

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**FRIDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

**October 16, 2020**

**PRESENT:**

**Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member, Vice Chair  
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner  
Oscar Delgado, Reno City Council Member  
Kristopher Dahir, Sparks City Council Member**

**Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director  
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel  
Cole Mortensen, Deputy Director of NDOT**

**NOT PRESENT:**

**Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman  
Kristina Swallow, Director of NDOT**

The regular monthly meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Vice Chair Jardon. Following the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country, the Board conducted the following business:

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, OTHER**

- **THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION, NEVADA CHAPTER, AWARDED RTC THE 2020 DeBOER AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR THE SOUTH MEADOWS MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY, OUTSTANDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIRGINIA STREET BUS RAPID TRANSIT EXTENSION PROJECT, AND THE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD VISION ZERO TRUCKEE MEADOWS**

Ms. Amber Harmon spoke in recognition of the RTC for the three categories they were awarded in as noted in the title above. This was only the second year the Outstanding Community Partner award was given.

*Please contact Denise Thompson at [dthompson@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dthompson@rtcwashoe.com) to see the full presentation.*

- **PRESENTATION FROM THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON THE I-80 CORRIDOR STUDY – SONDR A ROSENBERG – *Pulled from agenda***

**Item 1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Commissioner Delgado, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion unanimously carried, Vice Chair Jardon ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved.

***Item 2.1 PUBLIC INPUT – accepted until 4:00 pm Oct. 15, 2020***

Vice Chair Jardon opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on topics relevant to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) that are not included in the current agenda.

Received via email October 14, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. - Mr. John Locke, on behalf of Marsy Kupfersmith, local resident, submitted comments and complaints about seat comfort, a lack of sufficient charging for electric buses, no availability information on the NextBus app, lack of internet, and missed stops, all pertaining to multiple dates. She also suggested covered bus shelters at medical stop locations and recommended a committee be formed of RTC Board members, RTC staff, Keolis personnel, drivers, and passengers to address the issues. Lastly, Ms Kupfersmith complimented Susi Trinidad and Mark Maloney for always listening and caring about senior needs.

Received via email October 14, 2020, at 3:07 p.m. - Ms. Laurie Rodriguez, local resident, submitted a suggestion that an elevated train be installed along I-80 heading out to Fernley and Fallon instead of widening the freeway to three lanes. She believes that three lanes will not be able to handle the traffic in another 20 years and added that she is personally aware of at least five different groups that are interested in exploring the elevated train option further.

Letters were submitted to both the RTC and to NDOT, via Commissioner Hartung, from Deputy Fire Chief Alex Kukulus of the Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue requesting that the flashing warning lights approaching the intersection of Calle de la Plata and Pyramid Hwy should turn off when the light is green and activated again once the light is about to change. Currently, it is set to continuous flashing yellow which doesn't signify anything except that there is a light ahead, and fire trucks are not easy to slow down at the last minute, especially when in route to a call. Because the light is always flashing, drivers are no longer slowing down or taking necessary precautions to avoid accidents.

There being no additional comment submitted prior to the deadline of October 15 at 4:00pm, the Vice Chair closed public input.

***Item 3.1 thru 3.11 CONSENT ITEMS***

***Engineering***

**3.1 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report (For Possible Action)**

***Public Transportation/Operations***

**3.2 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation/Operations Report (For Possible Action)**

### ***Planning***

- 3.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.4 Accept the monthly Summary Report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees (*For Possible Action*)**

### ***Administration***

- 3.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.6 Approve addition of new language to RTC Personnel Rules: Workplace Safety; Team Incentive Award and Employment Categories. Approve the deletion of RTC Management Policies: Safety Policy and Program (P-38) and Employment Categories (P-50). Approve modification to RTC Management Policy Equal Employment Opportunity (P-2) and Reasonable Accommodation (P-48) (*For Possible Action*)**

### ***Procurement and Contracts***

- 3.7 Approve the agreement for the purchase of a Proterra 500kW Overhead fast Charger in an amount not-to-exceed price of \$379,000; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.8 Approve Change Order (CO) No. 19 in the amount of \$83,331 for changes to the project scope associated with bridge deck repairs at North Virginia Street between Maple Street and 8th Street on the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit (BRT) Extension Project; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute CO No. 19 (*For Possible Action*)**
- 3.9 Approve the Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Lumos and Associates for the 2021 Preventive Maintenance Program project for design services and construction management services in the amount of \$726,925; authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the agreement (*For Possible Action*)**

### ***Inter-agency Agreements***

- 3.10 Authorize the RTC Executive Director to execute the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Street and Highway Program Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) between Washoe County, City of Reno and the RTC (*For Possible Action*)**

### ***Resolutions***

- 3.11 Approve a resolution declaring an intention to sell five remnant parcels no longer needed for the Virginia Street Bus RAPID Transit Extension Project (APN 007-183-11; APN 007-183-12; APN 007-183-13; APN 007-183-18; APN 007-183-19) to the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno (*For Possible Action*)**

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Delgado, which motion carried unanimously, Vice Chair Jardon ordered that Consent Items 3.1 through 3.11 be approved.

