



**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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


Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

March 15, 2019

**AGENDA ITEM 6.2**

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission

**FROM:** Judy L. Tortelli  
Engineer II



Lee G. Gibson, AICP  
Executive Director

**SUBJECT: Bus Stop Improvement and Connectivity Program (Bus Stop ICP) Progress Update**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Acknowledge receipt of the Bus Stop Improvement and Connectivity Program (Bus Stop ICP) progress report.

**SUMMARY**

**Background**

The RTC RIDE system has 1,012 total active RTC bus stops. Most are located in public right-of-way and were installed prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Nearly half of all existing bus stops consist of just a pole and a sign designating the stop. Since passage of the ADA, the RTC has made a concerted effort to ensure all new bus stops meet ADA requirements, while making improvements to existing bus stops as funding and development patterns allow. Installation of new, and improvements to existing bus stops, are typically implemented in the following ways:

- Bus stop improvements may be constructed as part of RTC Streets and Highways Program, dependent upon project scope and available funding
- RTC Fuel Tax funding is allocated annually for ADA pedestrian improvements throughout the community
- As part of the development review process, RTC requests local jurisdictions require developers to make bus stop improvements whenever there is a need adjacent to the development

The RTC Public Transportation and Operations budget includes a modest amount of sales tax funding for annual bus stop improvements, typically less than \$200,000 has been budgeted annually in recent fiscal years (FY). ADA improvements are costly, and limited funding has resulted in relatively slow integration of ADA compliant bus stops throughout the community.

In FY 2016, improvements were made to five bus stops including three new ADA pads. In FY 2017, improvements were made at five additional bus stop locations including new ADA pads at a cost of approximately \$53,000. Also, the Grand Sierra Resort (GSR) funded the construction of three new passenger shelter pads and NDOT installed three new pads as well as accessibility improvements to four stops in Sun Valley. In FY 2018, ADA improvements were made to four bus stops at a cost of approximately \$81,000.

During the January 19, 2018 RTC Board Meeting, the RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations addressed the Board to provide a status update on RTC's bus stop program. The Board's motion resulting from the update provided direction for, "RTC staff to work with the three entities in the region to create an enforcement policy or process in regards to accessibility improvements of our bus stops. Additionally, staff is to create a new standard for the type of stops to be installed."

The FY 2019 budget reflects the RTC Board's approved increase in funding that will allow RTC to continue upgrading existing bus stops to be in conformance with ADA requirements, at an expedited rate in comparison with recent budget years. This increase in funding has established the Bus Stop Improvement and Connectivity Program (Bus Stop ICP). All active existing bus stops have been reviewed to document the presence or absence of a 5' x 8' ADA boarding and alighting pad. The results of that review indicate approximately 60% of bus stops currently do not meet the ADA pad requirement. That data has been used to prioritize non-compliant bus stops based on the following factors: overall operational safety, boarding/alighting activity, (particularly among seniors and persons with disabilities), available right-of-way, and frequency of service.

### **Program Overview**

The Bus Stop Improvement and Connectivity Program (Bus Stop ICP) is intended to be a multi-year program to achieve ADA compliance. In an effort to achieve progress quickly, RTC plans to tackle locations with minimal design constraints (drainage deficiencies, utility issues, Right-of-Way limitations, etc.) first. These locations, ranked by ridership and need, will be compared to RTC's 2040 RTP, Annual Pavement Preservation Program, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and Complete Streets Master Plan to ensure proposed improvements are not replaced with a future project planned in the next 5 years. The goal of the program is to cost effectively improve existing bus stops and accessibility to bus stops for RTC customers in accordance with the planning documents listed above. The Bus Stop ICP includes ADA pad and access improvements at various existing active bus stops throughout the community; however, bus stop amenities (shelters, benches, trash receptacles) will be installed by RTC Transit at a later date under separate contract.

In November 2018, Staff advertised a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select a consultant that is qualified and capable of providing Engineering Design and Construction Management Services for the Bus Stop (ICP) over the next three (3) years. RTC has negotiated a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with the selected proposer which will allow RTC to negotiate and issue task orders annually depending on needs and budget for the program. RTC will negotiate and issue Task Order 1 for projects in the 2019 construction season based on its current budget. Depending on funding

availability in future fiscal years, and based on performance and successful completion of Task Order 1, RTC would then negotiate and issue Task Order 2 for projects in the 2020 construction season and Task Order 3 for projects in the 2021 construction season. If utilized, Task Orders 2 and 3 would be included as a future Agenda Item for the Board's review, in the form of a proposed amendment to the PSA. The scope of services for each task order will generally include: project management, project development, preliminary design, final design, cost estimating, prioritization of improvements, construction oversight and documentation.

The Bus Stop ICP is a cooperative effort between RTC Planning and Engineering. The RTC is currently working on an update to its ADA Transition Plan that will review accessibility of all RTC facilities. The plan update is expected to be completed by December 2019. As part of this plan update, the RTC is utilizing a consultant to further evaluate ADA compliance of approximately 360 bus stops. This will include a review of the adjacent sidewalk and measurement of a clear and level 5' x 8' landing pad. The scope of that work does not include design or identification of Right-of-Way issues. The results of the updated ADA Transition Plan will provide a revised prioritization of bus stop improvements for future years. Bus stops that are not constructed in 2019 will be added to the ADA Transition Plan's list of bus stop improvements for future years.

### **Current Status**

Following the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Evaluation process, CA Group, Inc. was the most qualified firm out of six (6) firms that submitted responsive proposals for the Engineering Design and Construction Management Services for the Bus Stop Improvement and Connectivity Program RFQ advertised on November 21, 2018. Negotiation of CA Group's scope, schedule, and budget indicated the amount of Design and Engineering During Construction (EDC) Services is within the appropriated budget.

Approximately 100 bus stop locations have been identified as candidates for improvements in Task Order 1. Staff anticipates design and construction of improvements for approximately 60 bus stop locations during the first year of the Program. Construction is tentatively scheduled to occur in October through November 2019.

### **Moving Forward**

\$2,000,000 of Fuel Tax funding (NRS 373), has been identified for Bus Stop ICP Design and Construction Services for FY 2020. This amount was approved during the January 18, 2019 RTC Board Meeting. It is anticipated that design services for Task Order 2 will be authorized in July 2019 so a second construction bid package can be advertised in the spring of 2020.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Appropriations are included in the approved FY 2019 Board approved budget.

**PREVIOUS ACTIONS BY BOARD**

January 19, 2018	Acknowledged receipt of an update report on bus stop accessibility and improvements
November 16, 2018	Authorized an RFQ for Engineering Design and Construction Management Services for the Bus Stop Improvement and Connectivity Program
January 18, 2019	Approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Street and Highway Program of Projects (POP)

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) RECOMMENDATION**

There are no advisory committee recommendations pertaining to this report.