

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

July 15, 2022

PRESENT:

**Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council Member, Chair
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks, Vice Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner
Hillary Shieve, Mayor of Reno (via telephone)
Bob Lucey, Washoe County Commissioner**

**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 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.

Mr. Mac Rossi, local resident, addressed the Board with a map to show the intersection of 7th and McCarran, which shows three streets all turning into a right-hand turn lane, there is also a bus stop in that turn lane. This is dangerous for drivers and a poor location for a (non-ADA) bus stop. He would like to see the bus stop moved just to the other side of the shopping center entrance so it won't interrupt the flow of traffic.

Ms. Dora Martinez, local resident, addressed the Board to say that the 4th Street Station has been changed all around so it is no longer familiar to sightless people, and the sign that shows where everything is does no good because it cannot be seen. She would like the RTC to ensure that the drivers are announcing their arrivals and departures to help vision impaired passengers find their way. Additionally, she would like RTC to bring back their ADA compatible app.

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

Item 3 *APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

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

Items 4.1 thru 4.11 CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

- 4.1 Approve Minutes of the June 17, 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*)

Engineering Department

- 4.7 Approve a contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., to provide design services and optional engineering during construction for the N. McCarran & Pyramid Hwy Fiber Connectivity project in an amount not-to-exceed \$275,080 (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.8 Approve a contract with Headway Transportation, LLC, to provide design services and optional engineering during construction for the Traffic Signal Installations 23-01 project in an amount not-to-exceed \$448,840 (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.9 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) to conduct a Before and After Study within the City of Reno's Micromobility Pilot Project on 5th Street and Virginia Street in downtown Reno in an amount not-to-exceed \$111,650 (*For Possible Action*)
- 4.10 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Civil Engineering Department, for the UNR Pavement/Materials Cooperative Research Program in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000 (*For Possible Action*)

Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.11 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with the Nevada Department of Transportation to provide funding to the RTC for the ED Pass Program in the amount of \$200,000 (*For Possible Action*)

On motion of Vice Chair Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that Consent Items 4.1 through 4.11 be approved.

Items 5.1 thru 5.2 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Update, discussion and potential direction to staff regarding legislative measures and issues being considered during the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature (*Informational Only*)

Mr. Michael Hillerby with Kaempfer Crowell gave a presentation about a potential bill draft request (BDR) the RTC is considering and issues related to the BDR that may come into question.

One recent topic of discussion has been school zone safety. Currently, speeding in a school zone is treated the same as any other speeding offense, so RTC would like the Legislature to pass enabling legislation for automated traffic enforcement, such as speed limit traffic cameras.

This legislation would be enabling only, which allows the jurisdictions to make their own decisions on implementing cameras or not. He then mentioned some of the issues with the camera use, such as data storage, who has access to the data, who enforces tickets, and how much would it cost overall.

He added that “red light camera” legislation, not specific to school zones, has been presented to the Legislation twice before and both times it failed due to similar concerns.

Upon conclusion, Mr. Hillerby offered to answer any questions.

Vice Chair Lawson said he is opposed to unfunded mandates in the City of Sparks. Although this would not be mandating legislation, there is a definite lack of trust between local political leaders and state political leaders, and the worry is that it would eventually become mandated.

Mayor Schieve agreed with Vice Chair Lawson and said if there is any help that Mr. Hillerby can provide to get additional funding for education and enforcement, it would be very much appreciated.

Mr. Hillerby said there is at least one legislator who is interested in increased fines for speeding in a school zone.

Chair Jardon is also concerned about funding mandates and creating public shame instead of fines. However, she is also open to any other possible solutions that may be provided.

E.D. Thomas said that based on Commissioner comments, the RTC is not going to be out in front of this or champion it if it comes up, but will support it.

5.2 Approve the FY 2023-2027 Transit Optimization Plan Strategies Plan (TOPS) (*For Possible Action*)

Chair Jardon opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on this topic.

Ms. Donna Clontz, representing Age Friendly Reno and the Washoe Sr. Advisory Board, addressed the Board in support of the TOPS Plan and agrees with most all of the changes included in the plan.

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

Mr. Jim Gee, Manager of Service Planning and Innovation, said that the TOPS plan (Plan) is the 5-year transportation plan. He went on to say that there was an extensive amount of involvement by the public with over 1,800 survey responses. Additionally, the requests from the Board at their retreat have made have been implemented in the Plan).

He then reviewed in detail the changes included in the Plan and how the Covid-19 pandemic has effected passenger riding habits and behaviors. A comparison of RTC Washoe with with peers around the country were also made to see how other communities have made similar changes and whether they succeeded or not.

The Plan also includes financial sustainability, strategies of how to attract new riders, and how to better get passengers to the BRT systems. Education is extremely important and RTC has started with an educational push at UNR and student ridership has increased significantly.

The ultimate goal is to make taking public transit as easy as possible using new technologies, such as the implementation of a universal app. This is very important to younger riders.

The ultimate goal is to match the best type of service for expected ridership requirements, whether that is a fixed route, FlexRIDE or another means.

Upon conclusion, Mr. Gee offered to answer any questions.

E.D. Thomas thanked Mr. Gee and the rest of the team for putting together this Plan.

