

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

July 18, 2025

PRESENT:

**Alexis Hill, Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Sajid Sulahria, Deputy Director of NDOT (Alternate)**

ABSENT:

**Devon Reese, Vice Chair, Reno City Council
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno
Tracy Larkin Thomason, Director of NDOT**

The regular monthly meeting, held in the 1st Floor Great Room at Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Reno, Nevada, was called to order by Chair Hill. The Board conducted the following business:

Item 1 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Hill opened the public comment period.

Dora Martinez, local resident, expressed appreciation for accessibility improvements at the Mae Anne and McCarran bus stop. She raised concerns regarding the visibility of temporary bus stop signs, which are difficult to locate for blind riders. She recommended using QR codes or other solutions that could be read via smartphone. She also noted issues with bus drivers not audibly announcing routes, increasing the risk of boarding the wrong bus.

Carlos Elizondo Reyna, local resident, commented on poor conditions at the Hubbard and South Virginia bus stops. He expressed concern about busses arriving bumper-to-bumper and noted safety issues caused by pressure to stay on schedule. He also reported inconsistent functionality with new transit ticket scanning machines.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Garcia to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that this item be approved.

Items 4 CONSENT ITEMS

4.1 Minutes

4.1.1 Approve the meeting minutes for the 06/20/2025 RTC Board meeting. (For Possible Action)

4.2. Reports

4.2.1 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Procurement Activity Report. (For Possible Action)

4.2.2 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Planning Activity Report. (For Possible Action)

4.2.3 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Engineering Activity Report. (For Possible Action)

4.2.4 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Public Transportation and Operations Activity Report. (For Possible Action)

4.2.5 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Outreach Report from the Communications staff. (For Possible Action)

4.2.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly summary report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees. (For Possible Action)

4.3 Engineering Department

4.3.1 Approve a Local Public Agency Agreement with Nevada Department of Transportation for the use and reimbursement of federal funds on the Biggest Little Bike Network Project. (For Possible Action)

4.3.2 Approve a contract with Lumos and Associates, Inc., for design and engineering during construction services related to the 2026 Preventive Maintenance Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,008,735. (For Possible Action)

4.3.3 Approve a contract with Lumos and Associates, Inc., for design services and engineering during construction services for the Keystone Avenue Rehabilitation Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$855,140. (For Possible Action)

4.3.4 Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract with CA Group, Inc., for design and engineering during construction services related to the Traffic Engineering and Intersection Improvements 26-01 Project, in the amount of \$341,850, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$687,549. (For Possible Action)

4.3.5 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a temporary construction easement on a portion of APN 400-151-11 from Cassinari Enterprise, LLC, which is needed to construct the West Fourth Street Safety Project. (For Possible Action)

4.3.6 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a permanent public use easement and a temporary construction easement on portions of APN 010-610-15 from Oppio Keystone, LLC which are needed to construct the West Fourth Street Safety Project. (For Possible Action)

4.3.7 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a temporary construction easement on a portion of APN 006-212-04 from Reno MH & RV Park, LLC, which is needed to construct the West Fourth Street Safety Project. (For Possible Action)

4.3.8 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire a temporary construction easement on a portion of AP 006-222-19 from West End Reno, LLC, which is needed to construct the West Fourth Street Safety Project. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Public Transportation/Operations Department

4.4.1 Approve a contract with Pavion Corp to replace the existing Avigilon security servers at Centennial Plaza and Sutro with Verkada cloud connectors, in an amount not-to-exceed \$138,274.65. (For Possible Action)

4.4.2 Acknowledge receipt of the RTC RIDE 5 Year Vehicle Replacement Strategy. (For Possible Action)

4.4.3 Approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract with Marathon Finishing Systems, Inc., for additional Phase 2 services to complete the installation of the hydrogen fuel cell service bay at RTC's 6th Street facility, in the amount of \$21,935.45, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$817,740.03. (For Possible Action)

4.4.4 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with the Nevada Department of Transportation to provide continued funding to the RTC for the ED Pass Program, in the amount of \$350,000. (For Possible Action)

4.4.5 Approve a contract with CDM Smith, Inc., for architectural and engineering services to complete a feasibility study and the environmental process for relocation of RTC's fixed route maintenance and operations facility on Villanova Drive, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,091,365.19. (For Possible Action)

4.5 Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

4.5.1 Approve the RTC Goals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026). (For Possible Action)

4.5.2 Acknowledge receipt of the updated RTC Strategic Roadmap for FY 2026-2027. (For Possible Action)

On motion of Commissioner Garcia to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that this item be approved.

