

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

August 19, 2022

PRESENT:

**Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks, Vice Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner
Hillary Shieve, Mayor of Reno (arrived at 9:12)
Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner (via telephone)
Bonnie Weber, Reno City Council Member, (Alternate)**

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

The regular monthly meeting, held in the Chambers of the Washoe County Commission, 1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada, was called to order by Vice Chair Lawson. Following the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country, the Board conducted the following business:

A request was made by RTC General Counsel to move Item 2 to come before Item 1.4 on the agenda as Item 1.4 was written as an action item.

Item 1.3 Special Recognitions:

- Congratulations to MTM Employee of the Month – Mr. Jesus Izquierdo
- Congratulations to Keolis Employee of the Month – Mr. Mohammed Sarwar

Item 2 PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Lawson 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. Carlos Elizondo, local resident, addressed the Board to suggest that Route 9 go by the hospital. He also suggested that new drivers sign a contract requiring them to stay with RTC for one year following training. Lastly, he expressed complaints about the cleanliness of 4th Street Station.

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

Item 1.4 Elect a commissioner to fill the vacant office of Chair through December 31, 2022, and possibly elect a commissioner to fill the office of Vice Chair if the current Vice Chair is elected to fill the vacant office of Chair (*For Possible Action*)

A motion was made by Mayor Schieve to appoint the current Vice Chair, Ed Lawson, to fulfill Commissioner Jardon's position of Chair through December 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartung.

A motion was made by Mayor Schieve to appoint Commissioner Hartung to the position of Vice Chair until December 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber.

Vice Chair Hartung asked if another election will be required at the end of the year.

RTC General Counsel confirmed that another election will be required, he believes in December.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Items 4.1 thru 4.12 CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

- 4.1 Approve Minutes of the July 15, 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*)**
- 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 a Funding Letter of Agreement with the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) for support of the Sacramento to Reno Service Planning Study, in an amount not-to-exceed \$9,176 (*For Possible Action*)**

Engineering Department

- 4.8 Approve a contract with Wood Rodgers, Inc., to provide preliminary Design and NEPA services, and optional final design and engineering during construction services for the South Virginia Street Bus Only Lane from Moana Lane to north of Gentry Way in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,431,975 (*For Possible Action*)**

- 4.9 Approve a contract with Wood Rodgers, Inc., to provide design services and optional engineering during construction for the South Meadows Traffic Enhancements Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$512,740 (*For Possible Action*)**
- 4.10 Authorize a request for proposals for the right-of-way services related to the Mill Street Widening Project (*For Possible Action*)**

Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.11 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation to receive and use Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) federal funds in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,280,000 for the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Trip Reduction Program (*For Possible Action*)**

Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.12 Acknowledge receipt of the Investment Committee report for the quarter ended June 30, 2022 (*For Possible Action*)**

On motion of Mayor Schieve, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Lawson ordered that Consent Items 4.1 through 4.12 be approved.

Item 5.1 thru 5.3 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.1 Acknowledge receipt of an update regarding the Mill Street Widening Project (*For Possible Action*)**

Chair Lawson opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on Item 5.1.

Mr. Zachary Allen, representing Robert Allen Pools & Spas, addressed the Board to mention that his three parcels are included in the potential eminent domain for the Mill Street Project. He is not opposed to the project, but was hoping to continue operating his business in this location if at all possible.

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

Mr. Dale Keller, RTC Director of Engineering, gave a presentation on the current status of the project. The main goals of this project are safety and the elimination of congestion. There have been numerous different types of vehicle crashes with other vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians all along the corridor. He then detailed some of the planned changes, including bicycle lanes along the corridor.

Property owners involved in the property acquisitions will be treated in a fair and equitable manner and be provided with relocation assistance. RTC will follow the Uniform Act, which is the federal policy under which RTC is governed. Formal notifications will be provided in fall of 2022 or early

2023. Construction is planned for summer of 2024. Upon conclusion, Mr. Keller offered to answer any questions.

Vice Chair Hartung asked Mr. Keller to show on the map where Mr. Allen's property is located.

Mr. Keller showed the location on the map and explained that a signalized intersection is planned for that location.

