

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**FRIDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

**October 21, 2022**

**PRESENT:**

**Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks, Chair  
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County Commissioner, Vice Chair  
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno  
Bonnie Weber, Reno City Council Member (Alternate)  
Alexis Hill, Washoe County Commissioner (arrived at 9:20)**

**Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director  
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel  
Darin Tedford, Deputy Director of NDOT**

The regular monthly meeting, held in the Chambers of the Washoe County Commission, 1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> 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
  - 1.3.1 Proclamation - Recognizing Neoma Jardon for her efforts as former RTC Chair

A brief video was shown on Neoma Jardon. Upon conclusion, Executive Director Bill Thomas read into the record a proclamation for Neoma Jaron, listing her many substantial accomplishments during her 9 years serving on the RTC Board, and on behalf of Mayor Ed Lawson, Chair of the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, designating October 21, 2022, as Neoma Jardon day.

Ms. Jardon thanked everyone for this honor and expressed gratitude for the incredible people she's made life long friends with and the positive impacts within the community they've accomplished.

The commissioners then gave their individual congratulations and warmest regards to Ms. Jardon.

At 9:10 a.m. a short recess was called by Vaughn Hartung to have photos taken with the Commissioners and Neoma Jardon.

At 9:12 a.m. Chair Lawson called back to order the Board meeting.

- 1.3.2 Congratulations to Keolis Employee of the Month - Mrs. Cheryl Player
- 1.3.3 Congratulations to MTM Employee of the Month - Mr. Tommie Paris

**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. CJ Rogers, local resident and grad student at UNR, addressed the Board to express his concerns with the level of service on the Virginia Line Route. The bus is running anywhere from 5 minutes to 40 minutes late, and the trackers on the buses don't always work. It's been happening more frequently from mid-September to present. During the period of September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup>, the 8:30 p.m. bus from Lawlor Station only arrived on 3 of the 8 days. There were no service alerts or emails about the delays. There are a lot of riders waiting on buses, that don't know what is happening.

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

**Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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.

**Items 4.1 thru 4.5 CONSENT ITEMS**

**4.1 Minutes**

- 4.1.1. Approve 08/19/22 Draft Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)
- 4.1.2. Approve 09/16/22 Draft Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)
- 4.1.3. Approve 10/13/22 Draft Special Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)

**4.2. Reports**

- 4.2.1. Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.2. Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.3. Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.4. Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation and Operations Report (For Possible Action)

**4.3. Planning Department**

- 4.3.1. Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno, for the Multimodal Traffic Data LiDAR Study and Analysis, in the amount of \$100,000 (For Possible Action)

**4.4. Engineering Department**

- 4.4.1. Approve a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., to provide design services and optional engineering during construction for the Sparks Intelligent Corridor (IC) project on Sparks Boulevard and Vista Boulevard in an amount not to exceed \$780,625 (For Possible Action)

- 4.4.2. Approve a contract with Nichols Consulting Engineers, CHTD., to provide design services and optional engineering during construction for the North Virginia Street University Rehab Project, in an amount not to exceed \$478,819.50 (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.3. Approve a contract with Eastern Sierra Engineering to provide design services and optional engineering during construction for the Stanford Way Rehabilitation Project from Greg Street to Glendale Avenue in an amount not to exceed \$451,635 (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.4. Approve the proposed sale of a remnant parcel acquired in connection with the Moana Lane Widening Project (APN# 020-051-02) to an adjoining property owner and adopt a resolution required by NRS 277A.255(1)(b) (For Possible Action)

**4.5. Executive, Administrative and Finance Department**

- 4.5.1. Approve revenue contract with State of Nevada allowing the Department of Public Health - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to purchase bus passes from RTC (For Possible Action)
- 4.5.2. Approve a contract with Kaempfer Crowell, LTD, for Nevada government affairs services in an amount not-to-exceed \$65,000 per year for two years (For Possible Action)

On motion of Commissioner Schieve, seconded by Vice Chair Hartung, which motion carried unanimously, Chair Lawson ordered that Consent Items 4.1 through 4.5 be approved.

***Item 5.1 thru 5.3 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS***

**5.1. Acknowledge receipt of a report on the update to the Vision Zero Truckee Meadows Action Plan and RTC Transportation Safety Program (For Possible Action)**

Dan Doenges, Director of Planning presented to the Board an update to the Vision Zero Truckee Meadows Action Plan and how RTC has helped in supporting that effort.

Mr. Doenges said that Vision Zero Truckee Meadows is a community wide effort with participation from everyone from the Federal Highway Administration, NDOT, partners with the City of Reno, partners with the City of Sparks, Washoe County and law enforcement. The RTC got involved to better position ourselves as a Region and to apply for recent Safe Streets for All Grant application, to fund safety improvements within the Region with the Safe System Approach, to try to make the roads safe for all users.

