

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

February 18, 2022

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
Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner**

**Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Cole Mortensen, Deputy Director of NDOT (Alternate)**

NOT PRESENT:

Kristina Swallow, Director of NDOT

The regular monthly meeting, held via Zoom Webinar, 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 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.

Ms. Amanda Nelson, Keolis coach operator, said they are still struggling to get passengers to wear masks on the buses since the local mandate has been lifted. She also mentioned that route 19 is a very important route that was cancelled with implementation of the Sunday service schedule. She would like to see that route come back, even if it's on a partial schedule. It is the only way for many to get to the social security office for their checks, etc.

Mr. Chris Fuqua, Vice President of Teamsters, Local 533, wanted to know why this meeting was not being held at the County Chambers now that the mask mandate has been lifted. He then reminded everyone that the MTM/Teamsters CBA for paratransit service expires June 30, 2022, and mentioned some of the topics up for discussion. He has invited MTM to an in-person negotiation session.

Ms. Donna Clontz, representing the Age Friendly Reno Action Planning Team, thanked RTC staff for listening to the requests of the seniors with regard to routes for reimplementation. She agrees that route 19 is an important route to bring back, even on a part-time basis.

Next, Ms. Clontz spoke in support of item 6.1 in this agenda.

Mr. Mac Rossi, local resident, said that the northern portion of the McCarran loop has been inundated with apartment communities and no safe way to get in/out of their communities. This problem has been going on for eight years and must be resolved in the upcoming study.

The next item Mr. Rossi mentioned is the request to move a bus stop McCarran and 7th Street. It's been four years now. They would like the stop moved approximately 70 feet down 7th Street for safety purposes.

Ms. Dora Martinez, local resident, spoke in support of Item 6.1 and agrees with Mr. Fuqua that the ACCESS drivers are not making a living wage and that needs to be addressed in the upcoming CBA. Those drivers have more responsibilities for their passengers and should be paid appropriately.

Ms. Martinez also continued to advocate for audio announcements of stops on the RIDE system.

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

Board Clerk Denise Thompson added that a copy of a signed petition by multiple seniors in support of Item 6.1 had been emailed to the Commissioners the evening before.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RTC Executive Director Bill Thomas requested that Item 4.2 be pulled from the consent agenda.

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Jardon ordered that the agenda for this meeting be approved with the aforementioned modification.

Items 4.1 thru 4.14 CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

- 4.1 Approve Minutes of the December 17, 2021, meeting (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.2 Approve Minutes of the January 21, 2022, Board workshop (*For Possible Action*) *Item pulled from agenda under Item 3***

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)*

Planning Department

- 4.8 Approve Amendment 1 to the FY 2022 – FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) *(For Possible Action)*

Engineering Department

- 4.9 Approve a contract with Wood Rodgers, Inc., to provide preliminary design and optional services, including environmental analysis, final design and engineering during construction for the 4th Street Station Expansion Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$693,880 *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.10 Approve a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, to provide design services for the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategic Master Plan (SMP) in an amount not-to-exceed \$350,000 *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.11 Approve a contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs), to provide design services and engineering during construction for the Mill Street Widening project in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,539,340 *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.12 Approve a contract with CA Group, Inc., to provide engineering during construction services for the Sparks Boulevard Project – Phase 1 from Greg Street to I-80 westbound ramps in an amount not-to-exceed \$612,978 *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.13 Authorize a request for proposals (RFP) for the selection of a consultant to provide preliminary design, environmental analysis, final design and construction management services for the South Virginia Street Bus Only Lane Project *(For Possible Action)*

Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.14 Approve modifications to RTC Personnel Rule 11.8 (Time When Vacation Shall Be Taken) and 11.14 (Use of Sick Leave) *(For Possible Action)*

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Delgado, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that Consent Items 4.1 through 4.14 be approved with the exception of Item 4.2, which was pulled from the agenda under Item 3.

Item 5 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) ITEMS

- 5.1 Acknowledge receipt of a presentation on the Mt. Rose Highway Corridor Study *(For Possible Action)*

Chair Jardon opened the item to public input and asked if there was anyone wishing to speak. There was no one wishing to speak.

Ms. Sondra Rosenberg, NDOT Assistant Director of Planning, addressed the Board to give a presentation pertaining to the Mt. Rose Corridor Study. She began by explaining the process for the study and that the project is currently in the planning phase; however, it can take quite some time.