Commissioner Lucey said this is a phenomenal improvement over previous years and believes the technical part of it is very important, such as the universal app and being a digitally based program.

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the FY 2023-2027 Transit Optimization Plan Strategies plan (TOPS) be approved.

Item 6.1 PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- 6.1 Conduct a public hearing on potential service changes as recommended by the FY 2023-2027 Transit Optimization Plan Strategies (TOPS) document for RTC RIDE (Routes 2S, 3CC, 5, 9, 13, 15, and 19), FlexRIDE (service areas), ACCESS (changes to reservation hours) and other transportation programs (Washoe Senior Ride program and Uber Rides program); approve the recommended service changes (*For Possible Action*)

- a. Staff presentation
- b. Public hearing
- c. Action

Prior to the presentation, and this being a public hearing, Chair Jardon opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak.

Ms. Donna Clontz, representing Age Friendly Reno and the Washoe Sr. Advisory Board, addressed the Board and suggested that the TOPS plan be presented more often to the senior community. She also has a concern that Route 6 should not be included in the cancellations until there is something to replace it. The senior community is very interested in the FlexRIDE program.

Mr. Mac Rossi, local resident, addressed the Board to speak on another project, North McCarran, where Leadership and Keystone come into it. The concern is that the only way out of the large community in that area is to turn right on McCarran, which is 50 mph and is not safe. He is asking for help from the entities to make it safer.

Ms. Dora Martinez, local resident, addressed the Board to express her concern over the cancellation of Routed 15 because it goes to WinCo grocery store and doesn't understand how well FlexRIDE will work when there are many families riding with their groceries, family members, etc. She suggested to put back the "shoppers route" that existed a few years ago as an alternative.

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

Mr. Jim Gee then gave a presentation regarding the recommendation to change, cancel or reroute specific routes as recommended by the FY 2023-2027 Transit Optimization Plan Strategies (TOPS) document, as set forth in the briefing materials for this agenda item. Upon conclusion, he offered to answer any questions. There were none.

On motion of Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Jardon ordered that the recommended service changes be approved as presented.

Items 7.1 thru 7.3 REPORTS

7.1 RTC Executive Director Report

1. E.D. Thomas welcomed two new RTC employees:

- Chris Benham, Procurement and Contracts Analyst in the RTC's Finance Department started on June 20th; and
- Sheila Fouts, Customer Service Associate in the RTC's Public Transportation Department started on July 11th.

2. The RTC is seeking community input on our proposed Mill Street Widening Project. We're proposing improvements on Mill Street between Kietzke Lane and Terminal Way. To learn more about these improvements, and to watch a brief video presentation, please visit MillStreetWidening.com. The RTC is accepted comments through August 11.
3. The RTC is encouraging the community to provide input on the City of Reno's "The Future of Virginia Street" survey, which is now live. The survey is collecting data about the community's current Virginia Street experience. The data will be used to develop a draft vision and set of goals as part of the Virginia Street Placemaking Study. To learn more and take the survey, please visit Reno.gov/Engage.
4. If you're heading to our region's special events this summer, RTC encourages you to take transit. In partnership with Hot August Nights, the RTC will provide free transportation on the RAPID Virginia Line, RAPID Lincoln Line, Route 1, and Route 11 transit services beginning Tuesday, August 2nd, through Sunday, August 7th, all day, each day. Plan your trip at rtcwashoe.com.
5. The RTC received an updated TSA score for Baseline Assessment and Security Enhancement (BASE) review in June. The RTC received an overall score of 96% on the BASE review, up from RTC's 2018 overall score of 92%. The BASE review evaluates 17 categories of security and emergency preparedness action items identified as fundamentals for a sound transit security program. The TSA recognized RTC for its commitment and hard work in achieving improved BASE review results.

7.2 RTC Federal Report

E.D. Thomas mentioned that a written report was included in the agenda packet for this meeting and mentioned that the congressionally designated projects are progressing. RTC put one in for the Lemmon Drive and one for a bus facility at Sutro.

7.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Director Kristina Swallow gave a presentation and spoke on the following topics:

Traffic Safety – which included:

- Washoe County Traffic Safety
- Speed Related Crashes
- Fatality Rate by Race/Ethnicity
- Motorcycle Safety
- Speeding Related Citations, followed by next steps

She then provided updates on the Advisory Working Group, the SBX Project and Pyramid Highway.

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Lucey made a request on behalf of the Washoe County Commission about the increase in fuel tax going into place on July 1. Commissioner Jung is asking the RTC to consider the possibility of free transit during the hot summer months.

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.

Ms. Donna Clontz addressed the Board and suggested a timeframe of meetings for future transit updates be provided on a regular basis. She also mentioned that there is no information about how to take a bus at the Reno airport and would like to see something installed. Lastly, she would like to see more marketing to seniors regarding FlexRIDE.

Ms. Lori Rodriguez, local resident, addressed the Board to request the free-ride service from the North Valleys to downtown be put back into place with a pick-up location one local stop rather than having multiple stops like a normal route.

Ms. Dora Martinez, local resident, addressed the Board and thanked NDOT Director Swallow for her staff's expedience in taking care of an issue she had reported. She also thanked the ADA representative from Sparks for all of his help and complimented Jon Erickson for always being so accommodating.

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 10:46 a.m.

NEOMA JARDON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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