There is a presentation included in the back-up materials for this agenda item.

Commissioner Alexis Hill asked if the High Injury Network map could be enlarged and sent to her, so she can see the high injury network in Verdi. It is a complaint I've been hearing in my district and it would help provide more support for traffic analysis in that area.

Mr. Doenges will send out an enlarged map to all the Commissioners.

Vice Chair Hartung said it would be interesting to find out what that crash data really looks like, i.e. vehicle to vehicle, vehicle to bicycle, vehicle to pedestrian. That will help us in our planning process, even at our local levels, to make those areas safer.

Chair Lawson opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on Item 5.1. There being no one wishing to speak, the Chair closed public input for Item 5.1.

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

**5.2. 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)**

Travis Dunn with CDM Smith, part of the consulting team that is supporting the Advisory Working Group on sustainable transportation funding strategies, presented a presentation, which is included in the back-up materials for this agenda item.

Mr. Dunn discussed the primary source of transportation funding in Nevada, as well as nationally and in Washoe County is taxation of motor fuels. He discussed how over the next 18 years, as consumers increasingly adopt electric and zero emission vehicles, we are expecting to see a continued erosion of revenues from motor fuel taxation. Our estimates for this study show about 50% on a per mile basis over the next 18 years.

Legislature enacted AB413 in 2021, which directed the creation of this Advisory Working Group. The primary objective of the group is to study sustainable long-term funding strategies or mechanisms to replace motor fuel taxes, as a long-term source of reliable funding for highways and other modes of transportation.

Vice Chair Hartung would like the Advisory Working Group to discuss how the taxes will be paid, paying at the pump versus having a flat tax or GST. A flat tax will be a hardship on most people, and also how would you administrate and enforce it? Also, how would all of this affect the gas tax that is dedicated to bonds? It's very important to put it on the record.

Mr. Dunn said this has come up here, as well as other States. I think an important feature of the Advisory Working Group recommendation is that they do not recommend removing the fuel tax, as it is still a very important revenue source for at least the next decade or two. That is how outstanding Bonds will be serviced for that time period. However, eventually the fuel tax will degrade in its ability to generate revenue, because of decreasing fuel consumption. The other mechanisms identified are designed to adjust for that decline and potentially in a future bonding scenario.

Commissioner Hill asked if the quarter charge in urbanized areas is constitutionally allowed in Nevada?

Mr. Dunn stated that one of the important principles that became part of the recommendation package was to ensure that any State efforts to change transportation funding mechanisms, or increase existing mechanisms, is already happening at the local level.

E.D. Thomas wanted to highlight that the way this study committee is put together, RTC Washoe is invited as a designated participant, so my obligation representing this Board and this Agency expanded to Washoe County, City of Reno and the City of Sparks.

Mr. Thomas said one issues is how are we going to replace a diminishing revenue source for a continuing need that is only growing? I brought the idea to the table of doing a flat fee, at least in the interim, as it would capture some money for electric vehicles, because they are paying nothing right now.

That particular strategy is going to be very difficult and the one thing I saw, which I'm glad to see what the Group did, was to really focus on the Utah model. Utah is kind of approaching from the standpoint that you can't just turn a switch on and off on this. This is going to be transitional, which is probably going to take many years to put up.

To answer all the questions you're talking about, like when do people pay? Can you have them pay every month? Can you pay daily, etc., so it is something that is within the budget of the people. I wanted to share this and put on the record, which we did, is that most of the focus right now is on the State-wide shortage. As Travis said, we have a very good system here, because of the wisdom of leadership and more importantly the voters. The voters twice voted to put an index on themselves, and I think what came out of this was an awareness by other Counties. Other counties don't have anything like this and I was hoping, and I saw that it was captured, that this kind of issue gets talked about the rest State wide. My belief is that if the State supports gaps in County funding, and we're one of only two counties that has an index, what does the future hold for us, who as voters have decided to tax themselves more?

Vice Chair Hartung stated for the record on Mr. Thomas' point, I think this is a possibility, especially for electric vehicles, and potentially hybrids. If we say we're going to increase GST, maybe we attach it to the same way that local taxes are paid on a lease. Instead of collecting that money from the person each month, it gets paid in your lease payment. Then it's distributed as part of those taxes that a bank would normally send to the Nevada Department of Taxation and they would distributed to the jurisdictions. Or through the payment itself, if it's not a lease, it's just a car payment, same scenario where you are making payments on a monthly basis, and if the person is fortunate enough to be able to cut a check for their vehicle and buy it outright, then it becomes a lump sum when they register their vehicle. Just some thoughts and concepts of how that money can be collected each month.

