

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:05 A.M.

June 17, 2022

PRESENT:

**Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member, Chair
Kristopher Dahir, Sparks City Council Member (Alternate)
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner (Electronically)
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Kristina Swallow, Director of NDOT**

NOT PRESENT:

**Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks, Vice Chair
Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner**

The regular monthly meeting, held in the Chambers of the Washoe County Commission, 1001 E. 9th Street, 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 1 MEETING OPENING

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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. Dora Martinez, local resident, thanked the union for working out an agreement with the paratransit operators/drivers and wished to remind everyone to make the bus signs accessible for the legally blind. She also requested that more paratransit drivers be hired and trained because if she has to use the Uber or Lyft service, her service dog is not always allowed and the drivers do not always have a background check or a camera in their vehicles.

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

Item 3 *APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

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

Items 4.1 thru 4.17 CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

4.1 Approve Minutes of the May 20, 2022, meeting (*For Possible Action*)

Reports

4.2 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)

4.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)

4.4 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation/Operations Activity Report (*For Possible Action*) – **Pulled for public comment**

4.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report (*For Possible Action*)

4.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Summary Report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees (*For Possible Action*)

Planning Department

4.7 Approve the RTC staff recommended appointments/reappointments to the Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) with terms through June 2025 (*For Possible Action*):

- Vince Harris (reappointment)
- Lindsey Costello (reappointment)
- Benjamin Miller (reappointment)
- Sue-Ting Chene
- Michael May

Approve the RTC staff recommended appointments with partial terms to fill existing vacancies through June 2024 (*For Possible Action*):

- Dennis Colling
- Greg Newman

Approve the RTC staff recommended appointments as alternate members to the CMAC (*For Possible Action*):

- Phillip Mercurio
- Gustavo Gomez
- Damien Cole
- Alexander Drudi

4.8 Authorize a request for proposals for the South Virginia Street TOD Planning Study (*For Possible Action*)

4.9 Approve the FY 2023 Shared Work Program with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) (*For Possible Action*)

Engineering Department

- 4.10 Acknowledge receipt of a report regarding the Arlington Avenue Bridges Replacement project (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.11 Approve a contract with Westwood Professional Services, Inc., for design services and optional engineering during construction for the Traffic Signal Modification (TSM) 23-01 project at various locations in the region, in an amount not-to-exceed \$238,715 (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.12 Approve the qualified list of consultants to provide civil engineering, design, and construction management services for the Street and Highway Program (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.13 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Reno for the Signal Timing 6
 - Phase 3 project, for a reimbursement amount not-to-exceed \$50,000 (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.14 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Sparks for the Signal Timing 6 – Phase 3 project, for a reimbursement amount not-to-exceed \$25,000 (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.15 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for the Signal Timing 6 – Phase 3 project, for a reimbursement amount not-to-exceed \$250,000 (*For Possible Action*)

Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.16 Authorize the Executive Director to bind annual insurance coverage effective July 1, 2022, for automobile liability, general liability, public officials' errors and omissions (E&O), property, earthquake/flood, crime, cyber, pollution liability, social engineering, fiduciary liability, employment practices liability and workers' compensation; and approve the RTC's continued membership in the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool and Public Agency Compensation Trust (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.17 Approve a 12-month service agreement with RFI Communications & Security Systems for maintenance and repair of RTC security systems, in an amount not-to-exceed \$119,403 (*For Possible Action*)

On motion of Mayor Schieve, seconded by Commissioner Dahir, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that Consent Items 4.1 through 4.17 be approved, excluding Item 4.4 which was pulled for discussion.

- 4.4 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation/Operations Activity Report (*For Possible Action*) – *Pulled for public comment*

Mr. Chris Fuqua, Vice President of Teamsters Local 533, said that MTM was a good steward of the employees from the very beginning. He then noted that the difference between MTM and Keolis is that MTM is willing to work with the union. Because of this, a four year agreement was put into place and starting salaries were increased by 30%. On average, the bargaining unit employees received a 20% raise.

On motion of Mayor Schieve, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that Consent Item 4.4 be approved.

Item 5.1 thru 5.2 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Acknowledge receipt of the RTC Strategic Roadmap for FY 2023 and provide input and direction regarding next steps (*For Possible Action*)

Executive Director Bill Thomas said this was an intentional effort to bridge desires and visions of the Board and RTC staff actions. He then introduced Erica Olsen with OnStrategy.

