



**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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

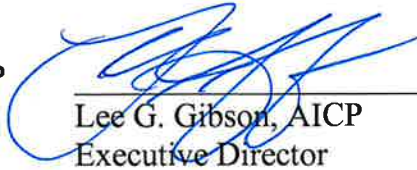
Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

March 15, 2019

**AGENDA ITEM 3.4**

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission

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



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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 2018 and is moving forward. The project team is working to prepare the first public meeting, which is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at Damonte Ranch High School. 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

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

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Program – the 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](http://www.rtcwashoe.com).

### Vision Zero

The Vision Zero Task Force is working on setting up subcommittees to begin creating action plans for the four focus areas: Midtown, University of Nevada, Reno, Downtown Sparks, and West 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The subcommittees are holding their first meeting in late March.

### Sustainability Planning

The 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 February Board meeting:

- Washoe County – 0
- 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 or will conduct the following outreach activities from February 7 – March 26:

- February 7 NAB 1 Meeting: Virginia Street Project Update Presentation
- February 21 RTC Update Presentation at the Nevada Legislature State Senate and Assembly Growth and Infrastructure Committees
- February 22 Talk to the Transit Planner event to gather input from transit passengers and bus drivers
- February 22 Midtown business owner outreach meeting about the Virginia Street Project
- February 22 Seniors Day at Nevada Legislature: Electric bus display and outreach showcasing travel training program
- February 27 Presentation at Reno City Council Meeting Virginia Street Project Outreach
- February 28 Infrastructure Technology Day at Nevada Legislature: RTC presentation about autonomous vehicle technology
- March 1 Nevada Transportation Disparity Study Public Meeting
- March 2 Booth at Rue Bourbon Mardi Gras event: Virginia Street Project Outreach
- March 5 City of Reno NAB Meeting: Oddie/Wells Project presentation
- March 6 RTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
- March 6 RTC Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) Meeting
- March 17 RTC St. Patrick's Day FREE Safe Ride
- March 26 South Meadows Multimodal Transportation Study Public Meeting

### **Media Relations & Social Media**

The RTC issued four news releases and participated in nine media interviews on various topics, including Virginia Street project and associated traffic controls and weather-impact information, Presidents Day office closures, the Pizzava construction team appreciation lunch, North Valleys traffic and upcoming RTC-led improvements to that area, potholes and pavement preservation, video requests for the crashes into the Villanova facility in November 2018, and more.

Social media was used to promote Virginia Street closures, the Virginia Street Project Fit “N” February health and wellness celebration, tactile maps available at RTC 4TH STREET STATION and RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA for people who are visually impaired, the Disparity Study public meeting, the Rue Bourbon Mardi Gras event and RTC’s participation, an RTC job opening for a senior accountant, Presidents Day office closures and bus schedules, winter weather advisories, 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 February: 34,898 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, the RTC’s Affordable Housing Study, a Vision Zero update, an overview of the RTC’s proposed microtransit service and the St. Patrick’s Day FREE Safe RIDE.

## **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.