Vice Chair Hartung wants to make sure property owners are made whole.

Mr. Keller then explained the Uniform Act and what is involved to make property owners as whole as possible. A property acquisition specialist will be hired for this project.

E.D. Thomas added that the last thing the RTC wants is to force the acquisition of any property, so RTC will continue to have discussions and be sensitive to property owners needs, along with the project needs.

Commissioner Weber is concerned about how many conversations have already taken place, or not.

Mr. Keller responded that conversations have already begun.

Mayor Schieve asked what the timeline is and Mr. Keller reviewed each step, stating again that construction is planned for summer of 2024.

Mayor Schieve asked when conversations began with property owners.

Mr. Keller responded that conversations began in July.

On motion of Mayor Schieve, seconded by Vice Chair Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Lawson ordered that receipt of the report be acknowledged.

5.2 Approve Amendment #10 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 normal service in the first two option years to \$67.53 in FY24 and \$69.33 in FY25, increase the Fixed Monthly Payment in the first two option years to \$78,746 in FY24 and \$80,982 in FY25, and reduce the contractual insurance requirements to meet industry standards; authorize the Executive Director to exercise RTC's option for the first two option years (*For Possible Action*)

Mr. Christian Shonlau, RTC Director of Finance and CFO, addressed the Board to highlight some factors impacting costs of contracts for the RTC. Inflation is at a 40-year high and there are continued supply chain shortages, labor shortages, etc., which heavily impacts the bids received.

Mr. Mark Maloney, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, then addressed the Board to discuss the history and purpose of the extension being proposed. He explained how MTM worked with the RTC to keep as many drivers employed with reduced trips caused by COVID restrictions and also worked with RTC to backfill operational shortages once COVID restrictions began to lift. RTC contracted with Uber, Lyft and taxi services to support the backfill needs.

In closing, Mr. Schonlau addressed the Board to remind them that public transportation is funded by local sales tax, which is not always stable, so RTC must always keep that in mind.

On motion of Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Lawson ordered that Amendment #10 to the contract for operation and maintenance of paratransit and on-demand transit services with MTM Transit, LLC, be approved.

5.3 Approve Amendment #3 to the contract for operation and maintenance of fixed-route transit services with Keolis Transit Services, LLC, to increase the Revenue Vehicle Hour Rate for normal service and special/extra service in Base Year 4 to \$81.13 in FY23, and in the first three option years to \$85.19 in FY24, \$88.43 in FY25, and \$89.81 in FY26; authorize the Executive Director to exercise RTC's option for the first three option years (For Possible Action)

Mr. Christian Shonlau, RTC Director of Finance and CFO, addressed the Board to state that his previous comments under Item 5.2 also pertain to Item 5.3 and the related contract being discussed.

Mr. Mark Maloney, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, then addressed the Board and stated that the Keolis Transit Services, LLC, has a 10-year contract with a 4-year base and two 3-year extensions. Staff is requesting that the first option to extend be approved along with the related wage adjustments for service hour rates. He then gave a history of their performance and the great improvements that have been made after COVID restrictions eased and discussions that took place with RTC. Upon conclusion, Mr. Maloney offered for he and Mr. Schonlau to answer any questions.

E.D. Thomas added that he doesn't think anyone has been satisfied with the previous relationships between RTC, the Teamsters Union and Keolis. He thanked the Gary Watson, Chris Fuqua from the Teamsters Union, and Mike Ake from Keolis for their willingness to work on a contract resolution.

He also mentioned that the union had been asked to draft a list of items being requested, which they did. It was in a letter format, which was given to the clerk, and then asked the Board that the letter be considered as part of the contract going forward.

Vice Chair Hartung asked if Keolis has the same management team or a new one.

Mr. Maloney stated that it has all new management who want to change things and make improvements for everyone involved.

Vice Chair Hartung then asked about the grievances and how many occurred prior to the last eight months.

Mr. Maloney said there were 50 plus and in the last eight months there have been five.

Mayor Schieve asked what benchmarks will be put into place and what was the difference between the negotiations with MTM and negotiations with Keolis when the same Teamsters Union representatives were involved. She would like it to be clear for the public.

