



## About this Project

The crossing of the Truckee River at Arlington Avenue has served the community of Reno and provided access to Wingfield Park for nearly a century. The park, the Truckee River, and the surrounding area have evolved over that time, and the two Arlington Avenue bridges have been widened, repaired, and modified in ways that best meet the needs of the community. However, the bridges are showing signs of wear resulting from the variety of modifications made, their age, and the repeated exposure to flood events. The Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC), in coordination with the City of Reno and other local agencies are conducting a feasibility and alternatives analysis to determine options for the rehabilitation or replacement of the two Arlington Avenue Bridges to ensure continued public safety, to meet the needs of the community, and to provide the necessary flood conveyance for the Truckee River.

### Project History

In 2009, the City of Reno completed the "TRAction Visioning Project" which served as a component of the Truckee River Flood Management Project's master plan to provide improved safety along the Truckee River Corridor. The TRAction Project, partially a result of the 1997 and 2005 flood events, focused on looking for the best solutions for improved flood protection in downtown Reno and analyzed alternatives for six downtown bridges including the Arlington Avenue Bridges.

At the time of the completion of TRAction Project, it was determined that replacement structures in downtown should provide 100-year plus 2-feet of freeboard for flood protection. The TRAction Project Report suggested that the Arlington Avenue Bridges be replaced so they can better meet the flood conveyance needs, but it cautioned that the reconstruction of the structures would be complicated by the need to ensure pedestrian access to Wingfield Park.

Two bridge concepts were considered as part of the TRAction Project at Arlington Avenue:

- 1) Replacement with two new structures with a slightly higher deck elevation to keep flood waters in the channel, and
- 2) Replacement with a single structure spanning over the river and Wingfield Park allowing pedestrians to pass under the bridge.

### Plan for this project

The scope of this Arlington Avenue Bridge Feasibility Study builds upon the previous project by further developing the concepts and reviewing determinations as first presented in the TRAction Project. This feasibility study, focusing solely on Arlington Avenue, will analyze the pedestrian access to the park and river, identify design and environmental constraints, develop specific bridge concepts and aesthetic

themes, and will review current flood protection requirements. In addition to the bridge concepts previously reviewed, the RTC will be evaluating whether rehabilitation is a possibility. Additional focus will evaluate roadway and pedestrian impacts, environmental permitting requirements, constructability, and potential project funding sources.

To assist with the development and review of alternatives and concepts, the RTC will be conducting agency, stakeholder, and public outreach through one-on-one and at community public meetings.

### **What is the purpose the Arlington Avenue Bridge Project?**

The project purpose is to improve safety, evaluate alternatives that meet the changing community needs, and work to improve flood conveyance in downtown Reno. The project will also review access to Wingfield Park and evaluate ways to improve access to the river. The overall goal is to ensure Arlington Avenue continues to foster a vibrant downtown for residents and visitors.

### **What is the current status of the Arlington Avenue Bridges Project?**

The project team is currently gathering information about the existing bridges and the surrounding infrastructure.

### **Who is involved with the project?**

The RTC is the agency administering the project. The bridges, roadway, and park are owned by the City of Reno, a major stakeholder in the project. From an environmental standpoint, several agencies required for permitting and project approvals are included as key stakeholders. Some of these agencies include the Nevada Department of Transportation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. Other stakeholders include surrounding property owners and various downtown organizations that will be directly affected by the Project. A stakeholder working group has been established to assist in the development of design standards and criteria, review of conceptual alternatives, and to provide recommendations on reducing the number of alternatives. The alternatives analysis process is a fluid process encompassing engineering analysis, evaluation of criteria, assessment of impacts, and public input.

### **What was the general schedule for the project?**

The feasibility and alternatives analysis portion of the project is anticipated to be completed by late 2020. The schedule for the construction of the project has not been identified.

### **How will the project be funded?**

This current effort is funded by the RTC. Funds for design and construction have not been identified at this time. The RTC is currently evaluating funding options with local and federal agencies.

### **Will a new bridge preserve access to Wingfield Park?**

Yes. All of the concepts to be analyzed will ensure that access to the park will be preserved.