

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

September 16, 2022

PRESENT:

**Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks, Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner, Vice Chair
Hillary Shieve, Mayor of Reno
Alexis Hill, Washoe County Commissioner (Alternate)
Bonnie Weber, Reno City Council Member (Alternate)**

**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 in the Chambers of the Washoe County Commission, 1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada, was called to order by Chair Lawson. The Board conducted the following business:

Item 1 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. Roll Call
- 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3. Special Recognitions
 - Congratulations to MTM Employee of the Month - Ms. Shiree Parenti
 - Congratulations to Keolis Employee of the Month - Ms. Dana Nelson

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. Matt Berns, local resident, addressed the Board to tell his experience with attempting to use RTC RIDE to the Balloon Races. Apparently, routes were detoured without notice and the people waiting at 4th STREET STATION were not picked up at all. Mr. Berns then drove to the Balloon Races, had to park ½ mile away and completely missed the opening ceremonies.

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

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Executive Director Thomas requested that Item 6.2 be pulled from the agenda and it will be moved to a future meeting.

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

Items 4.1 thru 4.12 CONSENT ITEMS

4.1. Reports

- 4.1.1. Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.1.2. Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.1.3. Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation and Operations Report *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.1.4. Acknowledge receipt of the Summary Report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.1.5. Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report *(For Possible Action)*

4.2. Planning Department

- 4.2.1. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Reno Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) for coordination on the preservation of an easement for potential construction of the Lemmon Valley-Spanish Springs Connector *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.2.2. Authorize a request for proposals for a consultant to develop the Active Transportation Plan *(For Possible Action)*

4.3. Engineering Department

- 4.3.1. Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with NDOT for Phase 1 of the Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connector Project to authorize additional federal funds for construction *(For Possible Action)*
- 4.3.2. Authorize a request for proposals (RFP) for the selection of a consultant to perform a feasibility study and provide preliminary design, environmental analysis, final design, and design support during construction for the Keystone Bridge Project *(For Possible Action)*

4.4. Public transportation/Operations Department

- 4.4.1. Approve a contract with New Flyer for the purchase of two (2) hydrogen fuel cell buses utilizing the State of Washington's Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for Transit Buses Master Contract No. 06719, in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,449,601 *(For Possible Action)*

4.5. Executive, Administrative and Finance Department

- 4.5.1. Adopt the Local Government Records Management Program Manual (2018) from Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records, and any future manual updates, as RTC's program for the management of records (*For Possible Action*)

On motion of Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Lawson ordered that Consent Items 4.1.1 through 4.5.1 be approved.

Item 5 PUBLIC HEARING

- 5.1. Conduct a public hearing regarding approval of Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2021-2025 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP); adopt a resolution approving Amendment No. 3 to the RTIP (*For Possible Action*)
 - a. Staff presentation
 - b. Public hearing
 - c. Action

Mr. Graham Dollarhide, RTC Senior Technical Planner, addressed the Board and provided an overview of the RTIP, which is a federally required document, along with documents related to the RTIP.

He then listed the projects being added to the RTIP and what their purposes are. The project names are included in the back-up materials for this agenda item. There was no air quality analysis required because none of the projects add capacity. A public comment period was held from September 9-15, 2022, and no comments were received. RTC's Advisory Committees both recommended Board approval.

Vice Chair Hartung asked if the Lemmon Valley Project, Phase 2 isn't a capacity project.

Mr. Dollarhide responded that the project no longer involves widening of the roadway but still includes the stormwater improvements.

Mr. Dale Keller, RTC Director of Engineering, then addressed the Board to explain that the widening portion was removed due to a lack of funding as RTC did not receive the RAISE grant applied for on this project. In the future, the widening may go forward should federal funding become available.

Vice Chair Hartung still believes this project is not going far enough out and said it has always been considered a 4-lane widening project.

Mr. Keller said there were actions that were requested for project, the first was to federalize the project, so with that change, federal funding must be obtained.

The second action was to add the project to the 2050 RTP for a clarification of an item. He offered to meet separately with any of the Commissioners if they would like more detail.

Vice Chair Hartung requested that the project eventually be extended.

Chair Lawson asked what the timeline is for the project.

Mr. Keller responded that the project is split into Package 1 and Package 2. Package 1 is the final design, so that must be completed to get additional funding before Package 2 can move forward.

Commissioner Weber said she would like to be included in future conversations.

This being a public hearing, Chair Lawson opened the meeting up to public comment.

