

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

May 15, 2026

PRESENT:

**Alexis Hill, Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Devon Reese, Vice Chair, Reno City Council
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:

**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

Carlos Elizondo Reyna addressed the Board regarding service concerns on Routes 12 and 18 near the Walmart and 4th Street Station area. He stated that buses frequently arrive simultaneously, Route 18 is often overcrowded, and Route 12 does not consistently stop at the location. He requested review of the stop configuration and service operations.

Pamela Baker, a disabled veteran and RTC ACCESS user, expressed appreciation for RTC services, including Veterans Day free rides, RTC ACCESS, FlexRIDE, and senior transportation programs. She requested consideration of additional recognition for veterans and installation of a shaded waiting area at the Sparks Marina FlexRIDE location. She also commended RTC staff, dispatchers, schedulers, and drivers for their service.

Austin Osborne, Storey County Manager, expressed appreciation for RTC's partnership with Storey County and support for the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center workforce rail study. He provided updates regarding transportation improvements in the industrial center, including the Patrick Interchange extension project, ongoing traffic studies, and workforce housing initiatives.

Juan Martinez, an RTC ACCESS rider, commented regarding an incident in which he was unable to board an RTC ACCESS vehicle due to fare payment issues and requested policy changes to prevent

riders from being stranded. He also requested consideration of fare waivers when RTC ACCESS service is delayed.

Dora Martinez thanked RTC and local agencies for responsiveness to accessibility-related concerns. She requested additional time before implementation of proposed RTC ACCESS fare increases, citing impacts on individuals with disabilities and fixed-income riders. She also requested notification procedures if RTC ACCESS and FlexRIDE services are combined during pilot operations.

Donna Clontz, representing AARP Nevada and the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board, expressed support for FlexRIDE expansion and increased transportation options for seniors. She highlighted the annual Stuff-A-Bus for Seniors event and discussed efforts to improve transit education and outreach for older adults.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Hill requested that Item 6.3 be moved to immediately follow the Consent items due to a scheduling conflict requiring her departure later in the meeting. She noted that Vice Chair Reese would preside beginning with Item 5.1. A brief recess would follow Item 6.3 for a photo with the “America 250 commemorative wrapped bus”.

On motion of Vice Chair Reese to approve, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, 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 4/17/2026 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 Planning Department

- 4.3.1 Approve the 2026 TAC and CMAC Policies and Procedures. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Engineering Department

- 4.4.1 Approve a contract with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc., for design and optional engineering during construction services for the Traffic Signal Improvements 2028 Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$598,397. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.2 Approve a Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Sparks for betterment improvements on the Prater Way Rehabilitation Project, including sanitary sewer improvements, storm drain improvements, and fiber line relocation, with the City of Sparks reimbursing the RTC for the actual costs of the improvements. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.3 Approve a contract with Keystone Bridge Partners, for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) pre-construction services on the Keystone Avenue Bridge Replacement Project, in an amount not-to-exceed, \$755,580.17. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.4 Approve a contract with Innovative Contracting and Engineering LLC for independent cost estimating services related to the Keystone Avenue Bridge Replacement Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$491,622.75. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.5 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire property and/or property interests on APN 021-083-07 from Pierre Klein, which are needed to construct the Pembroke Drive Capacity & Safety Project. (For Possible Action)

4.5 Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.5.1 Acknowledge receipt of the Tahoe-Regional Industrial Center (TRIC) Workforce Rail Feasibility Study. (For Possible Action)
- 4.5.2 Approve the purchase of three parcels (APN 007-311-21; APN 007-311-22; and APN 007-311-23) adjacent to the 4th Street Station from the City of Reno for \$1,350,000. (For Possible Action)

4.6 Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.6.1 Authorize the Executive Director to initiate a recruitment and hiring process to fill the Executive Director position. (For Possible Action)
- 4.6.2 Approve a consulting services contract with Eide Bailly for the Enterprise Resource Program replacement project, in a not-to-exceed amount of \$379,400. (For Possible Action)

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

Item 6.3 Evaluate the Executive Director's annual performance as it pertains to the duties and obligations of the position and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2026, and consider approval of a compensation adjustment if the Executive Director's performance has been satisfactory or better. (For Possible Action)

Chair Hill announced that Bill Thomas had given six months' notice before retiring and praised his longtime leadership in the region. Highlights of his time with the RTC included, but were not limited to, his role in advancing major transportation projects, multimodal planning initiatives, neighborhood network plans, the Kids Ride Free program, and regional transportation coordination

efforts across Northern Nevada. Chair Hill emphasized Mr. Thomas's vision, leadership, and commitment to implementing the board's transportation goals.

