



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

September 18, 2020

AGENDA ITEM 3.7

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Amy Cummings, AICP, LEED AP
Deputy Executive Director/Director
of Planning



Bill Thomas, AICP
Executive Director

SUBJECT: RTC Planning Department Report

RECOMMENDATION

Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report.

PLANNING STUDIES

2050 Regional Transportation Plan

RTC conducted the call for projects for the 2050 RTP in June and July and is currently analyzing projects submitted. Evaluation factors include safety, traffic congestion, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, equity, land use, pavement condition, flood mitigation, project readiness, private/other agency funding, and public/agency input.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

RTC is collaborating with other partner agencies on several initiatives to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety & facilities:

- The Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Wheelchair Count Program is in its 6th year of data collection, data analysis, and annual reporting on multimodal transportation and trends in the region. The RTC would like to re-evaluate the program to determine how it might be improved and provide more value to inform the planning process for potential multimodal transportation improvement projects. The consultant will continue to provide count data for multimodal road users on selected facilities while concurrently conducting an industry review to evaluate data collection products and provide a recommendation as to which products would best meet the needs of RTC, should the RTC purchase equipment for in-house use. In addition, the consultant will offer recommendations on best practices and proposed methodology to conduct meaningful data collection. In the past, RTC conducted multimodal counts on a few select days of the year for a limited duration. RTC is expecting more targeted information that will better inform project selection.

- The RTC continues to partner with the Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance (TMBA). TMBA launched a socially distanced Bike Month for the month of September. Details can be found on www.bikewashoe.org. Bike Month is a way to encourage people to ride their bikes to and from work and appointments and to reduce the number of trips by vehicles.

Vision Zero Truckee Meadows

- Agendas are posted on www.visionzerotruckeemeadows.com.
- Vision Zero gave an annual update to the RTC Committees and the Executive Committee of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan Committee.
- WCSD opened schools in August. During the 2019-2020 school year, the number of students hit by vehicles were alarmingly high. Vision Zero put out a regional press release reminding drivers that school is back in session and that enforcement in school zones will be increased. ([Vision Zero Press Release August 2020](#))
- Between January 1, 2020, and July 31, 2020, 8 pedestrians were killed in Washoe County. This is the same number of pedestrian fatalities as the same time period in 2019.
- The Vision Zero Network has reached out to the task force to inquire about the application that was submitted for Vision Zero Truckee Meadows to become a Vision Zero City. More information to come.

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 last Board meeting:

- Washoe County – 0
- City of Reno – 10
- City of Sparks – 7

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 August 19 – September 18:

August 19	NAIOP Presentation: RTC Project Overview, 2050 RTP Outreach
August 19	Virtual Video Presentation: January 2021 Service Change
August 19	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting - COVID-19 Response Outreach
August 19	Nevada APA Presentation - COVID-19 Special Roundtable Discussion
August 20	EDAWN Board of Directors: RTC Update Presentation
August 24	NV Legislature Committee on Energy Presentation - Transit and Roadway Projects and Possible Recommendation of Funding of the Transportation System in Nevada

August 24	Sen. Rosen Midtown Business Roundtable
August 25	Washington State Public Transportation Conference - COVID-19 Response
August 26	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting- COVID-19 Response Outreach
August 31	Arlington Bridges Stakeholder Virtual Meeting
September 2	RTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
September 2	Kuenzli Conversion Project Business Outreach
September 2	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting- COVID-19 Response Outreach
September 3	RTC Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) Meeting
September 9	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting- COVID-19 Response Outreach
September 16	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting- COVID-19 Response Outreach
September 16	Sparks Blvd. Public Scoping Meeting

Media Relations & Social Media

The RTC issued six news releases and participated in seven media interviews on various topics, including Labor Day transit service schedules and office closures, the Sparks Blvd. Project public meeting, the RTC RIDE service change planned for September 5, the RTC's plans for a regional transit connection between Reno/Sparks and Lake Tahoe next summer, proposed transit service changes for January 2021, and RTC Executive Director Bill Thomas' statement regarding the passing of Mayor Ron Smith, the Virginia Street Project and more.

Social media was used to promote RTC's Road Ahead segments, sharing COVID-19 safety information and mask/face covering information per the Governor's directive, Virginia Street Project construction updates, detours and information for the Sun Valley Blvd. Project, the RTC RIDE September 5 service change, detours for the Virginia Street Project, information about the Washoe County Coordinated Transit Plan Update virtual public meeting, the RTC's plans for a regional transit connection between Reno/Sparks and Lake Tahoe next summer, proposed transit service changes for January 2021, and RTC Executive Director Bill Thomas' statement regarding the passing of Mayor Ron Smith, a video honoring Mayor Ron Smith, Vision Zero back-to-school safety information, the RTC Board meeting and more.

Social media metrics for the month of August: 63,165 impressions on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

Informational Materials and Video Production

Four topics were broadcast on KOLO-TV for The Road Ahead with RTC. Segments included the Pavement Preservation Program, a video welcoming the community back to Midtown post-construction, the September 5 Transit Service Change, and Back-to-School Safety.

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, and analysis of demographic and socioeconomic issues.

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, maintenance 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, and reauthorization of federal transportation legislation.