Item 5 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Discuss and provide potential direction to staff regarding legislative measures from the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature (2025). (Informational Only)

Michael Hillerby, Kaempfer Crowell and RTC's Legislative Advocate, summarized key outcomes from the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

In terms of legislation directly affecting RTC, the most significant was AB361, which mandates protective driver enclosures on transit buses. This requirement codified safety upgrades that RTC had already implemented. The bill originally included criminal trespass provisions for individuals assaulting transit drivers, but that language was removed due to opposition from groups including the ACLU and RTC Southern Nevada. Additionally, the legislature passed a bill enabling RTC Southern Nevada to extend fuel tax indexing through 2036, which RTC Washoe supported due to its potential to reduce pressure on the statewide highway fund.

Mr. Hillerby also discussed the failure of several bills related to automated traffic enforcement, including one that would have allowed speed cameras in construction zones. Although RTC and the construction industry supported the effort, it did not pass out of committee. A limited bill allowing enforcement cameras on school bus stop arms did pass. No progress was made on electric vehicle fees or toll road legislation during this session, although stakeholders plan to revisit those issues next session. Hillerby concluded by noting that RTC will be involved in two interim studies—one on regional rail and another on trails-to-transit—and emphasized that securing funding for new infrastructure will continue to be a major challenge due to rising costs and declining fuel tax revenue.

Chair Hill praised Mr. Hillerby's work and inquired about the process for getting RTC priorities onto a special session agenda. Executive Director Thomas raised concerns about electric vehicles contributing no fuel tax despite their impact on roadways, while Commissioner Garcia asked how many BDRs RTC gets during each session, to which Mr. Hillerby replied only one. The Board expressed interest in continuing legislative coordination, particularly around funding and regional transportation solutions.

5.2 Receive a presentation on the draft Central Reno/Midtown Neighborhood Network Plan. (Informational Only)

Marquis Williams, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the draft neighborhood plan aimed at improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in Central Reno.

This plan is part of RTC's Active Transportation Program and focuses on improving walking and biking infrastructure at the neighborhood level. Mr. Williams explained that the initiative stems from the Active Transportation Plan adopted in 2024, which divided the region into 12 neighborhoods to better address short-distance trips like those to schools, grocery stores, and workplaces. The Central Reno plan is the first to be developed and includes both quick-build projects that can be implemented within one to two years and longer-term capital projects to be prioritized in future transportation plans.

The draft plan recommends 13.3 miles of active transportation improvements, including neighborhood byways and protected bike lanes. The byways use traffic-calming features such as curb extensions and small traffic circles on residential streets, while the protected bike lanes offer physical separation from traffic on major corridors. Mr. Williams noted future improvements would be delivered under the program's annual \$5 million budget, with design currently underway and construction targeted for summer 2026.

Commissioner Garcia inquired about how performance tracking and public feedback would be handled after implementation. Mr. Williams responded that RTC is partnering with UNR to collect data using lidar technology and will continue to accept public input online.

Chair Hill expressed support for the plan but questioned why Liberty Street, which had been included in a prior scenario, was excluded from the implementation phase. Mr. Williams explained that Liberty did not fit within the prioritized network, but could be considered again in future updates, which occur every five years.

5.3 Receive a presentation on the draft Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2025-2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). (Informational Only)

Graham Dollarhide, RTC Planning Manager, gave a presentation on the RTIP.

The RTIP is a federally required, fiscally constrained five-year plan that prioritizes transportation projects aligned with the region's long-range transportation goals. Though updates are only required every four years, RTC maintains a biennial update cycle to streamline project review and implementation. Unlike amendments that focus on specific changes, a full update provides a comprehensive review of all projects and allows for the programming of additional funding years.