Ms. Olsen first explained that the Strategic Roadmap came about via a prior Board retreat and the direction that came from the Board members at that retreat.

The key themes were provided and E.D. Thomas reviewed each of the goals in more detail with the objective being whether or not this is the direction the Board was requesting staff to move toward.

1. Rethink and redefine our Public Transportation system as a whole (demand, access, tech)
2. Look at how roads are regionally planned for, developed, and maintained (roles, collaboration, etc.)

Commissioner Hartung asked if a new standard in the region could be implemented where the RTC does the traffic studies instead of the developers.

E.D. Thomas said the implementation process would take time and the RTC does not plan to step into the roll of the local entities who review the documents at this time.

Commissioner Hartung then asked if the NRS could be changed as to how long the RTC could hold right-of-way.

E.D. Thomas said that question would be answered in the future. At this time, RTC is talking to the local partners to get a grasp on how everyone is handling right-of-way in order to know the best way to make improvements.

Chair Jardon said that the jurisdictions know what development plans are in the works and what's coming up, so having active discussions with the jurisdictions will be important.

E.D. Thomas then commented that Goal #3 and #4 will be brought back for more discussion in the coming year because staff was not able to get to them in this year. He went on to explain more specifically what the purpose and expected outcomes are for those two goals.

3. Prepare for a shift in future funding sources and strategies

The four questions E.D. Thomas would like the Board members to consider are:

- What do we envision as a future network?
- How do we factor limited labor and human resources into a fiscally restrained plan?
- Should we try to match project output with forecasted revenue?
- How can we define our funding allocations to provide the right balance?

4. Continued & even more proactive planning for our Transportation Network

This goal is to focus on our financial plan to ensure buckets of funds are allocated for the things we want to see happen with intent.

- How do we proactively plan for changing commuter behaviors?
- How do we view the Commissioners role in the budget process?
- How do we measure financial success?
- Do our financial documents provide you a clear picture of the agency's financial outlook? (transparency)

Mayor Schieve asked for confirmation that this is just a high-level overview and a more in-depth conversation will take place later. E.D. Thomas confirmed.

Commissioner Dahir commented on the FlexRIDE, saying that if we have another recession, it will hit some of our more vulnerable citizens. Therefore, we need to find a good way to lay out the actual savings for people if they take public transit. He would also like to ensure that the RTC is thoroughly utilizing grant funding for our most vulnerable population, such as for FlexRIDE.

Commissioner Dahir would also like the RTC and everyone else to layout each entity's Best Practices to see how or if they work well together. If they work well now, why would we change them.

He continued, asking if there is any plan for a bill draft (BDR), or to partner for a BDR, for a new tax on electric vehicles.

E.D. Thomas said that Director Swallow and her staff are leading the push for an EV bill draft.

Chair Jardon believes that technology and education will drive the future of transportation. She would like to see a dedicated line item for the funding of unplanned multi-modal roads or other means of transportation without having to go find the money from another source.

Commissioner Hartung commented about light rail because a public comment came in asking about it. He believes it would be a good thing to look into rail for certain areas, with the understanding that it could potentially be cost prohibitive. He also believes that FlexRIDE is the transportation of the future.

He continued, mentioning his frustration that when the RTC does a project, they don't take it far enough. He believes the models are wrong and those projects then need to be retrofitted later at a high price.

E.D. Thomas said that staff will come back in the near future with more detail on goals 1 and 2, and will come some time in the next year with goals 3 and 4.

On motion of Mayor Schieve, seconded by Commissioner Dahir, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that receipt of the RTC Strategic Roadmap for FY 2023 be acknowledged with the comments received.

5.2 Approve the RTC Goals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)
(For Possible Action)

E.D. Thomas mentioned that there are over 30 goals posted for the public and in the Commissioner's packets, but he wanted to touch on a few specifics as follow.