Chair Lawson said he talked to Mr. Dunn the other day, and for him, we need to not reinvent the wheel. When you plug in your vehicle, you're paying the tax. Just like when you put the pump in your vehicle, you're paying the tax at that time. We get into all these complicated formulas and I'm the least in favor of a GST, because it does hit the most vulnerable population. If you've registered a vehicle, your GST is higher than your registration in every case, which is not productive. This is a complicated issue and it's going to be in the State Legislature. So, you have

120 days and 1900 bills, this is one we will have to watch very closely, because it could go south in a heartbeat. Thank you for your time.

Chair Lawson opened the meeting to public input and called on anyone wishing to speak on Item 5.2. There being no one wishing to speak, the Chair closed public input for Item 5.2.

### **5.3. Acknowledge receipt of a report on the status of the McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study (For Possible Action)**

Dan Doenges, Director of Planning presented an overview on the McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study with a PowerPoint presentation, which is included in the back-up materials for this agenda item. This is something that we partnered with NDOT on. They approached us to help lead the study and they are funding it, which is much appreciated. McCarran Boulevard is completely owned and operated by NDOT.

An overview of the purpose and need of this study is to identify regional vision for corridor operations to develop a blueprint for project implementation, reach consensus and alignment of project prioritization and acknowledge land use challenges and opportunities. The landscape is quite varied along the loop, so we are trying to get ahead of things and come to common vision in terms of transportation needs with the overall vision of the corridor.

In spring 2022, we did our initial public outreach, which was very successful. We had a virtual meeting platform, as well as an online survey and interactive map where people could leave comments. The top three concerns that we heard from the public were traffic congestion, crashes and speeding, and the need for more safe places to walk and bicycle.

We've identified needs for both vehicles, as well as multi modal, and intersection improvements. We analyzed both existing and forecast traffic conditions, so we have an idea of the level of service we might need 20 years down the road.

Commissioner Schieve asked if you have reached out to our patrol officers in Reno and/or Sparks? In speaking with Reno officers, they had a lot of data and information. I think it would be critical to connect with them, which I am happy to help with. There are also some landscaping issues.

Dan Doenges said we've worked with the local staff in terms of our advisory committees, but haven't had a great law enforcement presence, so we can certainly follow up and reach out.

Commissioner Schieve said she would like to sit down with Dan Doenges and go over the issues, so it is on our radar. We would be happy to push some of the surveys you've done through our channels, like we just did with the Bike Pilot project.

Bill Thomas added that one of the biggest challenges on McCarran Boulevard is that it is our ring road, and people use this road as the alternative to the freeway. So, it has a very significant regional purpose, which is a challenge for all of you, because you represent not only the region but also the individual people who live next to it. The biggest challenge on this road is one step below a freeway, if it doesn't function, the consequences are that other roads throughout the community feel the impacts.

Commissioner Hill said that Mayor Schieve brought up a good point, I just want to make sure we are reaching out to other partners like TMBA, who advocate for bicycle infrastructure. Mayor Lawson and I were interviewed by TMBA yesterday, and we brought up the fact the e-bikes have changed the game as far as more people getting out. Thank you so much for tackling this.

Vice Chair Hartung asked if we have traffic counts and times from Pyramid to El Rancho that we can see? The new Hug High School has dramatically affected Pyramid Highway to Sullivan/El Rancho, and it has changed the nature of surrounding roads like Wedekind, which is a country road. If you go through Wedekind in the afternoon when school lets out, the traffic backs up all the way from El Rancho to Sullivan on Wedekind. The entire section of road heading west is filled with cars. I'm hopeful that we can increase the capacity on McCarran.

Chair Lawson would like to see a synchronization of the lights on McCarran Boulevard for better traffic flow.