Input from public meetings and partner activities helped to complete an action plan. Existing conditions included what's there today as well as planned developments for the future. The action plan includes short and long-term needs. The limits of the study were Douglas Fir Dr. to the round-a-bout at Veterans and Geiger Grade, and safety and multimodal options were the ultimate concerns.

Ms. Rosenberg then explained that there are different roadway types and needs, depending on the section you are looking at. Next steps include design for the varying needs in the corridor.

A draft report will be sent out in February for advisory committee review and recommendations, and a final report will go out in March. It will then be integrated into the One Nevada prioritization process and project sponsors will be identified (NDOT, RTC, Washoe County, Private). The STIP will be amended and the project will be added into the RTC Washoe Regional Transportation Plan.

Upon conclusion, she offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Hartung asked how many people responded to the survey.

Ms. Rosenberg said that only 70 people responded; however, there was also input from the public meetings.

Commissioner Hartung said he is frustrated that the same amount of attention is not being paid to the Pyramid Highway. Ms. Rosenberg replied that there are no capacity improvements being made to Mr. Rose Highway.

Commissioner Lucey asked what improvements are actually being looked at to decrease speed and increase safety on the corridor.

Ms. Rosenberg said there are several recommendations, such as round-a-bouts and other options, to encourage drivers to slow down. Drivers tend to think they are on a highway because the corridor is so wide. Center dividers are also being looked at with consideration to in/out access for neighborhoods.

In the past year, there were over 5,000 drivers statewide who were caught going over 100 mph, so the main goal is to encourage drivers to slow down.

Commissioner Lucey asked Ms. Rosenberg to address where signalized intersections may be placed vs round-a-bouts.

Ms. Rosenberg said some of the concepts are installing round-a-bouts at Callahan, at Bordeaux, and at Fawn Lane. Through the urban arterial areas, closer to the freeway, raised medians are being considered. There are currently 26 concepts being reviewed.

Commissioner Lucey believes the three round-a-bouts would be the priority for safety. He would also like the Butch Cassidy alignment to be moved up to meet at a four-way intersection with Thomas Creek. He likes the multimodal idea, but the priority needs to be the safety concerns.

Commissioner Hartung agrees that there can be some simple measures implemented that would improve safety, such as a center median wall.

Ms. Rosenberg thanked them for their comments and said staff will be looking to partner with other agencies for some of these ideas.

Chair Jardon commented that she has concerns about round-a-bouts because at similar meetings pertaining to North McCarran, it was stated that before round-a-bouts could be installed, another study is required. She does not want to see continuous studies with no applications being implemented.

Ms. Rosenberg said that staff is taking a different approach to Mt. Rose Highway than on North McCarran because if round-a-bouts are installed on McCarran, which serves a regional function, it changes the nature of the corridor without a full regional conversation.

Commissioner Lucey said he does not want to get stuck in “paralysis by analysis” with this project and the need is to focus on funding options and what can be done now.

E.D. Thomas said this item is agendaized as an action item, so his suggestion is to provide specific direction in the motion.

Commissioner Lucey made a motion to accept the report with the direction for RTC to work aggressively with NDOT to implement the safety improvement concepts provided, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that receipt of the report be acknowledged with the direction provided.

Item 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Approve Amendment #9 to the contract for operation and maintenance of paratransit and on-demand transit services with MTM Transit, LLC, to increase the Revenue Vehicle Hour Rate for Base Year 6 from \$62.11 to \$68.87 for normal service and from \$30.30 to \$35.42 for special/extra service (*For Possible Action*)

Chair Jardon opened the item to public input and asked if there was anyone wishing to speak.

Mr. Chris Fuqua, Vice President of Teamsters, Local 533, encourages the Board to pass Item 6.1 as recommended. He would like the RTC Board to take more action to ensure a larger portion of these increases go to the essential workers. He then reminded everyone that Tahoe Transit just gave all staff a \$4.00/hr raise, no matter their position or tenure.

Mr. Gary Watson, President of Teamsters, Local 533, supports Item 6.1, but believes more should have been done sooner with the rise of commodities, housing, etc. These increases should be directly allocated to the essential workers.

Ms. Dora Martinez, local resident, agrees with both Mr. Fuqua and Mr. Watson so that drivers do not need to move on to different jobs in order to survive the pricing inflation.

