

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:02 A.M.

April 16, 2021

PRESENT:

**Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member, Chair
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks, Vice Chair (via Zoom)
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner
Oscar Delgado, Reno City Council Member (via Zoom)
Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner**

**Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Kristina Swallow, Director of NDOT**

The regular monthly meeting, held in the Chambers of the Washoe County Commission, 1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada, and via Zoom, was called to order by Chair Jardon. Following the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country, the Board conducted the following business:

***Item 1.3* PROCLAMATION**

Ms. Amy Cummings, RTC Deputy Executive Director and Director of Planning, read into the record a proclamation declaring May 2021 National Bike Month and Bicycle Safety Month in Washoe County, Nevada; and Washoe County Bike Month.

***Item 2* PUBLIC INPUT**

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 were 41 comments received via electronic means by the deadline of 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 15th, in support of moving forward with the Center Street project. (see attachment)

There were no in-person public comments given.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the Chair closed public input.

***Item 3* APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A request was made by Executive Director (E.D.) Thomas to pull Item 4.2 from the agenda.

On motion of Commissioner Lucy, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Jardon ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved excluding Item 4.2 as requested.

Items 4.1 thru 4.19 CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

- 4.1 Approve Minutes of the March 19, 2021, Meeting (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.2 ~~Approve Minutes of the March 15, 2021, Workshop (*For Possible Action*)~~ *Pulled from agenda***

Reports

- 4.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.4 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation/Operations Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.7 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Summary Report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees (*For Possible Action*)**

Engineering Department

- 4.8 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the existing Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with the Center for Advanced Transportation Education and Research (CATER), UNR Civil Engineering Department; for research and engineering support services for 2021 – 2022 (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.9 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the existing Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Nichols Consulting Engineers, CHTD, (NCE) for Engineering Design and Engineering During Construction (EDC) services related to Reno Consolidated 20-01 – Mayberry Drive, California Avenue, First Street Project, in the amount of \$159,065 for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,072,895 (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.10 Approve a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Construction Materials Engineers, Inc., (CME) to provide construction management services for the Lemmon Drive Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,291,600 (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.11 Approve a Reimbursement Agreement with Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) for the relocation of 270 lineal feet of 24-inch water main for the Lemmon Drive Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$329,175 (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.12 Approve a Local Public Agency (LPA) agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for the use and reimbursement of federal funds on the Arlington Avenue Bridges Replacement Project (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.13 Authorize a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the selection of Environmental and Design Services for the Arlington Avenue Bridges Project (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.14 Authorize a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the selection of Design and Construction Management Services for the Peppermill Station BRT Project (*For Possible Action*)**

Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.15 **Approve Amendment #2 to the RTC RIDE Fixed-Route Service Operation and Maintenance Contract with Keolis Transit Services, LLC, to allow for the purchase of certain equipment and supplies authorized in advance by RTC (For Possible Action)**
- 4.16 **Approve a contract with New Flyer of America, Inc., for the purchase of twenty (20) electric hybrid fixed-route buses utilizing the Common Wealth of Virginia Fleet Vehicles procurement contract number E194-75548, in an amount not-to-exceed \$14,455,061 (For Possible Action)**
- 4.17 **Approve a contract with N/S Corporation for the purchase and installation of a replacement bus wash for RTC ACCESS vehicles at 600 Sutro Street, in an amount not-to-exceed \$219,331 (For Possible Action)**

Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.18 **Acknowledge receipt of a report regarding indexed fuel taxes in Washoe County as required by NRS 373.065 (For Possible Action)**
- 4.19 **Approve an amendment to RTC Management Policy P-13 – Procurement, Contracting and Contract Administration (For Possible Action)**

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucy, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that Consent Items 4.1 through 4.19 be approved, excluding Item 4.2 which was pulled from the agenda under Item 3.

Items 5.1 thru 5.2 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.1 **Update, discussion and potential direction to staff regarding legislative measures and issues being considered during the 81st (2021) Session of the Nevada Legislature (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Michael Hillerby, state lobbyist with Kaempfer Crowell, addressed the Board to provide an update on current legislative activity pertinent to the RTC. He specifically mentioned two NDOT bills, AB 413 and AB 54, then AJR 6 to amend allowable uses of the fuel tax and what to do with electric vehicle fees, RTCSNV has SB 362 which allows for Microtransit. There are a couple of bills on bicycles, such as e-bikes use of shared use paths, dependent on how fast they can go.