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

### ***Items 6.1 thru 6.3 REPORTS***

#### **6.1 RTC Executive Director Report**

1. Last month, the RTC and the City of Reno hosted a community meeting to discuss the Holcomb Avenue Rehabilitation Project, between Burns and Liberty Streets. Residents had the opportunity to ask questions and learn from our project team members. This project is part of RTC's annual Pavement Preservation and Rehabilitation Program. That includes rehabbing some existing asphalt roadways and replacement of some concrete and non-ADA pedestrian ramps, road-restriping and reconfiguring the Holcomb-Sinclair intersection. The city is also proposing to modify the road configuration to provide additional buffer for bike lanes. Construction is scheduled to start next spring.
2. The Vision Zero Truckee Meadows Task Force is reminding residents to be on the lookout for pedestrians. It's getting dark, earlier, and the clocks will fall back in just a couple of weeks. Nevada statistics show that 70 percent of pedestrian fatalities occur when it's dark outside. The #Dusk2DawnNV Campaign prompts the community to take extra roadway precautions to reduce pedestrian deaths to zero. The RTC is also teaming up with the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce to conduct a Distracted Driving Campaign. That will run from October 30<sup>th</sup> through November 6<sup>th</sup>.
3. On October 20th, the RTC partnered with KOLO 8 News Now and Target to collect winter clothing for foster children. The "Children in Care Stuff a Bus Drive-By Donation Drive at the Legends Target was another successful event. We collected jackets, coats, sweatshirts and other cold-weather clothing and gift cards for more than 800 kids who could use the community's support. We are proud to be a part of this very worthwhile event. Thank you to everyone who participated.
4. The RTC will offer free transit on Election Day for anyone who needs a ride to a polling place. That's Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Voting is one of our most fundamental rights, and we

know how important it is for people to participate in the process. Also, Veterans Day is on November 11th. The RTC will honor our veterans and active military by providing free transit services for everyone on this holiday. Thank you to all of the men and women who served -- and those who are still serving our country.

5. On Tuesday, the RTC held a press conference regarding our participation in the Safe Space Program. This is a valuable service for our vulnerable youth populations that deal with a number of issues and conflicts. We are partnering with Children's Cabinet, Eddy House and Keolis North America to remind the public of available support services. Northern Nevada has 59 active locations for individuals to go, in addition to all McDonald's restaurants, and the RTC's 120 buses and vans, and more than 11-hundred bus stops. Anyone who requests safety may receive it at any of these locations.
6. I would like to note that our next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m., due to scheduling conflicts.

## **6.2 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 noted that the RTC was not successful in receiving a Grant for the North Valleys Lemon Drive Project. Though, we did learn that we can improve our chances in the next round of applications by providing more data for crash outlooks, safety and environmental sustainability.

Mr. Nelson also noted we are looking at other funding opportunities, including the Protect Grant, that deals with Environmental Sustainability.

## **6.3 NDOT Director Report**

NDOT Deputy Director Darin Tedford gave a presentation and spoke on the following topics:

Traffic Safety – which included:

- October is National Pedestrian Safety month
- Nevada Traffic Safety Summit in Sparks
- Fatality Rate by Race/Ethnicity
- Motorcycle Safety
- Winter Weather Conditions and Safety

Mr. Tedford spoke about their Maintenance Academy where 200 team members learned about accident investigations, emergency planning, traffic incident management and much more. Highway Maintenance Worker 1's through 3's with 136 awards for being accident free on the job. Additional awards will be handed out to Worker 4's, supervisor 1's and 2's and Managers in November at the next Maintenance Academy in Las Vegas.

He then provided updates on FY22 Funding & Program Highlights, the Nevada Infrastructure Summit, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan, and the SBX Project.

**Item 7            COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

Commissioner Hill announced that on November 16<sup>th</sup>, we are hosting an Incline Village in Crystal Bay Transportation Summit, which Amy Cummings will be leading, and it will be at the Parasol Building at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hill had the privilege of being on a NDOT Safety Summit Legislative Panel with Mayor Lawson and learned about Local Road Safety Plans for communities. She would like to get a presentation on that on how the County and Cities can take advantage those plans and grants. She also asked when was the last time that we did a Public Transit Audit? Have we done a Peer comparison recently or may I see the last one we did?

Vice Chair Hartung spoke about the comments we heard on the Virginia Line bus service, and it not being reliable. I don't know what the reasons are for the delays and/or buses not showing up, but we need to get this on the agenda and have this conversation.

Bill Thomas stated we do have an app and we do track this information. We want people to use this, so it has to be reliable and we will look into what is going on. Reliability is a key driver for us and working with Keolis.

Commissioner Weber asked if we could get a report from NDOT on the cleaning up the 395 Corridors and how that happens, if it happens and if it is on a schedule?

Commissioner Hill stated, this is why she asked for the Public Transit Audit, because we have some opportunity to learn how to better our service.

Chair Lawson stated that Commissioner Hill would need to direct that question to Mr. Thomas and then he could get with Ms. Weber privately or bring it back to the Board.

**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.

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 10:44 a.m.

  
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ED LAWSON, Chair  
Regional Transportation Commission

**\*\*Copies of all presentations are available by contacting Michelle Kraus at [mkraus@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:mkraus@rtcwashoe.com).**