

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**FRIDAY**

**9:08 A.M.**

**March 15, 2021**

**PRESENT:**

**Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member, Chair  
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks, Vice Chair  
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner  
Oscar Delgado, Reno City Council Member**

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

**NOT PRESENT:**

**Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner**

The workshop meeting, held in the Chambers of the Washoe County Commission, 1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> 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:

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AT THIS WORKSHOP  
EXCEPT TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND TO ADJOURN**

***Item 2 PUBLIC INPUT***

*Public input received prior to 4:00 pm on Friday, March 12, will be added to the record for this meeting. No live comment will be heard during the meeting.*

Chair Jardon opened the meeting to public input and asked if public comment had been received by the deadline specified.

There being no public comment received, the Chair closed public input.

***Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

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

***Item 4 WORKSHOP FORMAT AND OBJECTIVES – Bill Thomas***

**Items 5.1 thru 5.4      WORKSHOP**

**5.1      DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS**

• **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

○ **Purpose of Public Transit**

- Improving access to jobs & essential services
- Reducing the number of automobile trips
- Improving air quality

○ **Existing RTC Transit Services**

- **RIDE fixed route**
  - 23,000 passenger trips per day (pre-Covid), 67 buses
- **ACCESS paratransit**
  - 650 passenger trips per day (pre-Covid), 46 vehicles
- **FlexRIDE**
  - 180 passenger trips per day
  - Spare Labs Software (2 year contract)
  - Pilots in operation:
    - East Downtown Sparks
    - Spanish Springs
    - North Valleys
    - Verdi/Somerset

Various Charts and Graphs for the following topics:

**SALES TAX REVENUE**

**PASSENGER FARES**

**FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN**

**FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN GAP ANALYSIS**

**COVID Ridership Effects RTC vs US & Canada**

- FY 2022 Ridership Strategy
- Short Range Transit Plan 2018 – 2022
- Transit Optimization Plan Strategies 2023 – 2027
- Long-Term Unfunded Transit Vision

• **STREET AND HIGHWAY PROJECTS**

○ **Projects Completed in 2020**

- Lakeside Drive
- East Greg Street
- East Prater Way
- Sun Valley Boulevard
- Traffic Engineering (TE) Spot 9
- Kuenzli Lane Reconfiguration
- 2020 Preventive Maintenance
- Virginia Street - BRT

- **Calendar Year 2021 Construction**
  - Kings Row Phase 1
  - Golden Valley Road
  - Lemmon Drive Segment 1
  - Oddie/Wells
  - Bus Stop ADA Improvements
  - Mill Street - Multimodal
  - Traffic Engineering (TE) Spot 10
  - Intelligent Transportation System 3
  - Newport Lane
  - Sparks Consolidated 21-01
  - Reno Consolidated 21-01
  - Reno Consolidated 20-01
  - 2021 Preventive Maintenance
  
- **Continuing FY 2022 Major Projects**
  - Preventive Maintenance 2022
  - Pedestrian Safety & ADA Improvements (bus stops)
  - Lemmon Drive – Segment 2
  - Center Street Cycle Track
  - Arlington Bridges
  - Sparks Boulevard Widening
  - Pyramid Hwy Widening (Phase 1)
  - West 4<sup>th</sup> Street (Stoker to Evans)
  
- **PLANNING STUDIES - UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**
  - **Ongoing Planning Studies**
    - Advanced Mobility Plan
    - Data Collection & Analysis Program
    - McCarran Loop Study (funded by NDOT)
    - South Virginia Street Transit Oriented Development Study (pending grant funding)
    - Mt. Rose Highway Study (led by NDOT)
  
  - **Suggested Planning Studies to Date**
    - Verdi Area Study
    - Transit Optimization Plan
    - Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan Update
    - Regional Parking Study (Downtown Reno, Midtown, Sparks)
    - Downtown Virginia Street Study (support Reno-led effort)
    - Midtown Circulation Study
    - Regional Freight Study
    - Develop regional lighting standard

- **PLANNING PROGRAMS – SAFETY INITIATIVES**

- **Suggested Planning Studies to Date**

- Regional Transportation Plan
- Complete Streets Approach
- Infrastructure Investments
- TA Set Aside Program
- Legislative Priorities
- Outreach & Coordination
  - Safe Routes to School
  - Vision Zero

- **INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS**

- **2020 Improvements**

- 8.1 miles of new sidewalks
- 5 new crosswalks
- 6 new crosswalk warning devices
- 6 miles of new bike lanes
- 270 new pedestrian ramps

- **Upcoming Major Projects**

- Oddie/Wells
- Sun Valley Boulevard
- Pyramid Highway
- Sparks Boulevard
- Center Street

- **Crosswalk Safety Improvements**

- Crosswalk safety improvements near schools
- Includes pedestrian-activated flashing beacons and median pedestrian refuge
- Locations identified collaboratively by jurisdictions, SRTS, RTC
- Design underway, construction to begin this year

