

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

June 25, 2026

PRESENT:

**Alexis Hill, Chair, Washoe County Commissioner
Ed Lawson, Mayor of Sparks
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno (Via Conf. Call)
Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director
Adam Spear, Legal Counsel
Tracy Larkin Thomason, Director of NDOT**

ABSENT:

Devon Reese, Vice Chair, Reno City Council

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
- 1.3 Special Recognitions
 - 1.3.1 APWA Project of the Year Award: Steamboat Parkway

John Del Santo, representing the American Public Works Association (APWA) of Nevada, presented the RTC with the APWA Project of the Year Award in the \$10–20 million category for the Steamboat project. He recognized CA Group as the design engineer and construction manager and Q&D Construction as the contractor. Mr. Del Santo noted the project was selected from a competitive field of nominees, highlighted its benefits in improving traffic flow and mobility, and thanked RTC and its project partners for their collaboration and contributions to the community.

A short break was taken from 9:04 a.m. to 9:06 a.m. to take photos.

Item 2 PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Church commented on RTC-5 fuel taxes and the proposed electric and hybrid vehicle fee ballot measure. He expressed concern that high fuel taxes encourage residents to purchase fuel outside Washoe County, reducing local revenue. He also questioned the proposed vehicle fee, stating that electric and hybrid vehicle owners already contribute through existing taxes and registration fees and that the proposal could disproportionately affect locally registered vehicle owners while exempting some out-of-state and commercial vehicles. He encouraged the Board to reconsider the proposal while acknowledging RTC's accomplishments in other areas.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bill Thomas, Executive Director, requested that Agenda Item 5.3 be moved to immediately follow the Consent Calendar.

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

Items 4 CONSENT ITEMS

4.1 Minutes

- 4.1.1 Approve the meeting minutes for the 5/15/2026 RTC Board meeting. (For Possible Action)
- 4.1.2 Approve the meeting minutes for the 5/18/2026 RTC Special FY27 Budget 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 summary report for the Technical, Citizens Multimodal, and Regional Road Impact Fee Advisory Committees. (For Possible Action)
- 4.2.6 Acknowledge receipt of the monthly Outreach Report from the Communications staff. (For Possible Action)

4.3 Engineering Department

- 4.3.1 Approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract with Parametrix, Inc., for additional design and engineering services on the Keystone Avenue Bridge Replacement Project, in the amount of \$450,563, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$7,109,560. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.2 Approve a contract with CA Group, Inc., to provide construction management services for the Biggest Little Bike Network Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,053,475. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.3 Approve a Resolution of Condemnation authorizing RTC's legal counsel to commence condemnation proceedings to acquire property and/or property interests on APN 011-602-01 from Freight House District, LLC, which are needed to construct the Sierra Street Bridge Replacement Project. (For Possible Action)
- 4.3.4 Approve an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno for research and engineering support activities from the Pavement Engineering and Science (PES) program, in the amount of \$250,000. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.4.1 Acknowledge receipt of this quarterly Construction/Maintenance update on Transit Stops as presented to the Citizens Multimodal Advisory Committee on June 3, 2026. (For Possible Action)

4.5 Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

- 4.5.1 Acknowledge receipt of the Asset Donation Log for the fourth quarter of calendar year 2025 through the second quarter of calendar year 2026. (For Possible Action)
- 4.5.2 Authorize the Executive Director to bind annual insurance coverage effective July 1, 2026, for automobile liability, general liability, public officials' errors and omissions (E&O), property, earthquake/flood, crime, cyber, pollution liability, social engineering, fiduciary liability, employment practices liability, and workers' compensation; and approve the RTC's continued membership in the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL) and Public Agency Compensation Trust (PACT). (For Possible Action)
- 4.5.3 Approve Resolution 26-14 to augment the FY 2025-2026 Budget of the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County as it relates to the General Fund. (For Possible Action)
- 4.5.4 Approve the Executive Director job description, compensation range, statement of benefits, and employment contract template, for use in the Executive Director recruitment and hiring process. (For Possible Action)

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

Item 5.3 Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Reno and the University of Nevada, Reno regarding the design, funding, and implementation of the University Gateway Transportation Project. (For Possible Action)

Dale Keller, Deputy Executive Director/Director of Engineering, introduced the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between RTC, the City of Reno, and the University of Nevada, Reno for the University Gateway Transportation Project. The non-binding MOU establishes a collaborative framework for planning, design, funding discussions, and future implementation of improvements intended to strengthen the connection between downtown Reno and the University campus while formalizing the agencies' shared vision for the project. Mr. Keller acknowledged the collaborative efforts of City of Reno and University staff.