This update transitions the plan from the 2023–2027 RTIP to the 2025–2029 version, with projects being removed, added, or modified. No air quality conformity analysis is required since no new capacity-increasing projects were added beyond what was already modeled in the most recent Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Dollarhide explained that projects are selected for the RTIP based on their priority in the RTP, which categorizes projects into three tiers: near-term (first 10 years), long-term (next 15 years), and unfunded. A scoring process that accounts for feasibility, transit needs, and fiscal constraints determines which projects move forward into the RTIP.

Most project changes in this update are minor administrative adjustments, though a small number meet the criteria for formal amendments. Two projects—the Moana Lane Multimodal and ADA Improvements and the Rosewood Trailhead project—are being removed. Moana Lane was the lowest-scoring project in the RTP's top priority tier, and the Rosewood Trailhead was withdrawn due to the lead agency's inability to accept funding. Thirteen new projects, totaling about \$285 million, are being added, all of which are fiscally constrained and scored through the RTP process.

Additional inclusions in this update are programmatic efforts such as the recently awarded Transportation Alternatives Set Aside projects, a new bus stop improvements program, and the initiation of the Active Transportation Program beginning in FY 2026. The draft update is open for public comment from July 14 to August 12 and is being promoted through various channels. Feedback from CMAC and TAC has been received, and public comments will be incorporated before the final document is presented at the August 15, 2025, RTC Board meeting.

5.4 Authorize staff to present the 8th Edition Regional Road Impact Fee (RRIF) General Administrative Manual (GAM) and the RRIF Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to the planning commissions acting as the capital improvements advisory committee and governing body of each participating local government for adoption. (For Possible Action)

Jeff Wilbrecht, RTC Project Manager, presented the 8th Edition of the RRIF General Administrative Manual (GAM) and updated RRIF Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The RRIF program collects fees from new development through the building permit process, which are then used by RTC to fund regional road capacity improvement projects. While the program ensures that development contributes its fair share and has long been supported by the community, its use is limited to capacity-related improvements and cannot fund maintenance or operational costs.

The program is governed by NRS 278B and administered through an interlocal agreement among Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, and RTC. Two primary documents guide its implementation: the General Administrative Manual (GAM), which outlines procedures, and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which supports the calculation of the fees. RTC is responsible for initiating the review of the program following updates to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which serves as the foundation for identifying needed capacity improvements driven by growth.

The update process for the Eighth Edition began in November with input from a Technical Advisory Committee composed of representatives from local jurisdictions, planning commissioners, and private development interests. The update relies on land use forecasts, travel demand modeling, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as the standard measurement to link road usage with growth. The analysis identifies which improvements are needed in the North and South service areas—divided by I-80—and calculates impact fees accordingly. Fees collected in each area must be spent within that area.

The update determined that the RRIF share of capacity-related improvements over the next ten years is approximately \$149 million, split about 60% to the North and 40% to the South. Using VMT growth projections and trip data by land use type, the new fee structure was calculated. Compared to the Seventh Edition, the average fee increase is about 2.1%, with single-family residential increases of approximately 2.9% in both service areas.

Both the draft GAM and CIP were reviewed by technical staff from local jurisdictions and RTC advisory committees, with no objections raised. Staff requested authorization to present the updated documents to each local government's planning commission and governing body for formal adoption.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that this item be approved.

5.5 Receive a report regarding regional road maintenance needs and available funding to perform roadway maintenance activities. (Informational Only)

Christian Schonlau, RTC Director of Finance, presented an informational report on the challenges facing regional road maintenance funding, highlighting the limitations of the current fuel tax-based model.

Mr. Schonlau explained that although Washoe County's fuel tax is indexed annually using a 10-year average of the Western Producer Price Index—providing modest, predictable increases such as the 3.45 cents per gallon adjustment for FY 2026—this system is increasingly strained. Fuel sales have plateaued or declined across the county, primarily due to the rise in electric and hybrid vehicles, improvements in fuel efficiency, and changing travel habits such as remote work. As a result, tax revenues are not keeping pace with the rising costs of maintaining aging infrastructure, particularly as inflation drives up labor and material costs.

Mr. Schonlau emphasized that both RTC and local jurisdictions are experiencing the effects of this growing funding gap. He warned that without alternative revenue mechanisms—such as road usage fees for electric vehicles or delivery surcharges—road conditions could worsen more quickly than they can be repaired.