As recognition for his service and strong performance, Chair Hill proposed amending Mr. Thomas's contract to increase his performance bonus from 5% to 8% of his base salary, representing a one-time payment of approximately \$23,500.

Chair Hill asked the Commissioners if they would like to make comment.

Commissioner Lawson praised Mr. Thomas's work and said, “we’re all going to miss you”.

Vice Chair Reese reflected on Mr. Thomas's influence on his public service career and credited him with maintaining a long-term regional vision that transcended political cycles.

Commissioner Garcia commended Mr. Thomas's ability to connect with residents while also navigating complex state and federal transportation issues, describing his leadership as both strategic and personable.

Bill Thomas expressed gratitude and humility, stating that RTC's success stems from collaboration among elected officials and staff. He credited the board for working together on behalf of the region and praised RTC employees for their dedication and public service.

On Motion of Chair Hill that the board approve a performance bonus for the Executive Director in the amount of 8% of his current base salary, and that the Executive Director contract be amended to reflect that, seconded by Vice Chair Reese, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered that this item be approved.

Chair Hill announced a brief recess would be taken for a photo with the 250th Anniversary commemorative wrapped bus and stated that Vice Chair Reese would preside over the remainder of the meeting upon reconvening.

The meeting recessed at 9:32 a.m. and reconvened at 9:38 a.m., with Vice Chair Reese presiding.

Item 5 PUBLIC HEARING

- 5.1 Conduct a public hearing regarding approval of Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2025-2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP); adopt a resolution approving Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2025-2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). (For Possible Action)**
 - a. Staff Presentation**
 - b. Public Hearing**
 - c. Action**

Graham Dollarhide, Transportation Planning Manager, presented Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2025-2029 RTIP. He reviewed proposed additions, which included: I-80 Verdi Commercial Vehicle Inspection Station upgrades for modular buildings and modern scales; SR446 Pyramid Lake Realignment project to address erosion and slope stability issues; and Fueling Facility Improvement upgrades to the compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling infrastructure.

Updates to the RTIP included: Traffic Calming improvements, FlexRIDE service funding, ACCESS Capital for Sutro Facility and I-80/Patrick/Waltham Way. Mr. Dollarhide noted that no air quality conformity analysis was required and that no public comments were received during the formal comment period.

Commissioner Garcia expressed appreciation for NDOT's partnership and requested additional information regarding the fueling facility improvements project. Mr. Dollarhide clarified that the project related to CNG fueling infrastructure and not hydrogen fueling facilities. Discussion also included an update on hydrogen fueling facility commissioning.

Vice Chair Reese opened the meeting to public comment. No public comments or correspondence were received.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve Amendment No. 3 to the FFY 2025-2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, which motion unanimously carried, Vice Chair Reese ordered that this item be approved.

Item 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Approve the FY 2026-2030 Move More with RTC Plan. (For Possible Action)

Alex Cruz, Senior Transit Planner, presented the FY 2026-2030 Move More with RTC Plan. He reviewed the planning process, community outreach efforts, survey results, proposed route modifications, FlexRIDE and RTC ACCESS recommendations, senior mobility program updates, fare technology improvements, and implementation schedule. Recommendations included service frequency improvements, route modifications, expanded FlexRIDE capabilities, implementation of Connect Ride, fare capping technology, and future fare policy changes.

Proposed fare increases would include phasing out day-pass sales for RIDE; reducing Regional Connector fares from \$5 to \$2 as a pilot program, adding a \$1 fare for each additional passenger on a FlexRIDE trip; and increasing ACCESS rides from \$3 to \$4.

If the Board approves the Move Transit Plan, RTC will implement it over a five-year period. Smaller administrative updates, such as performance metric (KPI) changes, would be implemented first. Larger initiatives, including service modifications and fare changes would likely begin in Years 2 and 3, with Year 3 expected to include the most significant changes. In short, approval of the plan will establish a gradual, carefully evaluated rollout over five years.

Commissioner Lawson requested that proposed fare increases be brought back to the Board for review before implementation and emphasized consideration of concerns raised by RTC ACCESS riders.

Commissioner Garcia requested clarification regarding the implementation schedule and expressed support for allowing riders additional time to prepare for potential fare increases. She also discussed the need to sustain RTC ACCESS service while encouraging use of alternative transit options when appropriate.