- **Safety on Local Streets**

- Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set Aside Program funding
- Approximately \$300,000 in FHWA grant funding awarded by RTC
- Upcoming round of grants will prioritize safety on local streets

- **Legislative Priorities**

- Expand Safe Routes to School eligibility to include grades 9-12
- State initiative to develop safety committee

- **FY 2022 BUDGET PREPARATION**

- **FY 2022 Budget Process**

- Directors' Retreat February 16, 2021
- Board Retreat March 15, 2021
- Tentative Budget Submitted to April 15, 2021
  - Department of Taxation
- Tentative Budget Presentation to RTC May 5 and 6, 2021
  - Advisory Committees
- Board Approves Final Budget May 21, 2021
  - Public Hearing
- Final Budget Submitted to May 28, 2021
  - Department of Taxation

- **FY 2022 Tentative Budget Revenues by Source**

- **Historical Fuel Tax**

- **CARES Act Funding - \$26.2 million to date**

- Avoid service cuts normally implemented due to decreased revenues;
- Continue full transit service levels and boost service where needed to promote social distancing;
- Move forward with service upgrades that are planned for May and September;
- Deliver needed meals and prescriptions to ACCESS customers in partnership with Washoe County Senior Services and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada;
- Fund personal protective equipment (PPE) for transit personnel; and
- Fund increased cleaning of transit vehicles.

- **FY 2022 Tentative Budget Expenditures by Function**

- **FY 2022 Budget Overview**

- Balanced budget for FY 2022
- Projections based on a slow economic recovery
  - Decreased gas gallons - (1%)
    - Permanent remote workers
    - Increasing fuel cost per gallon
    - Fuel efficient vehicles
  - Marginal increase in sales tax – 2%
    - Federal stimulus checks to individuals
    - Diverse Washoe County economic base
    - Steady taxable sales growth throughout pandemic
    - Washoe County unemployment lower than S. NV and U.S. – Jan 2021
  - Additional Federal stimulus funds for transit operations

- Lean organization - 69 RTC employees
  - \$12M Labor & Fringe budget – 5% of RTC budget
  - Pay for Performance pool increase 3.75%
  - PERS increase of 0.5%

- **PRELIMINARY FY 2022 GOALS & AGENCY RATING OVERVIEW**

- **FY 2022 Draft Agency Goals**

- Complete 150 lane miles of Pavement Preservation
- Begin Reconstruction/Rehabilitation:
  - Kings Row Phase 1
  - Golden Valley Road
  - Newport Lane
  - Sparks Consolidated 21-01
  - Reno Consolidated 21-01
  - Reno Consolidated 20-01
- Begin Project Construction:
  - Lemmon Drive Segment 1
  - Oddie/Wells Multimodal
  - Package 3 ADA Access Transit & Pedestrian Connectivity
  - Sparks Blvd Widening (early action phase)
- Construct Mill Street Multimodal (Terminal Way to McCarran Blvd)
- Complete Construction Bidding Process for Sky Vista Project
- Begin Design:
  - NEPA on Arlington Bridges Replacement Project
  - Lemmon Drive Segment 2
- Update:
  - RRIF 7<sup>th</sup> Edition
  - Street and Highway Policy
  - RTC-local jurisdiction agreements regarding transit projects, facilities and operations opportunities
  - Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan
  - Intelligent Transportation Systems Master Plan
  - Transit Optimization Plan Strategies
- Continue sustainability planning and monitoring
- Research advanced mobility
- Pursue Federal Funding/ Earmarks:
  - Arlington Street Bridge
  - Hydrogen Fuel Cell Pilot Project
- Continue Safety Emphasis: Vision Zero/ Driver & pedestrian education and Safe Routes to School programs
- Continue NDOT Collaboration: SBX, US395 North & Mt. Rose Projects
- Complete Verdi and McCarran Loop Planning Studies
- Increase annual RTC RIDE ridership by 15% over FY22
- Downtown Reno Partnership coordination and operations to enhance safety at 4SS

- Complete FlexRIDE Tahoe Service Pilot
- Implement and complete construction on facilities projects:
  - RTC Terminal Way multiple purpose room
  - Modernization of Terminal Way elevators
  - Peppermill BRT Station
- Complete design on 4<sup>th</sup> Street Station expansion
- **Annual Evaluation of Performance**
  - Agency Rating – May 2021
    - The Board rates the Agency on Board approved FY 2021 goals
  - Common Review – June 2021
    - All employees receive an annual performance evaluation based on individual FY 2021 goals
  - Executive Director – June 2021
    - The Board evaluates Bill Thomas on FY 2021 goals

**Item 6**      ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

*Public input received prior to 4:00 pm on Friday, March 12, will be added to the record for this meeting. No live comment will be heard during the meeting.*

As noted above, there was no public comment received by the deadline of 4:00 pm on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Item 7**      ***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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NEOMA JARDON, Chair  
Regional Transportation Commission

\*\*For additional information, all PowerPoint presentations and both audio and video recordings of this meeting are available by contacting [dthompson@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dthompson@rtcwashoe.com).