



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

April 19, 2019

AGENDA ITEM 3.6

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 2018 and is moving forward. The first public meeting for the project was held on March 26th 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

The ADA Transition Plan internal draft has been completed and the RTC stakeholder team is in the process of reviewing and commenting on the draft report. The draft report will be shared with the TAC and CMAC, external stakeholder group, and at a public meeting planned for late May. Staff will be asking these different stakeholders to provide input and comment on the draft plan prior to it being finalized. 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.

Eagle Canyon Extension Alignment Alternatives and Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for this study was issued on March 19. Proposals are due on April 25. It is anticipated that a contract will be awarded at the June 21 Board meeting.

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 2019 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.
- The RTC continues to partner with the Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance (TMBA). TMBA will be hosting Bike Month during the month of May and RTC is working with the advocacy coalition to help promote bicycling to work during the month.
- RTC Participated in Nevada Moves Day by partnering with the Safe Routes to School Program and Mt. Rose Elementary School in March. Staff provided students and parents with walking and bicycle safety materials and demonstrated how to get to school safely.

Vision Zero

- Vision Zero Truckee Meadows is a regional task force that has made a commitment to take action to bring the number of fatalities and serious-injury crashes on our roadways to zero. The task force is using data to make equitable and transparent decisions to improve safety throughout our community.
- According to the fatalities report completed by the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety, in January and February of 2019, there were five pedestrian fatalities in Washoe County. When compared with the same time frame in 2018, this is a year-over-year increase in pedestrian fatalities by 66.67%. Some common factors to these fatalities include crashes occurring during darkness or low-light settings; crashes occurring in poorly illuminated areas; victims were 55 years of age or older; and victims were outside of a marked crosswalk.
- The Vision Zero Task Force is comprised of representatives from the Reno Police Department, Downtown Ambassadors, Nevada Department of Transportation, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority, Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, and community agencies to provide safety tips for pedestrians and drivers. Task force members have distributed 3,000 reflective wrist bands, 125 reflective backpacks, and pedestrian safety tips to pedestrians to enhance their visibility.
- The next Vision Zero Task Force Meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2019, at the RTC administration office.

Sustainability Planning

RTC has created a Green Team of agency staff to advance initiatives outlined in the RTC Sustainability Plan. The 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 been implemented and staff are actively purchase more sustainable items. The Green Team worked with IT to install a paper-tracking software which has helped 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.

RTC Affordable Housing Study

RTC held a Technical Advisory Committee meeting to start this study and also sought preliminary input from the HOME Consortium. The next steps include developing an inventory of potential candidate sites for affordable housing near transit routes and conducting additional stakeholder meetings.

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 March Board meeting:

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

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 March 14 – April 25:

March 14	ASCE Project of the Year awarded for 4th Prater Project
March 17	RTC St. Patrick's Day FREE Safe Ride
March 20	Nevada Moves Week Walk to School Day
March 21	Virginia Street Project Weekly Community Meeting
March 21	RTC Executive Director Lee Gibson Presentation to ASCE
March 26	South Meadows Multimodal Transportation Study Public Meeting
March 28	Oddie Wells Public Meeting 30% Design
March 28	RRIF TAC

March 28	Virginia Street Project Weekly Community Meeting
March 29	Envirovolution Sustainability tour and pedestrian safety information presented to students
April 3	RTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
April 3	RTC Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) Meeting
April 4	Virginia Street Project Weekly Community Meeting
April 10	Reno Sparks Leadership Presentation, including RTC Update, SMART TRIPS, Pavement Preservation, Vision Zero, 4th/Prater and Virginia Street Outreach
April 11	Virginia Street Project Weekly Community Meeting
April 11	Transforming Local Government Conference Bus Tour
April 24	Sun Valley Transportation Improvements Design Community Meeting
April 25	Virginia Street Project Weekly Community Meeting

Media Relations & Social Media

The RTC issued four news releases and participated in 21 media interviews on various topics, including the reopening of Virginia Street to two-way traffic, the Virginia Street Project northbound lane closure from Center to Vassar, the Virginia Street Project community meetings, the Virginia Street Project Interlocal Agreement with the City of Reno for bike racks and benches, the Oddie Wells Project public meeting, the South Meadows Study public meeting, the SMART TRIPS program and more.

Social media was used to promote the reopening of Virginia Street to two-way traffic, the Virginia Street Project northbound lane closure from Center to Vassar, the Virginia Street Project community meetings, the RTC job opening for a Paratransit Eligibility and Mobility Specialist, Nevada Moves Week, the South Meadows Multimodal Transportation Study public meeting, the RTC job opening for a Senior Accountant, a Virginia Street Project update video for March 22, the Oddie Wells Project community meeting, a Virginia Street Project update video for March 29, upcoming Midtown events and more.

Social media metrics the month of March: 62,846 people reached on Facebook and Twitter.

Informational Materials and Video Production

Four topics were broadcast on KOLO-TV for The Road Ahead with RTC. Segments included the Oddie Wells Project meeting, a Virginia Street Project update, NDOT's Kietzke and Second Street project and Earth Day free transit.

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.