5.6 Receive a presentation regarding the need for multi-county transportation planning and cooperation and provide input and direction regarding options for pursuing a formal organizational structure in partnership with adjacent counties and other agencies. (Informational Only)

Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director, presented preliminary ideas for improving coordination between RTC Washoe and neighboring counties, particularly Storey and Lyon, in response to increasing regional growth and cross-county travel.

Mr. Thomas highlighted how rapid development, especially in areas like the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center in Storey County, is placing growing pressure on Washoe County's transportation infrastructure, despite much of the demand originating outside RTC Washoe's jurisdiction. He explained that informal collaboration is no longer adequate for addressing the scale of these regional challenges and emphasized the need for a formal structure to guide transportation planning, coordinate project funding, and improve access to state and federal grants.

He presented several possible governance models, such as a Joint Powers Authority, a Regional Advisory Board, or eventually a multi-county metropolitan planning organization, depending on future eligibility. Board feedback on these concepts will inform future stakeholder engagement and planning efforts.

Chair Hill expressed support for proactive coordination but emphasized the importance of preserving local control and ensuring fair representation in any new structure. Specifically, she requested that RTC staff begin conversations with staff from other involved agencies.

Commissioner Garcia supported the effort, especially regarding workforce commuting patterns.

Commissioner Lawson noted the importance of planning across jurisdictional lines given impacts from the TRIC industrial area.

Item 6 REPORTS (Informational Only)

6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director, reported on the following items:

- More than 300 kids have already signed up for RTC Youth Pass.
- The RTC continues to coordinate with local emergency management agencies for training and exercises.
- The FTA has completed its review of our environmental determination request for the 4th Street Station Project.
- We have successfully submitted a grant application for the FTA's No or Low Emission and the Bus and Bus Facilities Programs.
- A call for projects is open to provide transportation improvements for seniors with disabilities.
- A thank you letter from MJ Maynard-Carey from RTC of Southern Nevada was received.
- May was National Bike Month when we had the opportunity to take a tour of the Kiwanis Activity Center and Bike Program to see the great work that this nonprofit does.

- Once again, the RTC partnered with Washoe County, KOLO 8 News and Sparks Target for the Stuff a Bus for Seniors Event.
- Introduction of Ashley Hurlbut, who joined the RTC engineering group on April 21st as a new Project Manager.
- Introduction of Moin Hassan who joined the Engineering Team as an intern for the summer.
- Congratulations to two employees on their recent promotions. The Finance Department promoted Nelia Belen to Senior Accountant – and Rosanne Orozco to Accountant.
- Congratulations to LaShonn Ford, Vanessa Lacer and Jamie Borino for reaching their one-year anniversaries.

6.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, Paul Nelson provided updates on federal legislative matters, including coordination on funding requests.

RTC submitted a joint request totaling \$6 million for three community project funding (CPF) initiatives located in Reno, Sparks, and unincorporated Washoe County. The projects were chosen in collaboration with local jurisdictions to demonstrate regional unity and avoid internal competition for limited federal dollars. Both Nevada’s House and Senate delegations have expressed strong support for RTC’s CPF proposals. Meetings with congressional staff confirmed interest in RTC’s collaborative approach, particularly in light of increased federal scrutiny over project selection. U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has taken a personal interest in regions that submit coordinated requests across jurisdictions. His office sent a letter to Governors urging them to join DOT Safe Roads initiatives, which focuses on non-freeway roads, with emphasis on visibility, signals and signage on the intersections and along the roadways. RTC will continue to monitor congressional budget proceedings and follow up with delegation offices to support the inclusion of Washoe County projects in the final federal budget.

6.3 NDOT Director Report

NDOT Deputy Director Sajid Sulahria gave a presentation and a summary on the following topics:

- Pyramid Highway Ribbon-Cutting on July 11th
- Reminder of U.S. 395 North Valleys Ramp Closure
- Recent bridge inspections in Washoe County
- I-80 Public Hearing – East Vista to USA Parkway Widening Project

Item 7 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

No announcements or requests were made by commissioners.

Item 8 PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional public comment was received.

Item 9 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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