



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

May 20, 2019

AGENDA ITEM 3.5

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.

University Area Multimodal Transportation Study

This study will take into account the current and future development plans slated to occur on or near the university campus in the coming years and will identify needed connectivity, safety, and access improvements for vehicle and alternative transportation modes on regional roads. In addition, it will include an in-depth analysis of land use and roadway network scenarios in the UNR Gateway District. A Technical Advisory Committee meeting and series of walking audits were held for this project.

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. 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.
- 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.
- May 13th RTC partnered with Reno Bicycle Project to host a free bicycle repair clinic at the RTC 4TH STREET STATION from 4-6pm. The purpose of this was to promote the free repair station at both transit stations and help people get their bikes ready for Bike Month.
- During the month of May 40 intersections have been enhanced with green bike lanes. The funding for this project was through a collaborative TA Set-Aside grant between RTC, City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County. The purpose of the green bike lanes is to enhance potential conflict areas between bicyclists and vehicles, ultimately making the roadway safer.

Vision Zero

- The Vision Zero Task Force provided an update to the RTC Board in April.
- The Task Force is working on completing an action plan and identifying clear and measureable goals that will help our region reach zero pedestrian fatalities.
- Between January 1, 2019, and April 30, 2019, there have been 7 pedestrian fatalities in Washoe County. Last year during the same timeframe there were 3.
- 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 project team is currently developing an inventory of potential candidate sites for affordable housing near transit routes and conducting additional stakeholder meetings. A Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 14.

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 – 1
- City of Reno – 3
- 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 April 17 to May 17:

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| April 17 | Reno Sparks Chamber Business Roundtable with Senator Rosen |
| April 17 | Mentoring UNR Engineering Capstone Class - Oddie Pedestrian Bridge Group Education Outreach |
| April 18 | Senator Cortez Masto tours Midtown following FTA allocation announcement |
| April 22 | Earth Day Free Transit Event |
| April 23 | Reno Access Advisory Board Meeting - Mill Street Complete Streets Improvement Presentation |
| April 23 | Reno Access Advisory Board Meeting - Oddie Wells Project Presentation |
| April 24 | Sun Valley Transportation Improvement Project Community Meeting |
| April 25 | Virginia Street Project Weekly Community Meeting |
| April 27 | Kids on Big Rigs Event - electric bus display |
| April 29 | Mentoring UNR Engineering Capstone Class - Highland Ranch Parkway Signal Group Education Outreach |
| May 1 | Older Americans Month Opening Ceremonies |
| May 1 | RTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting |
| May 1 | RTC Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) Meeting |

May 2 UNR Study Pop-Up Meeting
May 2 UNR Study Walking Audit
May 2 Ward 1 NAB Meeting - California/Keystone Project Outreach
May 3 UNR Study Walking Audit
May 7 Vision Zero Presentation at Nevada Transportation Conference
May 8 Sparks Consolidated 19-01 Project Community Meeting
May 9 Virginia Street Project Weekly Community Meeting
May 13 RTC and Reno Bike Project Bike Fix-It Station at 4TH STREET STATION
May 14 Reno Consolidated 19-01 Project Community Meeting Engineering outreach
May 15 Virginia Street Project Door-to-Door Outreach for businesses and residents
May 16 Virginia Street Project Weekly Community Meeting
May 17 Virginia Street Project Door-to-Door Outreach for businesses and residents

Media Relations & Social Media

The RTC issued five news releases and participated in 17 media interviews on various topics, including the service change, RTC free Earth Day transit, Senator Cortez Masto's Midtown tour, Older Americans Month, the Sun Valley Project community meeting, the Sparks roadway projects meeting, the Keolis contract, and green bike lanes.

Social media was used to promote weekly Virginia Street Project update videos, RTC's free transit on Earth Day, Senator Cortez Masto's Midtown tour after the FTA allocation announcement, the Virginia Street Project communication preferences survey, the Sun Valley Transportation Improvements Meeting, NDOT's North McCarran meeting, Truckee Meadows Earth Day event, a livestream on Facebook of the Sun Valley Transportation Improvements meeting, the South Meadows Study online survey, RTC's service change, NDOT's Keystone On- and off-ramp weekend closures, UNR Study pop-up meeting, Older Americans Month, Bike Month, the Sparks roadway projects and more.

Social media metrics the month of April: 50,786 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 Sun Valley Transportation Improvements Project, the service change, a Virginia Street Project update and RTC's Bike-Fix It Station/Bike Month.

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.