- Begin Design:
 - Keystone Avenue Improvements
 - Pembroke Drive Widening
 - Sierra Street Multimodal
 - South Virginia Street Widening (I580 ramps to Longley)
- Begin Project Construction:
 - Sky Vista Parkway Widening
 - Sparks Boulevard Corridor - Phase 1
- Complete Project Construction:
 - Lemmon Drive Widening Phase 1
 - Roundabout at 4th Street/Mesa Park Road/Woodland Avenue
 - Virginia Street at Peppermill Northbound BRT Station
- Complete:
 - McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study
 - Travel Demand Model expansion
 - Verdi Area Transportation Study
- Initiate:
 - Active Transportation Plan update
 - Virginia Street TOD Plan
- Begin implementation of the recommendations contained in TOPS to improve the customer experience
- Increase the Van Pool program to 380 vehicles

- Replace 15 ACCESS/FlexRIDE CNG paratransit buses and 6 RIDE Electric Hybrid fixed-route buses
- Clarify and re-define relationships and responsibilities for both roadway maintenance and project leadership among regional partners, including NDOT
- Complete analysis to increase housing opportunities along BRT routes
- Continue long-term property acquisition strategy, including replacement of Villanova

Upon conclusion, Chair Jardon asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Hartung asked why Pyramid Highway is no on the goals.

E.D. Thomas said that Pyramid is an NDOT project and construction is not planned until 2024.

Mr. Brian Stewart, RTC Director of Engineering, addressed the Board to add that the Pyramid project is on track and funds are being obligated in conjunction with NDOT, and there should be shovels in the ground by spring 2023.

Mayor Shieve would like to see a micromobility path along the river and more protected bike lanes in the region (green paint).

E.D. Thomas said that micromobility will be in the goals to address.

Commissioner Dahir said he was not very familiar with RTC’s vanpool program, which is one of the most successful programs, so believes that better communication and education on that program would be beneficial.

Chair Jardon asked what the jurisdictional collaboration plan will look like for the new model of multimodal and capacity infrastructure, and being more strategic about it. How often will meetings occur, etc.?

E.D. Thomas said this is captured in the Active Transportation Plan, which used to be called the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

Chair Jardon next asked about the expansion into local road maintenance and what does that look like to the RTC? She also asked about RTC and/or local jurisdictions partnering with NDOT to expedite maintenance improvements. She didn’t see either of these in the goals.

E.D. Thomas said that these are not specific goals but are included within two other listed goals.

Chair Jardon expressed her frustration that McCarran is listed under goals as a “study” when there has already been more than one study done.

E.D. Thomas said that a goal could be rewritten to focus on Keystone/McCarran intersection safety. The study is almost complete, so that goal could be changed.

Mayor Schieve would like to have large trucks diverted to go on South Meadows instead of through the residential portion of Veterans Parkway. She would also like better clarification on the RTC role vs the City, and who does what.

On motion of Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Mayor Schieve, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the RTC Goals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) be approved with the modifications requested.

Items 6.1 thru 6.3 REPORTS

6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

1. Congratulations to the following employee for her milestone service anniversary:
 - Jelena Williams will celebrate her 5-year RTC anniversary on July 10.
2. I would also like to welcome our newest RTC Employee, Michelle Chrystal, who has been hired as our new Property Agent.

With both her public and private work experience, she brings knowledge and skills that will greatly aid the RTC as she supports the Agency's effort in property management including the acquisition of property rights required for transportation projects. Welcome, Michelle!

3. The RTC has launched the Verdi Area Multimodal Transportation Study. As part of the study, the RTC is seeking community input. The community is encouraged to take a brief, eight-question survey to provide feedback about current and future transportation conditions in the Verdi area. The survey is open through June 30th and is available at rtcwashoe.com and on social media.
4. On June 15th, the RTC, the City of Reno and community stakeholders celebrated the launch of the micromobility pilot project in Downtown Reno. The pilot project will improve access and connectivity for residents and visitors through micromobility-specific infrastructure in Reno's downtown, designed for bikes and scooters. The pilot project will make it easier for the public to take advantage of more sustainable ways to visit downtown, the Truckee River, and surrounding local businesses while enhancing road safety for micromobility users. I encourage everyone to head downtown and check it out!
5. The RTC will be offering free transit to the Nugget Casino Resort's Star Spangled Sparks event on July 4. Eventgoers can take the RAPID Lincoln Line and Route 11, which go between Reno and Sparks. Both routes drop you off at Centennial Plaza in Victorian Square, so you don't have to worry about parking! Those routes will both be free starting at 4 p.m. Visit rtcwashoe.com to plan your trip!