Kim Diegle, RTC Project Manager, presented the project overview. She indicated that the project includes the realignment of Ninth Street and Evans Avenue, extension of Ninth Street, and development of the Evans Park Gateway area. The project originated through the Vision Zero initiative and the University Area Transportation Study, both of which identified significant pedestrian safety concerns and the need to improve multimodal connectivity between downtown Reno and the University. Ms. Diegle reviewed crash history, congestion issues, proposed roadway and pedestrian improvements, conceptual gateway designs, public outreach efforts, anticipated project phases, estimated costs of approximately \$60 million to \$90 million, and potential funding strategies. Construction is tentatively anticipated between 2029 and 2030, depending on funding availability.

Commissioner Schieve praised RTC staff, the City of Reno, and University partners for their collaboration and extensive public outreach. The project fulfills a long-standing vision of reconnecting downtown Reno and the University and expresses enthusiasm for its future implementation.

Commissioner Lawson asked staff to clarify RTC's anticipated financial participation. Dale Keller explained that the MOU does not obligate future funding but establishes a partnership framework while funding strategies continue to be developed. Project elements could be scaled based on available funding and that future agreements would return to the Board for consideration. Commissioner Lawson supported the project, particularly its improved campus connectivity, while noting future funding would ultimately determine the project's scope.

Commissioner Garcia disclosed that she is employed by the University of Nevada, Reno but has no financial interest requiring abstention and would participate in the vote. She strongly supports the project, emphasizing the importance of improving safety, aesthetics, and pedestrian accessibility. She asked questions regarding future ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the proposed green space and Evans Park improvements. Dale Keller indicated that ownership discussions remain ongoing among the participating agencies and would be addressed through future agreements. Commissioner Garcia also inquired about feedback received during public outreach. Kim Diegle reported that many participants expressed concern regarding the existing pedestrian experience and welcomed safer, more inviting connections across Interstate 80.

NDOT Director Tracy Larkin Thomason stated NDOT supports the project and encouraged continued coordination with NDOT and the Federal Highway Administration as the project advances because of the complexities associated with Interstate 80 improvements.

Chair Hill expressed strong support for the project, saying it will significantly improve connections between downtown Reno and the University while enhancing safety and mobility for the community.

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

Item 5 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Receive an update from Michael Hillerby of Kaempfer Crowell, Ltd., on efforts related to electric and hybrid vehicle fees and a Bill for the 2027 Legislative Session that enables the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners to impose an electric and hybrid vehicle fee. (Informational Only)

Michael Hillerby, Kaempfer Crowell, Ltd., provided an update regarding efforts to establish electric and hybrid vehicle fees during the 2027 Nevada Legislative Session. The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners approved placing an advisory ballot question before voters in November regarding electric and hybrid vehicle fees. RTC intends to continue preparing a Bill Draft Request (BDR) for submission to the Legislature by the September 1st deadline, subject to final Board direction. The interim legislative committees studying passenger rail recommended continued coordination of statewide rail efforts and consideration of additional transit funding sources. Additionally, the Southern Nevada Forum recommended pursuing electric and hybrid vehicle fees

and identifying sustainable funding for transit, including high-capacity transit. Most states have already implemented similar registration fees and that such fees remain the simplest and most effective collection mechanism.

Chair Hill asked whether the Southern Nevada Forum recommended the fees benefit only Clark County or both state and local transportation agencies. Mr. Hillerby said that the recommendation broadly supported pursuing electric and hybrid vehicle fees.

Commissioner Lawson discussed his participation in the statewide Rail Study Committee and believed RTC's previous work was valuable during committee discussions. He noted that significant statewide policy questions remain but expressed appreciation for participating in the process.

