



**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

*Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction*

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

February 15, 2019

**AGENDA ITEM 6.1**

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission

**FROM:** Jeff Wilbrecht, P.E.  
Engineer II



Lee G. Gibson, AICP  
Executive Director

**SUBJECT: Virginia Street Bus Rapid Transit Extension Monthly Progress Update -  
Plumb to Liberty & Maple to 15th**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Acknowledge receipt of the Virginia Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Extension monthly progress report.

**SUMMARY**

**Roadway Design:**

The 100 percent design plans are complete and under final review by the RTC and City of Reno for roadway reconstruction and BRT elements of the project for both Midtown and UNR segments of the project. Following this final review and the incorporation any final comments, the plans and specifications will be finalized for construction.

The construction manager at risk and independent cost estimator have been working with the rest of the RTC team to develop opinion of probable construction cost for the 90 percent design plans. This process has included workshops to discuss constructability issues and construction schedules. This process includes the development of the construction cost, schedule, risk register and various contractor plans to be used in a potential future construction agreement.

**Early Work Utility Project:**

Construction activities associated with the utility project are progressing well. The contractor is working on the final construction activities associated with the utility phase of the project. Utility companies have begun installing fiber-optic cables, power cables, and copper communication facilities into the newly installed conduit infrastructure in anticipation of tie-overs. Once tie-overs are complete, utility companies will begin to wreck out old infrastructure that is in conflict with the proposed roadway improvements. Construction crews have also completed the majority of the TMWA water work within the Midtown area and are working on the final storm drain elements.

As the scope of work for the utility project begins to conclude, traffic control will be removed from the corridor and traffic will return to the previous two-way configuration until roadway reconstruction commences.

The primary purpose of the utility phase of the project is to remove utility related conflicts from the planned improvements within South Virginia Street. With the utility project planned to conclude in mid-March, utility companies will then have a contractual duration to tie-over their facilities and begin wrecking out their old facilities.

Once the tie-overs are complete and the procurement process of the CMAR contractor is finalized, the roadway reconstruction and BRT improvements can commence. This work is tentatively scheduled for June/July 2019. With that start date, the roadway reconstruction and BRT improvements are tentatively scheduled to be complete by the end of 2020.

#### Outreach Activities:

- Since the last project update, the project team held an outreach event at Jelly Donut. This 'Good Morning' Community Appreciation Event offered free donuts and coffee to the community in appreciation of their patience during construction on Tuesday January 22, 2019. The event also served as a way to remind people that there are two ways to access Jelly Donut and Coin Laundry, both from South Virginia Street and from Wells Avenue. The event received extensive positive media coverage from KOLO, KTVN, KRNV, Fox 11 and KOH. The RTC used the media coverage to promote the event, as well as to convey information about the construction progress. A new video was distributed earlier this month to convey the ease of visiting Midtown. Distribution channels include social media, project website, Project Stakeholder Update, and the RTC eNews.
- The RTC has continued community outreach and is working with City of Reno staff on how to proceed with the final design finishes, including seating and bike racks, to best determine how those elements can be more decorative as requested by the community.
- February outreach event includes a Fit 'N' February event to support the fitness and wellness community of both businesses and patrons within the corridor. The community is encouraged to continue to share their positive Midtown experiences on social media using the hashtag #VirginiaStreetProject for an opportunity to receive a gift card to a participating Midtown business.
- Other upcoming outreach activities will include business-support workshops for businesses owners and employees who are impacted by construction. The workshops will focus on various marketing, social media, and leadership discussions by local experts in those fields. These workshops will tentatively take place following the utility project and prior to the start of construction in Midtown. Future outreach will also include video content to support Midtown businesses.
- The project team continues to meet with stakeholders throughout the Midtown corridor. The majority of the meetings over the past month have been smaller one-on-one meetings with individual business owners and small groups to provide information about the project and scheduled utility outages.

As part of the Virginia Street project outreach plan, the project team is partnering with participating Midtown businesses who enroll in the Business Patronage Program to help promote, advertise, and market to customers during construction. This includes special events specifically created to encourage the public to visit Midtown. All Midtown businesses are encouraged to enroll. To date, there are 238 businesses enrolled in the program.

Supporting the project team's goal of strong and extensive outreach and community awareness, there have been a number of media stories published and broadcast about the project that illustrate the accessibility to Midtown during construction. Much of the coverage has been positive underscoring construction is not as bad as was expected by many of the businesses, and in some cases business has increased or remained steady. Additionally, the added temporary parking within construction areas and the Lyft discount has helped ease the impacts associated with construction.

Project information continues to be communicated weekly through the Project Stakeholder Update, which is electronically distributed to subscribers.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding for work tasks associated with the utility phase of the project have been approved with the FY 2019 Program of Projects and is included in the current approved RTC budget. There is no additional cost in connection with this agenda item.

### **PREVIOUS ACTIONS BY BOARD**

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| July 20, 2018 | Approved a Professional Services Agreement with Atkins North America for the Construction Management Services for the utility construction phase. Approved an Agreement with Sierra Nevada Construction Inc. for the construction of the early work utility construction phase. Authorized the finalization and execution of five utility relocation and reimbursement agreements into the agreement for early construction work. |
| June 15, 2018 | Approved an Amendment to the Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) Pre-Construction Agreement between the RTC and Sierra Nevada Construction Inc. for the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Extension Project   |
| May 21, 2018  | Approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Construction Services for the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project.   |
| June 17, 2016 | Approved the Final Rankings of the Proposers and Selection of a Contractor for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for Pre-Construction Services and authorized the Executive Director to execute a Pre-Construction Services Agreement with SNC for the Virginia Street RAPID Extension Project.   |

- March 18, 2016 Approved the RFP for the Construction Manager at Risk method of project delivery for the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project.
- March 18, 2016 Approved Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with NCE for Final Design for the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project.
- October 16, 2015 Acknowledged receipt of an update on the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project and approve the local preferred alternative.
- August 21, 2015 Acknowledged receipt of an update and provided direction on the alternative selection for the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project.
- July 17, 2015 Acknowledged receipt of a report on the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project.
- April 17, 2015 Acknowledged receipt of a report on the development of the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project.
- October 17, 2014 Approved the selection of NCE for Preliminary Engineering and Environmental services for the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project.
- July 25, 2014 Approved the RFP for Preliminary Engineering and Environmental services for the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) RECOMMENDATION**

There are no advisory committee recommendations pertaining to this agenda item.