



## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

MEETING DATE: April 16, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4.3

From: Amy Cummings, AICP/LEED AP, Director of Planning and Deputy Director

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### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

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; and
- Traffic analysis relating to safety of these proposed systems.

The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2021.

#### *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.

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

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

- The RTC internal working group has been working to determine count locations for this program and the counts are planned to take place in May.
- Staff is working with NDOT to add a count location on Mt. Rose Highway because NDOT is conducting a corridor study in that area.
- RTC staff is finalizing the draft of the regional bike map.
- The Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance is now meeting weekly to plan for Bike Month and Bike Month Community Activities. Staff attends the meetings and supports their efforts. RTC is allowing them to use Smart Trips to track bike trips for commuters in May, helps with the planning of Bike Month and assists with graphic design.
- March 12, 2021, RTC staff worked in conjunction with Safe Routes to School, Vision Zero Truckee Meadows and Safe Kids Washoe County, and participated in Nevada Moves Day at Double Diamond Elementary School. Volunteers were on hand to greet students walking and biking to school, hand out safety information and incentives and discuss pedestrian and bicycle safety with students and parents participating in the annual event.

### Vision Zero Truckee Meadows (VZTM)

- Agendas are posted on [www.visionzerotruckeemeadows.com](http://www.visionzerotruckeemeadows.com). The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2021, at 3:00pm.
- Between January 1, 2021, and February 28, 2021, two pedestrians and zero bicyclists were killed in Washoe County. During this same time in 2020, there were six pedestrian and no bicycle fatalities. The data states that there was a 66.67% decrease in pedestrian fatalities in Washoe County during this same timeframe in 2021 as compared to 2020 data.
- The application RTC submitted to NDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board for the mini grant, Share the Road Funding, was completed. The application was submitted on behalf of the Vision Zero Truckee Meadows task force and funds are being sought for a community engagement outreach campaign. The RTC submitted the application for funding to purchase exterior rear bus advertising posters and interior posters to display safety messaging for drivers and vulnerable road users. NDOT contacted the project manager, who stated that this project was selected for funding. An agreement and notice to proceed will be completed.
- The documentary *My Best Friend, A Pedestrian Story* premiered on March 18, 2021, via Zoom. Special guests, including Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak, County Commissioner Michael Naft, NDOT Director Kristina Swallow, Congresswoman Dina Titus, RTC Senior Planner and Vision Zero Project Manager Rebecca Kapuler, and Documentarian Brad Horn were on hand to mark the occasion and discuss pedestrian safety and ideas to help make Nevada communities safer for all roadway users. The stories were produced by Documentarian Brad Horn. The community is encouraged to watch the film online and share the message using this link: <https://youtu.be/9haRr-1qqHg>.

### 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 – 1
- City of Reno – 9
- City of Sparks – 2

This does not include proposals that were reviewed on which staff did not have any comments.

Staff has met with the planning staff from each jurisdiction to discuss the development review process. This occurs every few years in order to communicate and confirm that the information provided to each jurisdiction is valuable. Staff from planning, public transit and engineering participated in the collaboration meetings. Staff from TMRPA also attended the meetings.

### **COMMUNITY AND MEDIA OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

RTC staff conducted the following outreach activities from March 15 – April 16:

March 15	Regional Information Center Meeting
March 17	RTC 2021 St. Patrick's Day FREE Safe RIDE
March 17	RTC Transit Initiatives Briefing with FTA Acting Administrator Fernandez, FTA Region IX Administrator Ray Tellis and their staff
March 19	Sen. Cortez Masto Nevada Transportation Roundtable on RTC Federal Priorities
March 22	Regional Information Center Meeting
March 22	First day of free RIDEs to COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments on RTC RIDE, FlexRIDE and ACCESS
March 29	Regional Information Center Meeting
April 1	RTC Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
April 7	RTC Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee Meeting

### Media Relations & Social Media

The RTC issued five news releases and participated in seven media interviews on various topics, including free transportation on St. Patrick's Day, a call for projects for the 2021 FTA enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities 5310 grant funds, pavement preservation projects for Armstrong Lane, Yuma Lane and Lund Lane, free transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments, the activation of a new traffic signal at Rock Blvd./Edison Way, the Arlington Avenue Bridges Replacement project virtual presentation and survey, a Keolis bus driver who received the COVID-19 vaccination, funding the RTC will receive from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and more.

Social media was used to promote the Sun Valley Blvd. Project construction detours, free transportation on St. Patrick's Day, a call for projects for the 2021 FTA enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities 5310 grant funds, pavement preservation projects for Armstrong Lane, Yuma Lane, and Lund Lane, free transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments, the activation of a new traffic signal at Rock Blvd./Edison Way, the Arlington Avenue Bridges Replacement project virtual presentation and survey, COVID-19 transit safety information, NDOT's pedestrian safety documentary, the monthly RTC Board meeting, Transit Driver Appreciation Day, accepting comments on the draft 2050 RTP, and more.

Social media metrics for the month of March: 81,067 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 information about free rides to COVID-19 vaccination appointments, the completion of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, CMAC member recruitment and a preview of the upcoming Kings Row Project.

### **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.