Mr. Cruz confirmed that any fare increase would be considered a significant change and would be brought back to the Board for review and approval before implementation. The proposed ACCESS fare increase is not immediate and is currently recommended for Year 2 of the plan, likely sometime in late 2027, depending on the service change schedule.

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

6.2 Receive the 2025 Annual Report. (Informational Only)

Bill Thomas presented the 2025 Annual Report and introduced a video summarizing RTC accomplishments during the year, including transportation investments, safety projects, ridership growth, transit improvements, and capital construction projects.

Vice Chair Reese commended RTC staff for their accomplishments and highlighted the importance of transportation investments, roadway improvements, and responsiveness to community concerns.

Commissioner Garcia praised continued ridership growth and public outreach efforts.

Commissioner Lawson highlighted the success of the Kids Ride Free partnership with the Washoe County School District and its benefits to students.

No action was taken.

6.3 Evaluate the Executive Director’s annual performance as it pertains to the duties and obligations of the position and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2026, and consider approval of a compensation adjustment if the Executive Director’s performance has been satisfactory or better. (For Possible Action) *Moved to top of meeting.*

Item 7 REPORTS (Informational Only)

7.1 RTC Executive Director Report

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

- The RTC received four awards recently for: The Veterans Roundabout Modifications project earned the ITE Mountain District 2026 Transportation Achievement Award in the Safety Category and Project of the Year for the American Society of Civil Engineers Truckee Meadows Branch; Our Fiber Network Prioritization Plan won the ITE Mountain District Transportation Award in the Planning Category; the Steamboat Parkway Improvement Project and the new RTC website, recognized earlier in our Annual Report video also earned top honors.
- Starting June 1st, we would like to start a pilot fare change for the Regional Connector between Reno and Carson City. The intent is to reduce passenger confusion by having two different fare structures and increase ridership on the route.
- Looking outside, we have our “America 250 commemorative bus”, which was wrapped for our nation’s 250th birthday. This bus will be on our routes at least through next year.
- The “America 250” bus will be at the Arlington Avenue Bridges Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in June. We were able to complete this project in less than one year with the great partnerships between RTC, City of Reno, our Federal Delegation and U.S.D.O.T.

- The Federal Highway Administration launched the Freedom to Drive initiative last month. This is a national effort to save Americans time and money by focusing on maximizing roadway capacities, fast-tracking projects to reduce congestion at chokepoints, and leveraging technology and private-sector partnerships.
- Our Stuff A Bus event for Seniors is today from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Sparks Target. We hope to see you there.
- We have several staff milestones to recognize: Lee Anne Olivas celebrated her 25-year Silver Anniversary on March 19th; Scott Gibson marked 20 years on May 8th; Nelia Belen celebrated 10 years on May 2nd; Rick Parton reached his 1-year mark on April 7th; and Ashley Hurlbut celebrated one year on April 21st. Congratulations to all.

7.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, reported that RTC's congressional spending requests totaling approximately \$8 million had been submitted by Nevada's U.S. Senators. He also provided updates regarding federal transportation reauthorization discussions, transportation appropriations, and potential federal electric vehicle fee proposals.

Vice Chair Reese and Commissioner Garcia commented on RTC's recent federal advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. at the APTA Legislative Conference and expressed appreciation for staff coordination and engagement with federal representatives.

7.3 NDOT Director Report

Sajid Sulahria, Deputy Director NDOT, provided updates on statewide transportation initiatives, including participation in the federal Freedom to Drive program, I-80 bridge replacement projects, pedestrian safety improvements on Kietzke Lane, bridge resurfacing projects, South Virginia Street safety improvements, and the Patrick Interchange acceleration lane project serving the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center. He also congratulated Bill Thomas on his retirement announcement.

Vice Chair Reese asked whether the Garson Road overpass project accounts for future traffic growth from planned residential development, or if it is simply replacing the existing bridge without broader capacity improvements.

Mr. Sulahria said NDOT is coordinating with RTC and the City of Reno. The bridge will be widened and include a multi-use path to improve north-south connectivity, and the project team is evaluating long-term needs and future capacity.

Vice Chair Reese requested a follow-up meeting with NDOT, Mr. Keller and engineering staff to review the project details offline.

Item 8 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

No Commissioner announcements were made.

Item 9 PUBLIC COMMENT

Edward Lamb, a Sparks resident and member of the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board, discussed transportation access challenges for seniors and residents living outside existing transit service areas. He encouraged RTC to evaluate expansion of FlexRIDE and other transportation services to underserved areas, including Spanish Springs and the North Valleys.

Item 10 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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