conjunction with Reno's State of the City address by the Mayor. The Vision Zero Task Force has completed an analysis on the surveys collected November 2018 – January 2019 and a report will be shared with the Board in February.

The “Don't Kill a Dream” pedestrian safety campaign was initiated in January. Marketing materials include radio and television commercials, and billboards. Sidewalk decals will be installed as soon as weather is permitting. The message with this campaign is to drive and walk safely, don't kill a dream by crashing and becoming or creating a fatality.

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 Sustainable Purchasing Policy 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 January Board meeting:

- Washoe County – 1
- City of Reno – 2
- City of Sparks – 2

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 January 1- February 22:

February 22 Talk to the Transit Planer
February 7 NAB 1 Meeting to discuss the Virginia Street Project
February 6 RTC Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) Meeting
February 6 RTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
January 29 Service Change/Microtransit Open House at 4th Street Station
January 28 Service Change/Microtransit Open House at Centennial Plaza
January 25 Talk to the Transit Planner
January 24 City of Reno Midtown Art Outreach Event at Craft (Virginia Street Project)
January 23 The Chamber Alliance Economic Update
January 22 Free coffee/donuts Virginia Street Project outreach event at Jelly Donut
January 4 Construction Communications Outreach Webinar about the Virginia Street Project

Media Relations & Social Media

The RTC issued eight news releases and participated in 22 media interviews on various topics, including Virginia Street closures, the Virginia Street Project team Midtown event featuring free coffee and donuts from Jelly Donut, RTC's proposed microtransit service, the Truckee River shared-use path, closures of St. Lawrence Avenue and Tahoe Street, the Virginia Street Project Fit "N" February health and wellness celebration, Martin Luther King Jr. Day transit schedule and office closure, a Midtown sale at Sticks shopping center, RTC Lincoln Line transit station vandalism and more.

Social media was used to promote Virginia Street closures, the Virginia Street Project team Midtown event featuring free coffee and donuts from Jelly Donut, RTC's proposed microtransit service, closures of St. Lawrence Avenue and Tahoe Street, the Virginia Street Project Fit "N" February health and wellness celebration, Martin Luther King Jr. Day transit schedule and office closure, a Midtown sale at Sticks shopping center, RTC Lincoln Line transit station vandalism, RTC's Road Ahead segments, RTC's monthly board meeting, the Don't Kill a Dream pedestrian safety campaign and more.

Social media metrics the month of January: 48,949 people reached on Facebook and Twitter

Informational Materials and Video Production:

Five topics were broadcast on KOLO-TV for The Road Ahead with RTC. Segments included a Virginia Street Project update, RTC's transit safety program titled See Something, Say Something, the VANPOOL program, Next Bus app and the South Meadows planning study.

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.