Mr. Maloney reminded the Board that RTC was not involved in the negotiations, but what was different is that the Board voted to give MTM a one-year package to help them with overruns and to allow time to sit down and do the negotiations.

Mayor Schieve asked to hear from Keolis to get their perspective on what has and will continue to change.

Mr. Mike Ake, Keolis Sr. Vice President, said that the entire leadership team was changed and they brought in Phil Humphries who is very experienced and knows how to work with the employees. The first GM just wasn't a good fit which happens occasionally.

Vice Chair Hartung asked Legal Counsel Adam Spear what options are available to vote on today.

Mr. Spear responded that there are termination options available in the agreement.

Commissioner Lucey said that at the time this contract was negotiated, Mayor Ron Smith was the RTC Chair and he was the Vice Chair. An RFP was done to bring in different multiple offers but there were very few received. Keolis came out on top in categories reviewed, but he does agree that the initial management team was not a good fit.

Commissioner Lucey continued, saying that he was disappointed during the Union/Keolis negotiations because instead of talking things over and making concessions, they immediately went to lawyers and it left RTC in the middle and unable to do anything. He would like to see more accountability and RTC should have some way to interject. E.D. Thomas and the Board were treated horribly by the public when there was nothing legally that they all could do. Additionally, he would like to know why the wages are jumping so high.

Mr. Maloney said that actual costs were reviewed for supplies, parts and the new CBA, to come to a break-even cost.

Commissioner Lucey then asked for a line-by-line breakout of those costs going forward.

E.D. Thomas said that staff would be glad to go over each item individually, but the Board also needs to have some faith and trust in the RTC to know what they are doing.

Mr. Maloney added that approximately 70% of the cost is for labor and benefits for the drivers.

Vice Chair Hartung asked what happens if prices continue to go up.

Mr. Maloney said there are triggers in the contract that will address that.

Mayor Schieve asked what the ultimate decider is in choosing a contractor because all she ever hears low bid.

Mr. Maloney said out of the measurement of 100%, only 5% was related to cost.

Chair Lawson then opened the item to public comment and called Mr. Ryan McKinney to the podium.

Mr. McKinney suggested that the vote be tabled for 30 days because it seems “hinky” that E.D. Thomas is not discussing the letter from the union.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Chair Lawson closed public comment for this item.

Commissioner Weber asked for confirmation that she is able to vote on this item.

Legal Counsel Adam Spear confirmed that as the assigned alternate by the Reno City Council, she could vote.

On motion of Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Schieve opposed, Chair Lawson ordered that Amendment #3 to the contract for operation and maintenance of fixed-route transit services with Keolis Transit Services, LLC, be approved.

Chair Lawson then called Mr. Ky Plaskon to the dais for public comment on item 6.1.

Mr. Plaskon, representing the Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance, suggested that a micro-modal specific budget be outlined in the Director’s report for transparency purposes. He also stated that 25% of the residents in Washoe County do not have a driver’s license and then mentioned several upcoming events related to bicycling and commuting. Mr. Plaskon would also like to have a discussion about how bicycle lanes end because it is very dangerous for them to simply end at busy intersections.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Chair Lawson closed public comment for this item.

Items 6.1 thru 6.3 REPORTS

6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

1. Congratulations to three of our employees for their milestone service anniversaries:
 - Scott Miklos will celebrate his five-year RTC anniversary September 5th.
 - Angela Reich will celebrate 15 years at the RTC September 10th.
 - And Lauren Ball is celebrating her fifth anniversary September 11th.

2. He also congratulated five employees on their recent promotions.
 - Dale Keller to Director of Engineering.
 - Jeff Wilbrecht to Engineering Manager
 - Denise Thompson to Procurement and Contracts Analyst. She will continue to coordinate board meetings until the meetings are moved to Terminal Way.
 - Susi Trinidad is now RTC's ADA Paratransit Administrator.
 - And Nicole Coots moves to Senior Graphics Designer.
3. E.D. Thomas then welcomed RTC's three newest employees.
 - Paul Nelson started July 25th as RTC's Government Affairs Officer.
 - Amanda Callegari and Kim Diegle, both started as an Engineer II on August 15th.