**Item 4.1 thru 4.3 DIRECTOR REPORTS**

**Item 4.1 RTC Executive Director Report**

RTC Executive Director (E.D.) Bill Thomas addressed the Board to discuss the following topics:

Milestone anniversaries for RTC staff members:

- Ms. Ruby Barrientos, Customer Service Associate – 15 years
- Ms. Amy Zheng, Accounting Specialist – 5 years.

1. Vanpool usage during the pandemic: When the Pandemic hit in March 2020, RTC had 218 vanpools operating. While working closely with Enterprise, RTC’s Vanpool provider and the major businesses in support of the non-essential shut downs, we dropped down to 211 for the months of April through September. With continued communication and assurances that we could ramp back up quickly, we have risen to a new high of 221 vanpools in October.

Compared to a very successful vanpool program in the Houston region that went from over 400 vanpools pre-pandemic to 165 vanpools currently, the RTC Vanpool program is doing rather well.

In the DC area:

	February	May
Vans	587	479
Passengers	122,007	32,492
Miles	983,076	388,946

Unfortunately results like these have been the norm in the industry, most programs across the country have seen a sharp decline and a very slow recovery of their vanpool programs. The RTC is proud of the efforts taken to beat the nationwide trend.

2. RTC is bringing awareness to pedestrian safety with a focus on kids and school zones with the #Dusk2DawnNV campaign reminding everyone how to be safe and be seen in crosswalks. Through Vision Zero Truckee Meadows, this is a community-wide effort working with The Chamber, Ambassadors from the Downtown Reno Partnership, the school district, and others for outreach. A major focus is for our school age kids, especially around schools and parks.

The campaign will be delivered mainly through social media and includes a safety video demonstrating safety tips with local area mascots, including Archie of the Reno Aces, Truckee of the Reno 1868 FC, Wolfie from UNR, and the Safety Crayon of the Washoe County School District.

Participating partners will distribute reflective wrist straps and backpacks to community members to increase safety awareness.

This is a continuing effort by the Vision Zero task force to bring awareness of pedestrian crashes and fatalities, especially for our kids in school zones and area parks. Eighty percent of pedestrian fatalities occur during dawn and dusk hours. We continue developing pedestrian safety messaging working toward our goal of zero fatalities. This is a statewide initiative in Clark and Washoe counties in partnership with the RTC of Southern Nevada.

Another safety event that occurred is the International Walk to School Day. RTC senior transit planner Rebecca Kapuler participated and highlighted the event during the meeting.

3. The RTC is providing free rides on all RTC transit services on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Veterans Day on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The RTC has partnered with the Washoe County Registrar of Voters Office and they have included the Free Election Day transit information in all sample ballots. Not all polling locations are served by transit so we encourage everyone to check route and schedule information at [RTCWashoe.com](http://RTCWashoe.com).

In honor of our veterans and their families, we are again offering a free transit day and invite everyone to ride and try transit on these free transit days.

The RTC also reminds riders to wear a face mask or covering, which are required when riding transit per the Governor's directive, and to also maintain social distancing guidelines to stay safe and healthy.

4. New FlexRIDE service is scheduled to begin on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, in the Spanish Springs and Somersett/Verdi areas. Information about FlexRIDE and all areas RTC serves can be found at [www.RTCWashoe.com\FlexRIDE](http://www.RTCWashoe.com\FlexRIDE) and on social media. Outreach has been ongoing to the new FlexRIDE service zones since early October, including assisted living facilities, HOA's and Washoe County senior centers.

Additionally, we are launching a new RTC Washoe FlexRIDE app that can be downloaded for free from the Apple and Google Play Stores starting October 20<sup>th</sup>.

5. The Washoe County Human Services Agency (HSA), the RTC and Target are calling on the community to support the 2020 Children in Care Stuff a Bus Drive-By Donation Drive. All donations received will be delivered to foster and adoptive children.

6. The HSA is currently serving more than 700 kids in care. With winter on its way, Washoe County is calling on the community to donate warm clothes on Friday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. Those wishing to donate to children don't have to get out of the car, but can drive up to the RTC bus with their donation in front of Target in Sparks, located at 1550 East Lincoln Way. Brand new clothing items needed include: jackets, coats, gloves, socks, blankets sweatpants, boots, beanies, hooded sweatshirts, and gift cards.

