



**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

April 19, 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 for the project are complete. Architectural elements of the Midtown BRT Stations that have been previously discussed at the RTC Board meetings.

The RTC, Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), consultants, and independent cost estimator have continued to work during this reporting period on negotiations of the guaranteed maximum price for construction of the project. This process has included workshops to discuss all elements of the project, including the development of the construction cost, schedule, risk register and various contractor plans to be incorporated into the final construction contract.

Early Work Utility Project:

Construction activities associated with the utility project within the South Virginia-Midtown segment of the project is nearly complete. The contractor has finished about 95 percent of work within this phase of the project. The contractor is currently finishing the remaining 5 percent of contract work that includes the construction of storm drain facilities on Virginia Street between Vassar Street and Center Street.

Since approximately November 2018, utility companies have been installing fiber-optic cables, power cables, and copper communication facilities into the newly installed conduit infrastructure in anticipation of tie-overs. This scope of work is complete with respect to coordination with the

RTC Virginia Street BRT Extension Project. Utility companies have relocated facilities that were in conflict with the proposed roadway improvements.

Roadway Reconstruction and BRT Project:

This work in the South Virginia-Midtown segment of the project is tentatively scheduled to begin in June 2019 pending receipt of a Letter of No Prejudice from the FTA and successful negotiation with the CMAR contractor. Work in the North Virginia-UNR segment of the project is anticipated to begin mid-2020. With these anticipated start dates, the roadway construction and BRT improvements are scheduled to be complete by the end of 2020.

The RTC Board of Commissioners and City of Reno Council have successfully entered into an inter-local cooperative agreement for the RTC to provide the City of Reno a budget to provide the Project benches and bike racks.

Outreach Activities:

The project team ramped up its communications efforts as part of our strategic approach to keep stakeholders informed of construction activity, project updates, and listen to and address concerns and questions they may have.

In March, the project team launched weekly Virginia Street Project meetings on Thursdays at 9 a.m. at The Saint in Midtown Reno to provide a discussion forum for stakeholders. By partnering with the City of Reno, Sierra Nevada Construction (SNC), local business owners, and community members, these meetings have been an opportunity to discuss how the project is progressing and listen to our stakeholders. Based on feedback from our stakeholders, the meetings will be moving to a biweekly schedule.

The RTC has also launched weekly project-update videos to provide the public with visual information in a new format. The videos are posted on social media sites, YouTube, the project website and in our weekly stakeholder updates.

The RTC created and distributed a communications preference survey in March and will continue through April. To date, 43 people have participated in the survey.

The RTC has continued community outreach and is working with City of Reno staff, and its newly formed Design Review Committee, to proceed with the final design finishes, including seating and bike racks. The Design Review Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month at The Saint, immediately following RTC's outreach meetings.

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.

The project team continues to meet with stakeholders throughout the Midtown corridor, including one-on-one meetings with individual business owners and small groups to provide information about the project, scheduled utility outages, and traffic control.

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 and progress of 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 Lyft 50 percent discount up to \$10 has helped transport visitors to Midtown.

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**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| March 15, 2019 | Approval Interlocal Corporative Agreement between RTC and City of Reno to transfer funds to the City of Reno for the selection, procurement, and installation of benches and bike racks in Midtown.   |
| 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.