



## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

MEETING DATE: July 16, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4.2

From: Daniel Doenges, PTP, RSP, Planning Manager

Through: 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. A draft report is under review and comments are being compiled.

#### *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.

A stakeholder meeting occurred on May 5, 2021, and a draft report is being developed.

#### *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. Preliminary findings were shared with the US DOT through a peer exchange in May 2021. The project is 85% complete.

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

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

- The data collection counts for active transportation modes were completed in May.
- Applications for Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside will be accepted between July 1 and October 1, 2021. The RTC administers the TA Set-Aside Program for the RTC Metropolitan Planning area. The estimated amount of TA Set-Aside funding available for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2020 and 2021 is approximately \$805,000. Agencies eligible to receive TA Set-Aside funds include local governments, natural resources or public land agencies, school districts and Tribal governments. Eligible sponsors may submit one application per funding year. The TA Set-Aside guidance and application were approved by the RTC Board on July 18, 2021, and are available on the RTC website. Applicants will also be required to provide a detailed budget. Local road safety improvements are an eligible use of TA Set-Aside Funding. Other eligible uses include improvements to non-motorized mobility, historic preservation related to transportation, scenic accessibility, Safe Routes to School programs, and environmental management related to transportation activities. The deadline for submittal of applications is **4:00 pm on October 1, 2021**.
- RTC staff has a draft of the regional bike map, which is in the process of being translated into Spanish prior to printing.
- The Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance is considering a second bike month celebration in September. More details will be shared when they are available.
- RTC, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County, University of Nevada, Reno, and Reno Sparks Indian Colony continued conversations about bike share and e-scooters.

### Vision Zero Truckee Meadows (VZTM)

- During the June task force meeting, the “Locked Eyes Saves Lives” campaign and Pedestrian Safety Zones were discussed. These two projects will be deployed in June and July. The next meeting is scheduled for August.
- Locked Eyes Save Lives hosted a kick-off press conference on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Pedestrian Safety Zones are being implemented in the City of Reno and a press conference was held on Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, to begin outreach and education regarding their purpose and how they work.
- Between January 1, 2021, and May 31, 2021, six pedestrians and zero bicyclists were killed in Washoe County. During this same time in 2020, there were six pedestrian and no bicycle fatalities. It is noteworthy that motorcycle fatalities have continued to decrease by 40% during this same time period; however, there have been three fatalities between January 1 – May 31, 2021, compared to five in 2020 during the same time period.
- NDOT stated that they anticipate an agreement for the bus tail campaign completed by early July.

### 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 – 0
- City of Reno – 9
- City of Sparks – 3

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 June 19 – July 15:

June 15	City of Reno Ward 4 Meeting Sierra Sage Golf Course – FlexRIDE/Uber Services Overview and Lemmon Drive Project Presentations
June 21	Vision Zero Truckee Meadows Task Force Meeting
June 28-July 2	Locked Eyes Save Lives Launch Week in partnership w/ Hub Coffee Roasters
June 29	Installation of Locked Eyes Save Lives Chalk Art throughout Reno/Sparks area
July 1	RTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
July 4	Star Spangled Sparks Free Transit on RAPID Lincoln Line and Route 11
July 7	RTC Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) Meeting
July 8	RTC Update Presentation – Ferrari-Lund Real Estate, First Centennial, and Synergy Home Mortgage
July 15	Nevada Bike & Ped Advisory Board – Locked Eyes Save Lives Presentation

### Media Relations & Social Media

The RTC issued three news releases and participated in seven media interviews on various topics, including Birding By Bus, FTA Low-No Grant Award for \$6.4M, Washoe County Fuel Tax, RTC Road Season, Stars Spangled Sparks Free Transit and Locked Eyes Save Lives, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday schedule.

Social media was used to promote and provide information on Petrilla Fire Transit Update, TMCC Free COVID Vaccine Clinic, RTC Board Meeting, Lemmon Drive Project Video and Start of Construction in July, Senator Cortez Masto and FTA Announcement of Low-No Grant Award, Locked Eyes Save Lives, Star Spangled Sparks Free Transit and RTC holiday schedule.

Social media metrics for the month of May: 46,343 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 a Lemmon Drive Project update, an Kings Row Project Update and the Locked Eyes Save Lives campaign.

**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.