The Human Services Agency will take donations from Target to the Family Engagement Center in Sparks, which is the main site for ongoing support to families throughout the winter months.

Lastly, E.D. Thomas said that staff is working closely with the Washoe County Health Department to negotiate the use of Pods at 4<sup>th</sup> STREET STATION for vaccinations to be given once released.

Vice Chair Jardon said that some of the safety crossing flags have disappeared in a couple locations and asked if the RTC could aid in the replacement of those flags.

Vice Chair Jardon asked about safety protocols pertaining to the vanpool program.

Mr. Mark Maloney, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, said that staff worked with the vendor, Enterprise, to bring in larger vans to allow for more social distancing and the employers have their own protocols to follow for any other measures being taken.

Discussion took place on the new FlexRIDE service being implemented in the Verdi/Somerset and Spanish Springs areas.

#### **Item 4.1(a) Nevada Legislative Update**

Executive Director Thomas briefly mentioned that the RTC has been working with Michael Hillerby from Kaempfer Crowell to prepare for the expected Bills planned for introduction during the upcoming legislative session, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item.

#### **Item 4.2 RTC Federal Report**

Executive Director Thomas addressed the Board to say that a copy of the federal report was included in the agenda materials for this meeting. He highlighted that there was an approval by Congress which was signed by the President to extend the FAST Act for another year. This is the current means by which transportation funding is allocated, but there is uncertainty as to how much funding will be available.

#### **Item 4.3 NDOT Director Report**

NDOT Deputy Director Cole Mortensen addressed the Board to provide updates on current Nevada safety statistics, Parr Blvd. bridge reopening, shoulder closures on US 395 for the installation of wind warning flashers, Spaghetti Bowl Express (SBX) project, and another update on the advanced warning flashers, stating that the overall goal is to make sure the advance signal warning signs work in the same manner for similar intersections throughout the state. A public outreach campaign has been initiated in the Washoe County area to make the public aware of upcoming changes to the signs. He then specified the changes planned for various intersections along the Pyramid Highway and on the Mt. Rose Highway, which may be found at [www.NVSafesignals.com](http://www.NVSafesignals.com).

Commissioner Dahir, being new to the discussion, has concerns about some of the changes being proposed for the Pyramid Highway and would like to potentially have a meeting with NDOT to educate himself on more of the details.

Dep. Dir. Mortensen then provided updates to questions asked at the September RTC Board meeting pertaining to the Pyramid Highway and on Mt. Rose Highway.

Commissioner Hartung agrees with many of Commissioner Dahir's concerns regarding the Pyramid Highway, adding that he was told that a fire engine even blew through one of the intersections because they did not have enough warning to slow down and stop a vehicle of that size.

Commissioner Hartung would also like to see the three entity planning departments, along with the RTC, work together to create a safety improvements program such as for speed bump implementation, round-a-bouts and more. He would like an agenda item brought to a future meeting with funding options, timelines for implementation, etc. He also requested a road safety audit completed for the Pyramid Highway.

Commissioner Hartung then asked why the US 395 widening is not scheduled to begin until 2023.

Dep. Dir. Mortensen said that as part of the One Nevada plan, funding of projects need to be allocated based on need and existing fund allocations. Currently, there is a large project with SBX, so to begin another project in the same basic location would cause traffic nightmares due to several years of cones and construction.

Vice Chair Jardon confirmed that the newly vacant DMV building will not be available to house the homeless during the colder season.

Dep. Dir. Mortensen said that NDOT is working with the FHWA to allow them to "color outside the lines" to allow this, but it hasn't been approved yet. They are still working on it though.

Commissioner Hartung thanked Mr. Mortensen for all of his leadership and his teams work on trying to make that happen.

**Item 5    *LEGAL MATTERS* -    Report, discussion and possible action and/or direction to legal counsel and staff following receipt of information on legal issues. The RTC may, consistent with Chapter 241 of NRS, decide to interrupt the public meeting at any time to conduct a closed session to confer with legal counsel and possibly deliberate on legal issues. Any action on pending legal matters will be made when the public meeting is reconvened.**

Legal Counsel Adam Spear said he had no items for discussion.

**Item 6            *PUBLIC INPUT***

Vice Chair Jardon opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on topics relevant to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) that are not included in the current agenda.

There being no additional comment submitted prior to the deadline of Oct. 15 at 4:00pm, the Vice Chair closed public input.

***Item 7***      ***MEMBER ITEMS***

There were no additional member items or requests.

***Item 8***      ***ADJOURNMENT***

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Delgado, which motion carried unanimously, Vice Chair Jardon ordered that the meeting be adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

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NEOMA JARDON, Vice Chair  
Regional Transportation Commission

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