- 5.2 **Approve the FY 2022-FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Amy Cummings, RTC Deputy Executive Director and Director of Planning, address the Board to provide a presentation update on the FY 2022 – FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). She reviewed the two year program of transportation planning studies, both ongoing and new studies based on the call for projects that was issued in February 2021. The McCarran Loop study is funded by NDOT but being staffed, led and managed by RTC, and the Mt. Rose Highway study is funded by NDOT but some RTC staff is also involved.

Upon completion, she offered to answer questions.

There were no questions; however, Commissioner Hartung thanked Ms. Cummings for including the Pyramid Corridor Study from I-80 to McCarran.

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the FY 2022-FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) be approved.

Items 6.1 thru 6.3 REPORTS

Item 6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

E.D. Thomas discussed the following topics:

1. He announced the upcoming service anniversary milestone for Nelia Belen, Accountant on May 2nd, marking 5 years of service and Scott Gibson, Engineer II on May 8th, marking fifteen years of service.

Our thanks and appreciation to both Nelia and Scott for their public service and contributions to the RTC and our community.

2. The RTC will receive funding from President Biden's American Rescue Plan in the amount of \$19.9 million.

These funds will support our community's public transportation needs and will help to restore our economy as we recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

These critical funds will cover costs for our fixed-route and paratransit operations, aiding to keep heroic transit operators employed and providing essential public transportation services to members of our community, including seniors, individuals with disabilities and essential frontline workers.

This funding is crucial for the RTC to deliver needed public transportation to individuals who rely on it to get to work and to access medical services, including vaccination appointments.

The RTC thanks the tireless efforts of our congressional delegation, U.S. Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen, and Congressman Amodei for their support in securing these critical funds for our community and transit operations.

3. To date, 105 out of 212 Keolis fixed-route employees have received the COVID-19 vaccination and 41 out of 74 MTM paratransit employees have received the vaccine. Everyone is now eligible to receive the vaccine and both Keolis and MTM are encouraging their workforce to get the vaccine for their safety, and the safety of their co-workers, families and their passengers.

Employers may ask but cannot require an employee to declare if they have received the vaccine, per HIPAA regulations.

4. Public involvement for the development of any project, plan or policy is the foundation for the work we do at the RTC, and we are now accepting applications from the community to join the Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee. Individuals interested in improving transportation in our community are encouraged to apply.

Collaboration with the public allows for innovative ideas and solutions to emerge that address the region’s transportation issues. It also helps the RTC develop strong community ties and support during our outreach process. CMAC meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Applications are available at rtcwashoe.com. Interested individuals should apply by May 21st.

5. A proclamation was issued today in celebration of National Bike Month and Bicycle Safety Month to proclaim Washoe County Bike Month.

The Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance (TMBA), which RTC is a member, is offering a calendar of events and activities to mark Bike Month.

People who commute by bike and log their trips using the RTC Smart Trips website may be eligible to win one of TMBA’s Commuter Challenge prizes. For more information about Bike Month, visit TMBA’s Facebook page or their website: [Bike Washoe DOT Org](http://BikeWashoeDOT.org).

6. May is also Older Americans Month and the annual Stuff A Bus for Seniors donation drive will take place on Friday, May 21st, at Sam’s Club located at 4835 Kietzke Lane in Reno.

As part of Older Americans Month, regional government organizations and local businesses, including KOLO Cares, Sam's Club, Washoe County, Washoe County Human Services Agency, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and RTC, are teaming up to fill an entire bus with community donations for our local seniors.

New and unused items will be accepted during the donation drive between the hours of 2 pm and 7 pm. Volunteers staffing the event will be wearing masks and following safety and social-distancing protocols. Donors do not need to get out of their cars.