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

Mr. Mark Maloney, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, gave a brief presentation on the purpose and need for Amendment #9 and offered to answer any questions regarding the recommendation to approve Amendment #9 to the contract for operation and maintenance of paratransit and on-demand transit services with MTM Transit, LLC, to increase the Revenue Vehicle Hour Rate for Base Year 6 from \$62.11 to \$68.87 for normal service and from \$30.30 to \$35.42 for special/extra service, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item.

E.D. Thomas explained that RTC has a relationship with MTM as its contractor and MTM has a duty to work with Teamsters, Local 533, during the CBA negotiations. The RTC is, by law, not permitted to participate in the negotiations in any manner as has been stated in the past during prior negotiations.

On motion of Vice Chair Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that Amendment #9 to the contract for operation and maintenance of paratransit and on-demand transit services with MTM Transit, LLC, to increase the Revenue Vehicle Hour Rate for Base Year 6 from \$62.11 to \$68.87 for normal service and from \$30.30 to \$35.42 for special/extra service be approved with the increases as noted.

Items 7.1 thru 7.3 REPORTS

7.1 RTC Executive Director Report

1. E.D. Thomas started his report, saying that longtime RTC employee and Public Affairs Manager Michael Moreno had passed away. Michael's family will be holding a celebration of life on Saturday, March 5, from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Nevada Museum of Art. In addition, the RTC wants to honor his substantial contributions to the agency, and to his community, and will do so in-person at the next RTC Board Meeting on March 18. For now, our deepest condolences go to his family, friends and colleagues. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to us at the RTC. He truly meant so much to everyone in our community.

Commissioner Lucey commented that Mr. Moreno was an amazing man and amazing father and would like to see at a future meeting, a street named after Mr. Moreno in his honor.

Chair Jardon agreed wholeheartedly and said that she and Commissioner Delgado had also been considering something similar. The AGC also reached out and offered to participate in any kind of honoring.

Commissioner Hartung also agreed and is fully supportive of that idea.

2. E.D. Thomas then stated that this meeting was not set up as a Zoom webinar due to anything nefarious. It was reflective of the mask mandates and other safety recommendations at the time it was arranged. The next meeting, and hopefully future meetings to follow, will be in person.

3. Lastly, the APTA Legislative Conference occurs in mid-March in Washington DC and the ED plans to attend as a representative of the region. Vice Chair Lawson will be representing the RTC in Washington DC toward the end of March for the Chamber Fly-In meetings.

7.2 RTC Federal Report

E.D. Thomas mentioned that a written report was included in the agenda packet for this meeting and said the most important message at this time are the meetings he discussed under the director report. Staff is still waiting on details of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including the allocation of the money. This will hopefully occur in March.

Staff is working locally with regional and state partners on priority projects for this funding.

7.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Assistant Director Cole Mortensen addressed the Board to provide updates on the current safety statistics, the Advisory Working Group, the Spaghetti Bowl Express project, and Nevada bridges.

Upon conclusion of his report, Mr. Mortensen offered to answer any questions.

Chair Jardon said that although she appreciates the statewide safety report and statistics, she would like to also see a breakout of those statistics for Washoe County, including one for the year 2021 showing only Washoe County.

Commissioner Hartung requested regional traffic counts from Fernley to Washoe County, 395 North and I-580 South, Mt. Rose Highway, Pyramid Highway, and possibly the McCarran Loop.

Vice Chair Lawson said he believes those numbers for 2021 may not come out until June or so.

Mr. Mortensen said he will take a look and at least get the most recent numbers available.

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Lucey announced that there is an RSCVA Strategic Planning meeting on March 4th and he would like members of the RTC to participate to discuss transportation.

Chair Jardon said she would like to participate if she's available.

Commissioner Hartung said he would like to attend that meeting and suggested that a posting for a possible quorum should be made.

Chair Jardon asked when discussion will take place with regards to traffic safety and how RTC will support and help to advance legislation that puts additional "teeth" into the safety issues in the region.

Item 9 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.

Mr. Chris Fuqua, Vice President of Teamsters, Local 533, thanked the Board for unanimously approving Item 6.1. Mr. Thomas mentioned having a relationship with MTM Transit, but Mr. Fuqua believes RTC should also have a relationship with the Teamsters, who are also constituents.

He then thanked Ms. Dora Martinez for speaking on behalf of her community.

Lastly, he reminded everyone that although a raise was negotiated with Keolis Transit for the CBA, it is still not enough.

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

Item 10 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.



NEOMA JARDON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

Presentations copies are available upon request. Contact dthompson@rtcwashoe.com.