



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

November 20, 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

Eagle Canyon Extension Alignment Alternatives and Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

The purpose of the study is to enhance mobility and connectivity between the growing communities of Spanish Springs and Lemmon Valley and to facilitate safe and equitable access to economic and recreational opportunities while preserving the character and heritage of the area. The project team is currently developing a draft report and has concluded a refined environmental analysis on the proposed corridor alignment alternatives. A project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was held on November 6th to review the environmental analysis and consolidated corridor alignments.

Electric and Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure and Advanced Mobility Plan

The purpose of this plan is to address existing electric and alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure needs in the area as well as to best prepare for continued advances in mobility technology, including the following:

- Systems planning for autonomous and connected transportation infrastructure
- Systems planning and engineering services for autonomous transit infrastructure
- Traffic analysis for micromobility systems and projects
- Systems planning for electric and hydrogen fuel cell charging infrastructure
- Traffic analysis relating to safety of these proposed systems.

A contract was approved at the September 18, 2020, Board meeting and a kick-off meeting with the consultant team was held on November 2nd.

Automatic Road Feature Extraction from State-Owned Mobile LiDAR Data for Traffic Safety Analysis and Evaluation

The RTC, in partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), has received a grant from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) to develop a tool—Automatic Road Feature Extraction from LiDAR (ARFEL)—that automatically extracts highly accurate road geometric features from mobile light-detection-and-ranging (LiDAR) data collected on roads, which will further be used to:

- Analyze relationships between crashes and road factors;
- Identify locations and characteristics of crashes using network screening;
- Select appropriate countermeasures and strategies;
- Evaluate safety improvement projects.

On September 4, an agreement between USDOT, UNR and RTC was executed. On October 28-30, RTC staff attended an online peer exchange with other grantees to share information on the project. The creation of the tool has begun along with all required auxiliary documentation to meet deadlines previously set by the agreement.

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. Staff will bring this to the Board in December to approve the new contract with the consultant that was selected in the request for proposals.
- RTC staff is working on updating the regional bike map. The last map was completed for the 2018-2019 year. Staff will distribute the maps in the community once they are completed.
- The RTC continues to partner with the Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance (TMBA). TMBA. After taking a break, TMBA met the week of November 2nd.

Vision Zero Truckee Meadows

- Agendas are posted on www.visionzerotruckeemeadows.com and the task force met September 8, 2020.
- Between January 1, 2020, and September 30, 2020, ten (10) pedestrians were killed in Washoe County. During this same time in 2019, there were eleven (11) pedestrian fatalities.
- Vision Zero Truckee Meadows participated in International Walk to School Day with the Washoe County School District Safe Routes to School Program.
- #Dusk2DawnNV is a statewide campaign that was launched in the end of October. A short safety video has been shared on social media that has Archie, Truckee, UNR Cheerleaders and a safety crayon demonstrating how to be a safe pedestrian.
- Safety posters were distributed to downtown Sparks and Midtown for businesses to post on their doors reminding people to be safe during the time change. In conjunction, 2,400 wrist slappers that are reflective and 460 reflective backpacks were also distributed to the community. 80% of pedestrian fatalities in Nevada occur in low-light settings.

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 – 3
- City of Reno – 5
- 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 October 14 – November 18:

October 14	Walk to School Day School/Traffic Safety Outreach
October 14	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting - COVID-19 Response Outreach
October 21	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting - COVID-19 Response Outreach
October 21	International Right-Of-Way Association Members Meeting - RTC Update
October 28	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting COVID-19 Response Outreach
November 3	Election Day Free Transit - Community Free Transit Event
November 4	RTC Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) Meeting
November 4	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting - COVID-19 Response Outreach
November 5	RTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
November 11	Veterans Day Free Transit - Community Free Transit Event
November 11	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting - COVID-19 Response Outreach
November 13	Stuff A Bus: Children In Care Donation Drive community donation drive
November 18	NV Health Response Statewide Meeting - COVID-19 Response Outreach

Media Relations & Social Media

The RTC issued six news releases and participated in five (5) media interviews on various topics, including RTC’s new FlexRIDE service in Somerset/Verdi and Spanish Springs, the Lakeside Rehabilitation Project, Kuenzli Street reopening to two-way traffic following construction, Vision Zero’s #Dusk2DawnNV campaign for pedestrian safety, RTC’s free transit RIDE service on Election Day, Nevada Day office closures, and more.

Social media was used to promote the public comment period for the Sparks Blvd. Project meeting, RTC’s Board Meeting, two-way traffic on Kuenzli, the expansion of RTC FlexRIDE into Somerset/Verdi and Spanish Springs, the Sky Vista Parkway Project virtual meeting and survey, Nevada Day office closures, NDOT’s Spaghetti Bowl traffic control information, voting information, free Election Day transit, Halloween safety and more.

Social media metrics for the month of October: 52,229 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 a FlexRIDE new service announcement, free Election Day transit information, free Veterans Day transit information, and Stuff A Bus for Children in Care.

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.