6. The RTC is being impacted by inflation. While current construction projects are funded and moving forward, the RTC has seen an upswing in bids for projects. Project costs that were estimated even six or nine months ago have seen approximately twenty-percent increases. For example, the Sparks Boulevard Phase One project was originally estimated to cost nine point five million dollars, but the lowest bid came in at eleven point two million dollars – nearly eighteen percent more than the original estimate. The RTC continues to be fiscally conservative, which is why we can accommodate our current projects. However, over the long term, the RTC will need to evaluate our projects to see what we will be able to fund in the future due to high inflation.
7. The FTA’s Fiscal Year 2022 Triennial Review of the RTC was completed last month. Although not an audit, the Triennial Review is the FTA’s assessment of the RTC’s compliance with federal requirements, determined by examining a sample of award management and program implementation practices. RTC had a very successful review dropping to only four findings - versus eight findings under the last review. These four findings have been addressed and will be closed in the final report from the FTA.
8. After months of successful negotiations between MTM, Inc., and the union, a potential agreement was reached and taken to the membership for vote on Sunday June 12th. The membership passed the proposed agreement, the union will now finalize the four-year agreement into to a signed collective bargaining agreement package. The new agreement terms will start on July 1, 2022.

6.2 RTC Federal Report

E.D. Thomas mentioned that a written report was included in the agenda packet for this meeting and briefly mentioned that the FHA had announced competitive applications for bridge replacement are being accepted. RTC is focusing on the Keystone, Sierra Street and Greg Street bridges.

6.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Director Kristina Swallow first mentioned how well the Reno to/from Carson bus is doing lately and that she said that the park and ride at the Summit Mall was very full! Director Swallow then discussed, in-depth, the very serious traffic safety issues going on in our state this year and the number of lives lost.

Director Swallow also touched on the following topics:

Roadway Relinquishment Process – passing ownership of specific roads to the county or other jurisdiction where it makes the most sense.

Advisory Working Group – an update was provided on the purpose of this group, which includes E.D. Thomas, and the recent focuses of the group.

Spaghetti Bowl Express Project – an update on the current status of the project.

Pyramid Highway/Egyptian Traffic Signal Installation – an update that the project began June 6th and should be completed by the end of August.

Mt. Rose Highway Corridor Study – the corridor study is being finalized this month. From this point, the future improvements will be coordinated, prioritized and funding planned for corridor safety improvements based on the study. Interim safety improvements will be advertised for implementation this fall.

Chair Jardon asked for information on whether speed and impairment are the same for motorcycle crashes as for vehicle crashes, and also how our region rates in this area vs national ratings. She believes an international look should be done to see how other countries are handling this crisis.

Commissioner Dahir encourages the ability to do testing for marijuana impairment for safety. He also expressed his disappointment in the sole decision by NDOT to remove the advance warning signals on Pyramid when the local elected officials disagreed with that idea.

Commissioner Dahir asked if there is any possible way to extend the entrance onto southbound I-580 from west I-80 during the construction because it is really short.

Mayor Shieve expressed her belief that early, early education on the importance of traffic/pedestrian safety should be a priority. She also believes neighborhood speed limits should all be 15 mph for better safety.

Commissioner Hartung thanked Dir. Swallow for the safety improvements at Sunset and Egyptian. He then asked if there is a movement to change the Pyramid speed limit back to 45 mph going through Spanish Springs.

Dir. Swallow said she wasn't familiar with that but would check into it.

Commissioner Hartung thanked Dir. Swallow for the Mt. Rose Highway study on behalf of Commissioner Lucey.

Lastly, Commissioner Hartung asked if an NDOT roadway is relinquished to a local jurisdiction, does the funding for that roadway also go to the jurisdiction.

Dir. Swallow said that it is a negotiation which follows the legislatively directed state process. In this specific case, NDOT is required to bring the roadway up to a state of good repair or provide the funding to bring it up to a state of good repair.

Item 7 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Hartung said there is a non-political event being held at Idlewild Park in August by the Northern Nevada Central Labor Council and they have asked for the RTC to consider participate in some way with transit assistance.

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.

Ms. Lori Rodriguez, local resident, addressed the Board and suggested that developers in Washoe County be required to submit their plans to NDOT and RTC for review prior to the Washoe County Planning Commission reviewing the plans. Then Washoe County will have input from NDOT and RTC before making any decisions. She realizes that there would require a significant lead time.

Ms. Rodriguez also mentioned that the newer vehicles can be programmed with speed regulators. NHP cars have those regulators and it's causing speeders to get away because the regulators slow the officers to 95 mph. Her husband is/was a programmer on the regulators she is referring to.

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

Item 9 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

NEOMA JARDON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

****Copies of all presentations are available by contacting Denise Thompson at dthompson@rtcwashoe.com.**