There being no one wishing to speak, Chair Lawson closed public comment.

On motion of Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Lawson ordered that Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2021-2025 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) be approved and a resolution approving Amendment No. 3 to the RTIP be adopted.

Item 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1. Acknowledge receipt of a report regarding the RTC Vanpool program (For Possible Action)

Mr. Mark Maloney, RTC Director of Public Transportation and Operations, addressed the Board and reminded them that they had previously asked how the RTC supports our residents in the areas of increasing fuel costs and to create trip reductions. He then introduced Mr. Scott Miklos, RTC Trip Reduction Analyst, who gave a presentation on the RTC Smart Trips program, which includes ride sharing – different from ride hailing, such as Uber or Lyft. The Vanpool Program is included in the Smart Trips program and Mr. Miklos stated that RTC currently has 347 vanpools and it's growing daily, he then went on to explain how the program is used.

The federal requirements state that a Commuter Highway Vehicle must seat at least six adults, not including the driver, and at least 80% of the fuel use must be for the transporting of employees from their residence to their place of employment. Commuters may also be picked up at a central location, such as shopping centers, strip malls, or park and ride facilities, but Reno does not have many park and rides in the region.

The cost of the vanpool is paid for by the employees or the company, or it may be a shared expense. The vanpools can be subsidized using 50% of pre-tax federal funds. RTC does subsidize a portion of each vanpool using a variety of available funds, and the subsidy is based on monthly mileage. Additionally, vehicle revenue miles must be reported to Commute with Enterprise, who RTC partners with in this program, then Commute with Enterprise enters the information into the National Transit Database.

Mr. Miklos then provided a map showing where all of the vanpools are currently going. As of July 2022, the number of annual trips reduced this year in our region is just under a half million trips and the annual miles driven has been reduced by 17 million miles. These numbers are continuously growing as well.

According to the National Transit Database, the RTC of Washoe County has the 6th most Vanpool ridership in the nation. The program is increasing every month which is important because for revenue vehicle mile driven, the RTC gets a little over 40 cents back, and that is supposed to go up to 60 cents per mile in the near future. Upon conclusion, Mr. Miklos offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Hill said there are numerous businesses in the Incline Village area that are considering utilizing the RTC Vanpool Program.

Mr. Miklos said the great thing is that it's a month-to-month lease, so no one is stuck with a van for a long period of time. If a business tries it for one month and it doesn't work for their needs, they can turn the van in and be done with the program.

Commissioner Weber asked if just one person is the driver or can others drive too.

Mr. Miklos said there is generally a main driver with a couple of back-up drivers, all run through the Commute with Enterprise background check.

Commissioner Weber then asked if they are required to purchase fuel in Washoe County.

Mr. Miklos said he would have to check into that.

Vice Chair Hartung asked if there is a plug-in module, such as the insurance companies use, that tracks driver behavior. He's seen Vanpool drivers speeding or driving erratically.

Mr. Miklos said he does not believe they have that module, but if anyone sees that type of driver behavior, they should get the license plate number and call the number on the van. RTC will provide the information to Commute with Enterprise, who will then call the driver to discuss. If enough complaints come in about a particular driver, the RTC has the option to withhold subsidies for a period of time.

This item was informational only and no Board action was taken.

- 6.2. Update, discussion, and potential direction to staff regarding legislative issues being reviewed by the Nevada Sustainable Transportation Funding Study for the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature (*Informational Only*)
(Item pulled as noted in Item 3)