Needed items include:

- Sweatshirts
- Sweatpants
- Bus passes
- Jackets
- Gift cards
- Cleaning supplies
- Hygiene products
- Adult diapers

Stuff A Bus for Seniors is a signature “Older Americans Month” event, initiated by Chair Jardon. Additional events will be offered virtually throughout the month and the public can take part by watching those events on the Washoe County Television YouTube Channel.

7. RTC has partnered with Uber to provide free COVID-19 vaccination appointment rides through our RTC Washoe Uber Pilot program.

Those eligible to use the program include Washoe County residents who are 60 years and older, RTC ACCESS clients (any age) and Washoe County Veterans (any age). Customers can get up to four (4) free Uber rides (\$35 off each trip). This promotion started on April 14 and runs thru September 30, 2021.

Information on how to sign up and register is available at rtcwashoe.com and on RTC social media channels. Our thanks to Susi Trinidad, RTC Paratransit Analyst for bringing this project to fruition.

Item 6.2 RTC Federal Report

E.D. Thomas said that a written report was included in the agenda packet for this meeting and he mentioned that confirmation had been received on the \$19.9 million coming in for the transit operations. He also mentioned that RTC had submitted “earmark” requests for the Arlington Bridges and for funding of the hydrogen buses and the system to run them.

Item 6.3 NDOT Director Report

Ms. Kristina Swallow, Director of NDOT, addressed the Board to provide a presentation update on current safety statistics for both the state and Washoe County, which are not doing well in either. She said the Spaghetti Bowl Express (SBX) project is moving along and the “big squeeze” is anticipated to last about a year or so. The I-580 bridge over Pleasant Valley has been officially designated as one of the nation’s best bridges and lastly, Director Swallow announced that Jenica Keller had been appointed as the new Assistant Director of Operations at NDOT. She then offered to answer any questions and there were none.

Item 7 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Lucey requested that staff invite Mr. James Cox to give a presentation at a future meeting on his IT software for Microtransit.

Commissioner Lucey also requested that an update on the Pavement Preservation Plan be given to include roadways planned for improvement.

Chair Jardon requested a Center Street Multimodal Project update for the June 2021 meeting.

Item 8 PUBLIC INPUT

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 one wishing to speak, the Chair closed public input.

Item 9 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucy, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

NEOMA JARDON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

DRAFT

Public comment received by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 15, 2021:

This is the suggested message that TMBA sent to its members:

Hello, my name is _____. We applaud the RTC and City of Reno in supporting Bike Month. Part of supporting Bike Month means advancing safe transportation options. One important project is the Center Street Multimodal Improvement Project. It will improve our economy, public safety, and access to downtown, UNR, and midtown. This was demonstrated in multiple studies and the project is already underway. However, it has come to my attention that the approved project is on pause and awaiting another study. This approved project should not be held up by a few opponents and does not need another study. Please follow through with your commitment to support a connected, safe, and accessible bicycle network by opposing another study and ensuring that the Center Street Multimodal Improvement Project continues to move forward as approved. Thank you.

This message was received by the RTC as Public Comment from the 31 residents listed below, all in support of moving forward with the Center Street Multimodal Improvement Project (some messages have slight modifications),

Donna Cecilio	Genevieve Parker
Mishelle Bradford	Morgan Trieger
Mackenzie Rice	Lee Davis
Michelle M. Czarka	Matthew Poindexter
Erik Riekenberg	Michael Mangoba
Mike Scott	Ryan Weisenberger
Jeff Bennett	Brian Hunt
John Jones	Warner Griswold
Heather Goulding	Chris Cutshaw
Jennifer Bennett	Tad Laird
Ilsa Brink (email and voicemail)	Bill Stensrud
Lindsey Pisani	Steve and Rose Weatherly
Karen McClenahan	Rochelle Mezzano
Sue-Ting Chene	Lori Patch
Patrick Smith	Ron Patch
	Kevin Meuer

11 voicemail messages were left, also in support of moving forward with the Center Street Multimodal Improvement Project. A question mark (?) indicates where the name was not clear or the correct spelling is unknown.

Bridgette Tevinen (?)	Rebecca Stetson
Ky Plakson	Keith Weaver
Tom Albright	Larry Dwyer
Kim Wilkins (?)	Andrew Tomlinson
Matthew Herse (?)	Robert Colt (?)