4. Crews are wrapping up several projects this month. One of the largest was on Lemmon Drive. We held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for this important milestone less than three weeks ago.

Congressman Mark Amodei, Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve and Councilmembers Bonnie Weber, Devon Reese and others spoke at the event. He thanked everyone who played a role in making this project possible.

5. Sierra Nevada Construction just finished repaving Terminal Way from Plumb Lane to Mill Street. This was part of the \$6.5 million-dollar Preventive Maintenance Project. Its purpose is to keep good roads in good shape. The program will allow RTC to repave more than 150 lane-miles of regional roads in the Truckee Meadows.
6. Construction on Kings Row, California Avenue/Mayberry Drive and Mill Street are also set to wrap up this month.
7. Last week, RTC held a public meeting for the Arlington Avenue Bridges Project. A lot of positive input was received from the community. The survey is still open for people to give their ideas. Another way to participate is to head to Arlingtonbridges.com and click on the "Build-A-Bridge Tool." This allows people to see the different design options available.
8. The Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-off starts later this month. RTC Washoe is partnering with the Nugget Casino Resort to provide free transportation on our RAPID Lincoln Line and Route 11 transit services from Wednesday, August 31st through Monday, September 5th -- all day. RTC is looking forward to another great special event and encourages people to take transit.
9. At the RTC, safety is our top priority. That's why we are using transit to spread Vision Zero safety messaging. This month, in partnership with Vision Zero, the RTC installed safety messaging on 21 RTC buses. The messages remind drivers to slow down and yield to pedestrians. They're also a continuation of the RTC's #LockedEyesSaveLives pedestrian safety campaign.

In addition to the exterior bus advertising, the RTC also has #LockedEyesSaveLives messaging inside of the buses.

The advertising printing costs were paid by a mini-grant awarded by NDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. The RTC donated the advertising space on the buses.

Between January 1 and June 30, 2022, Washoe County has had three pedestrian fatalities. That's down 25% from the same time period in 2021. While Vision Zero's goal remains to have zero pedestrian fatalities by 2030, the committee is encouraged by the downward trend.

6.2 RTC Federal Report

E.D. Thomas mentioned that a written report was included in the agenda packet for this meeting and added that RTC had put in a RAISE grant for the Lemmon Valley Phase 2 project and did not receive it. Additionally, RTC had a request in for bus and bus facility funding that was not granted. However, Northern Nevada's federal representatives put in money from the Congressionally Directed Funds, so RTC can move forward with the project.

6.3 NDOT Director Report

Director Kristina Swallow gave her monthly presentation on the following topics: Traffic safety and substance involved fatalities, the SBX project and related tour that was held, updates on road projects in Incline Village and Pyramid Highway, an discussed a NDOT resilience program, the NDOT work program and STIP, transportation funding, and Justice40 requirements.

Item 7 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Lucey said he was disappointed to hear that the RAISE grant was not received after RTC Washoe has shown repeatedly that federal funds are put to good use. He wants to make sure that RTC is focusing on federal relationships and utilizing our lobbyists.

He wants alternative routes to be found going to the industrial centers and further east in order to provide some relief on I-80. He then expressed how wonderful it has been to work with Director Swallow and for all she's done for Northern Nevada.

Vice Chair Hartung asked if RTC is going to have any type of recognition done for Neoma Jardon given all the accomplishments she had while sitting on this Board.

E.D. Thomas responded that a recognition of some sort will be done in the next couple of months.

Item 8 PUBLIC INPUT

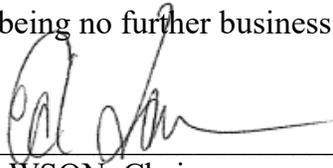
Chair Lawson opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on topics relevant to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) that are not included in the current agenda.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, local resident, addressed the Board to mention that the air conditioning does not work on a lot of the buses.

There being no one else 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 11:16 a.m.



ED LAWSON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

****Copies of all presentations are available by contacting Michelle Kraus at mkraus@rtcwashoe.com.**