Items 7.1 thru 7.3 REPORTS

7.1 RTC Executive Director Report

1. We are happy to welcome the newest member of the RTC family. Sara Going gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Tuesday. Ronnie Anne Bell Going is seven pounds, two ounces -- and 19-and-half inches long. She's named after Sara's dad. Both mom and baby are doing well.
2. I am pleased to announce one milestone anniversary. Adam Spear will mark five years, working with RTC on October 2nd.
3. We also have a retirement coming up. Blaine Petersen has been with the RTC for 15 years as a Traffic Engineer and Project Manager. He has been the leading advocate for Intelligent Transportation Systems – including the coordination of signal timing and ITS fiber network. His last day is October 7th. We wish Blaine all the best in the future.
4. I am extremely proud of our Finance team. Thanks to their hard work, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada awarded the RTC with a prestigious award. The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. This accomplishment is a result of our annual financial report for the fiscal year that ended June 30th, 2021. Great job by our very talented finance team!
5. Construction on the Mill Street Complete Street Project wrapped up just a few weeks ago. The \$5.5 million-dollar project made a lot of improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and drivers between Terminal Way and McCarran Boulevard. We added sidewalks and lighting on both sides of the street. We also corrected some ADA deficient bus stops. Of course, the Mill Street Widening Project between Kietzke and Terminal is slated to get underway in the next couple of years.
6. This will be the second straight weekend of roadway detours on Sparks Boulevard for paving. The RTC will continue to provide free FlexRIDE service for pedestrians to safely cross I-80 between Greg Street and Lincoln Way through December of this year.
7. The RTC is always looking at ways to enhance its transit services. Six routes have new schedules. We added TMCC to the North Valleys FlexRIDE service area August 20th to coincide with the start of the fall semester. We standardized reservation hours from 8 to 5, seven days a week for ACCESS/Senior RIDE Services and FlexRIDE. These changes are the first of many upcoming improvements to RTC's transit system based on community recommendations as part of the Transit Optimization Plans Strategies – known as TOPS. The changes will happen over the next five years as funding and staffing allow.
8. Last weekend, the RTC provided free transportation for the Great Reno Balloon Race along the RAPID Virginia Line. The service ran every 15 minutes between 4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.. It ran between the Reno-Sparks Convention Center and Rancho San Rafael Park. We offered a similar service two weeks ago for the rib cook-off. We always encourage members of our community to use public transit.

9. The Federal Transit Administration has approved the retirement of four BE-35 Proterra electric buses, nearly four years early. The RTC was one of the first to procure these buses, back in 2014, thanks to FTA TIGGER grant funds. We used the buses on our Sierra Spirit route. EV transit technology is much better now than it was, eight years ago. That provides easier maintenance and better range between charges. The FTA approval allows us to begin the process of replacing them with the more dependable ZX-5 model.
10. The Washoe County Human Services Agency, the RTC, KOLO 8 News Now, and Target are hosting the 2022 Children in Care Stuff a Bus Drive-By Donation Drive on Thursday, October 20.

Staff will be collecting new, winter clothes from noon to 6 p.m., for more than 800 children in care. H-S-A will distribute the donations to foster and adopted children at the HSA Family Engagement Center throughout the next several months. The community is asked to drive by and drop off donations at the RTC bus in front of the Target in Sparks, near Legends Mall on East Lincoln Way. Brand new clothing items needed include jackets, coats, gloves, socks, blankets, sweatpants, boots, beanies, hooded sweatshirts, and gift cards.

7.2 RTC Federal Report

A written report is included in the agenda packet for this meeting.

Mr. Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Manager, addressed the Board and added that RTC has put in an application to the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program for the maximum amount of \$50 million dollars. The RTC has pinpointed locations all over the region where these funds will be spent if received.

Mr. Nelson also said the RTC is also looking forward to receiving federal grant funding for the US-395 Widening Project in the North Valleys and other grant possibilities are continuously being looked into.

7.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Deputy Director Cole Mortensen gave the monthly report pertaining to traffic safety, the grant funding previously mentioned by Paul Nelson, the new 511 system which will have live updates to road conditions in the state, trip planning, etc., and push notifications will be available. Additionally, NDOT will receive up to \$101 million in additional obligation from the FHWA redistribution program. Lastly, he gave a brief update on the SBX Project activities.

Commissioner Weber asked why the Parr Boulevard overpass is included in the plan for the US-395 Widening Project.

Mr. Mortensen replied that it was in the original plans and then NDOT decided to jump ahead and get that portion completed and out of the way in advance.

Commissioner Weber then asked about the timeline for US-395, from McCarran to Golden Valley.

Mr. Mortensen said construction is anticipated to begin in May 2023. Any additional funding that comes in will go to Phase 2 of the project and, in answer to another question from Commissioner Weber, the project is not going all the way to Red Rock.

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Hill would like follow-up on the Balloon Race transit incident.

Vice Chair Hartung would like to see the Pyramid/Lemmon Drive Connector be added as a future RTIP Amendment. He would also like to see additional FlexRIDEs added to Spanish Springs.

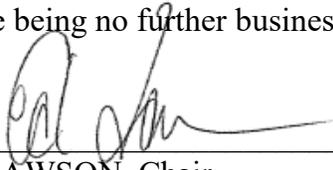
Item 9 PUBLIC INPUT

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.

There being no one 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 10:19 a.m.



ED LAWSON, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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