



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

April 19, 2019

AGENDA ITEM 6.3

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Brian Stewart, P.E.
Director of Engineering



Lee G. Gibson, AICP
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Lemmon Drive Project Update

RECOMMENDATION

Acknowledge receipt of the Lemmon Drive Project Update.

SUMMARY

Staff recommends that a request for proposals for engineering up to 30% design be developed and issued. The intent would be to have a consultant under contract so design work could begin July 1, 2019. The selected consultant would provide RTC the resources and documentation needed to help make clear decisions regarding the projects final scope, schedule, and costs. Currently, the RTCs cost and schedule estimates are planning level and need to be refined. The 30% design of Lemmon Drive will help refine the scope and develop an engineered cost estimate for budgeting that include the actual challenges the project will see.

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) currently defines the Lemmon Drive Project as a capacity project that falls within the first five years of the 2040 RTP. Therefore, the project is currently in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The RTC Board approved the FY 2020 Program of Projects that included Lemmon Drive. The RTP describes the overall Lemmon Drive Project as two distinct segments slated for improvements, but also defines the design work to be conducted between years 2017-2021 and the construction to occur between years 2022-2026. Improvements proposed for the first segment include widening Lemmon Drive from US 395 to Military Road from four lanes to six lanes. Improvements proposed for the second segment include widening Lemmon Drive from Fleetwood Drive to Chickadee Drive from two lanes to four lanes. The RTP estimates the total cost of the improvements to be \$15.3 million.

RTC staff has meet with Washoe County and City of Reno staff to coordinate the Lemmon Drive Project. Portions of the road have been closed due to flooding for months each year since 2017.

The detour for residents and emergency responders is lengthy and time consuming. It is clear this is a complex project requiring solid solutions that are creative, comprehensive, and durable.

A large portion of Lemmon Drive between Fleetwood Drive and Chickadee Drive resides in the flood plain of Swan Lake. Construction activities that propose fill in the flood plain would need to be mitigated so to not raise the existing water surface elevation in Swan Lake. There is no natural outlet for the lake and it is considered to be in a hydrologically closed basin system in an isolated playa. Therefore, the only reduction to the water surface elevation is through evaporation during the dry months.

The proposed RFP will also include a task for the selected consultant to provide project delivery recommendations including options to explore design-build contracting. By exploring different project delivery methods, the RTC would have the flexibility to explore schedule acceleration.

Limiting the design to the thirty percent (30%) level provides the RTC the flexibility to ensure conditions placed on developers are included in the final solutions without reducing any financial responsibilities assigned in development agreements. RTC, Washoe County, and the City of Reno can also explore funding opportunities that might be joined with RTC Fuel Tax to provide comprehensive solutions to provide safe reliable access to the area. A potential funding source the Lemmon Drive Project may be able to utilize is the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. The Lemmon Drive Project might be an element of that larger program to assist in the overall program to improve conditions around Swan Lake.

At this time, it is not believed that the Lemmon Drive Project would require substantial National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. RTC plans to follow federal requirements for the project so that federal funding options can remain open.

Moving forward, an RFP will be prepared for the Board to consider at the May 2019 RTC Board meeting. After the proposals are submitted, evaluated, and a cost negotiated with the firm that submitted the highest rated proposal the Board will be asked to approve a professional services agreement (PSA).

FISCAL IMPACT

Lemmon Drive Improvement Projects have been approved with the FY 2020 Program of Projects and the preliminary design effort will be included in the RTC budget.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS BY BOARD

There have been no previous actions on this matter.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) RECOMMENDATION

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