

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

January 14, 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**

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

NOT PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner

The special meeting, held via Zoom meeting and in the RTC Administrative Building, 1st Floor, Reno, Nevada, 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.

Dr. Paco Lachoy, representing the City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, thanked the RTC for listening to the concerns of seniors pertaining to changing all routes to Sunday service and adding some service back in to assist in needed medical, grocery and other visits. He also requested a route going to the new Northern Nevada Medical Center on Longley Lane, opening this spring.

Ms. Betty Manson, local resident, thanked the RTC on behalf of the seniors in her 89512 community for listening and helping with the addition of transit services.

Mr. Mac Rossi, local resident, thanked the RTC for their evaluation and rescheduling of some of the routes.

Mr. Chris Fuqua, Vice President of the Teamsters, Local 533, believe more money needs to be put into the system in order to attract the people needed as coach operators. He also reminded

everyone to remember that the paratransit services agreement is also coming up and the wages are far too low. He would like to avoid any strikes, such as with the Keolis agreement. There being no one else wishing to speak, the Chair closed public input.

Item 3 *APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

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

Items 4.1 *SPECIAL PRESENTATION (informational only)*

NDOT Director Kristina Swallow gave a presentation on the Nevada Sustainable Transportation Funding Study and Advisory Working Group. She detailed information on the following subjects involved in the study for this topic:

1. Nevada’s growing population and broader inflation in construction costs are straining the existing system.
2. The gas tax remains the largest single source of transportation funding in Nevada. Counties are also heavily reliant on gas tax revenue.
3. Transportation revenue is not keeping pace with the system costs and demands.
4. The erosion in gas tax revenue will accelerate as more vehicles use less gasoline (or no gas at all).
5. The Legislature directed NDOT to conduct an in-depth study of sustainable transportation funding and the topics of the study are provided in the presentation.
6. The Advisory Working Group Membership has 29 members:



Organizations and Expertise Identified in AB 413:

- Metropolitan planning organizations;
- Environmental agencies and organizations;
- Clean energy;
- Tax policy expertise;
- Local, county, tribal, state and federal agencies with expertise in transportation and clean energy;
- The Chairs of the Nevada Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Growth and Infrastructure;
- Organized labor;
- Local chambers of commerce;
- The Nevada Resort Association;
- Entities that represent or promote the interests of minority groups in Nevada.

7. Each AWG meeting has an overall objective, with specific agenda items and outcomes to support that objective and reach key project milestones.
8. AWG's Transportation Revenue Guiding Principles:
 - Aspirational outcomes
 - Serve as a “ruler” to measure how different funding mechanisms perform (i.e., the degree to which the revenue mechanisms can achieve the desired outcomes)
 - AWG members crafted and unanimously adopted these in November 2021.
9. Guiding Principles for Future Transportation Revenue Sources.
10. Revenue mechanisms being analyzed.
11. Study timeline and next steps.

Upon conclusion, E.D. Thomas stressed what a complex issue this is and believes it will have value. NDOT will be giving this presentation to multiple jurisdictions around the state. However, the legislature will need to make any final decisions.

Director Swallow then offered to answer any questions, along with her team.

Mayor Lawson said his concern is that as always, Las Vegas ends up with more than Washoe County when it comes to funding and Washoe County may lose more than is gained.

Director Swallow said this is meant to look at the state funding needs and “grow the pie” so that everyone will receive more than they currently have.

Mayor Lawson responded that his main concern is when it gets to the legislature, who are mostly made up of Las Vegas representatives.

Commissioner Hartung asked if VMTs are being discussed and Director Swallow said yes, it does reflect VMTs as a source of funding options.

Commissioner Hartung’s concern is that those with combustion engines will be double-taxed for fuel and VMTs. It could hurt to pay that VMT tax in one shot with a registration when it doesn’t hurt quite so much to pay fuel tax in smaller increments.

Director Swallow said this is mainly for the EVs and does have some implementation and maintenance issues so that no one is double-taxed.

Commissioner Hartung said he would like to see a presentation on the Utah model and how well it has worked.

Chair Jardon asked Legal Counsel Adam Spear if any tax modifications requiring legislative approval can be worked on in advance of the session. Mr. Spear said he believes that is how it’s been done in the past and shouldn’t be a problem.

Chair Jardon then asked Mr. Spear if any modification of the Washoe County fuel indexing would have to go back to a vote of the people or can the legislature take action on their own.

Mr. Spear responded that there are several different laws pertaining to fuel tax, so all of those issues would need to be worked through and it would be a complicated process.

Chair Jardon thanked everyone who has jumped in to tackle this and does not want to mess with what was voted in by the Washoe County residents. She also does not want a huge registration bill for VMTs becoming part of the norm.

Director Swallow then quickly reviewed the next steps and timeline, and will provide updates at the monthly RTC Board meetings.

E.D. Thomas thanked the Board members for taking the time out for this presentation on such an important topic.

Item 10 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 11 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.



NEOMA JARDON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission