



**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

*Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction*

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

January 15, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 3.5**

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission

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



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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.

*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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### 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 (DOT) 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; and
- 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 6<sup>th</sup> year of data collection, data analysis and annual reporting on multimodal transportation and trends in the region. The contract for this project is completed and staff will begin working with the consultant in January.
- RTC staff continues to update the regional bike map.

### Vision Zero Truckee Meadows

- Agendas are posted on [www.visionzerotruckeemeadows.com](http://www.visionzerotruckeemeadows.com). The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2020, at 3:00pm.
- Between January 1, 2020, and November 30, 2020, 11 pedestrians and zero bicyclists were killed in Washoe County. During this same time in 2019, there were 14 pedestrian and one bicycle fatalities.
- December 11, 2020, the Vision Zero Task force met for their regular meeting. Discussion about photo enforcement and seeking new members that represent seniors and human behavior were discussed.
- The #Dusk2DawnNV Campaign was continued through November and December. Campaign information is on the website and throughout Midtown and Downtown Sparks safety posters are displayed in businesses' windows. Reflective wrist slappers and backpacks were also distributed to the public. Vision Zero Task Force also gave reflective wear to Children's Cabinet, Eddy House, HOPES Clinic, and the Downtown Ambassadors to help distribute.

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 – 4
- City of Reno – 4
- City of Sparks – 6

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 November 10-December 17:

November 10	Foster Grandparents Presentation – Vision Zero/Pedestrian Safety
November 11	Veterans Day Free Transit
November 11	NV Health Response Statewide Coordination Meeting
November 13	Stuff A Bus: Children In Care Donation Drive
November 23	Regional Information Center Meeting – COVID-19 Response Outreach
November 18	NV Health Response Statewide Coordination Meeting
November 30	Regional Information Center Meeting – COVID-19 Response Outreach
December 2	RTC Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) Meeting
December 3	RTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
December 7	Regional Information Center Meeting - COVID-19 Response Outreach
December 10	Stuff A Bus Food Drive for Food Bank of Northern Nevada
December 14	Regional Information Center Meeting - COVID-19 Response Outreach

Media Relations & Social Media

The RTC issued seven news releases and participated in six media interviews on various topics, including a grant award for transit asset management from the FTA, RTC transit services on a Sunday-level schedule for Thanksgiving Day, free transit on Veterans Day, the Washoe County Stuff A Bus Drive-By Donation Drive for foster and adoptive children, Virginia Street reopening to two-way traffic near the University of Nevada, Reno, a virtual presentation for the Downtown Reno Circulation Study, Midtown crosswalks, bicycle safety, and more.

Social media was used to promote free Veterans Day transit, the Stuff A Bus Drive-By Donation Drive for foster and adoptive children, the virtual community presentation for the Downtown Reno Circulation Study, Vision Zero, the RTC Board meeting, how to celebrate the holidays safely, Thanksgiving transit information and office closures, the Route 18 online survey, a grant award for transit asset management from the FTA, RTC FlexRIDE services, and more.

Social media metrics for the month of November: 73,243 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 RTC FlexRIDE, the Downtown Reno Circulation Study, Stuff A Bus Holiday Food Drive, and Sun Valley Project update.

**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, 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.