Commissioner Garcia thanked Mr. Lawson for representing northern Nevada and feels the State appears to be moving in a common direction regarding long-term transportation funding. RTC is accomplishing significant transportation improvements and encouraged continued innovation.

Chair Hill asked whether northern Nevada legislators expressed support for the proposal. Mr. Hillerby reported that members of the Washoe County legislative delegation generally understand the need for a sustainable funding source and have been receptive to the proposal. Explaining that placing the advisory question before voters would demonstrate public support before the legislative session.

NDOT Director Tracy Larkin Thomason discussed the continuing decline of traditional highway funding sources as fuel efficiency and electric vehicle adoption increase. NDOT continues educating legislators regarding the Highway Fund's financial condition and is evaluating multiple funding scenarios while emphasizing that electric and hybrid vehicle fees alone will not fully resolve Nevada's transportation funding challenges. Construction inflation, labor costs, and stagnant revenue sources continue to reduce the purchasing power of existing transportation funding. Director Larkin Thomason stressed the importance of maintaining transportation infrastructure through ongoing investment rather than allowing facilities to deteriorate before reconstruction becomes necessary.

Mr. Hillerby thanked NDOT for its educational efforts and continued coordination in developing consistent statewide funding analyses and projections.

Chair Hill expressed support for working collaboratively with NDOT to identify sustainable transportation funding solutions and stated that transportation agencies must continue discussing equitable funding mechanisms.

No action was taken.

5.2 Receive a presentation on the status of the Rock Boulevard Corridor Study. (Informational Only)

Shay League, Senior Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the Rock Boulevard Corridor Study. The study originated through RTC's Unified Planning Work Program following a request from the City of Sparks. The study evaluates transportation improvements along Rock Boulevard between North McCarran Boulevard and the Truckee River with the objective of improving safety and mobility for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. Ms. League reviewed the

planning process, corridor data collection, crash analysis, coordination with the City of Sparks, public outreach efforts, and preliminary findings. Crashes along the corridor resulted in four fatalities and nine serious injuries between 2019 and 2023. There are concerns regarding sidewalk accessibility, transit stop amenities, congestion near Interstate 80, and bicycle and pedestrian access to Rock Park and the Truckee River. Staff will develop alternatives over the coming months, with a draft plan anticipated for Board review in October and adoption targeted for November.

Commissioner Lawson thanked staff for conducting the study and emphasized improving safety near Alice Maxwell Elementary School and Sparks High School, citing recent crashes involving children. While also stressing the importance of improving pedestrian and bicycle access to the Truckee River and Rock Park for Sparks residents.

Chair Hill agreed that improving access to Rock Park would greatly benefit the community.

Commissioner Garcia thanked staff for the presentation and asked about differing public opinions regarding bicycle infrastructure identified through the survey. Ms. League explained that many concerns stem from congestion and operational issues surrounding the Interstate 80 interchange rather than opposition to bicycle facilities throughout the corridor.

Commissioner Schieve complimented staff on their thorough public outreach efforts and encouraged continued engagement with youth throughout the planning process. Commissioner Schieve also agreed regarding the importance of improving river access and recognized the complexity of balancing transportation improvements throughout the corridor.

Chair Hill suggested exploring opportunities for public art beneath the Interstate 80 underpass to create a more welcoming pedestrian environment.

No action was taken.

5.3 Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Reno and the University of Nevada, Reno regarding the design, funding, and implementation of the University Gateway Transportation Project. (For Possible Action) *Moved to immediately after approval of Consent Items.*

Item 6 REPORTS (Informational Only)

6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director, thanked the Board and community members who participated in the Arlington Avenue Bridges ribbon cutting and recognized RTC staff, Granite Construction, and project partners for completing the project within a single construction season. Highlighting the groundbreaking for the Military Road Capacity and Safety Project and the completion of the Mill Street Capacity and Safety Project, acknowledging the cooperation of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and affected property owners.

Mr. Thomas announced that the Arrow Creek Parkway and Wedge Parkway Rehabilitation Project received the 2025 Associated General Contractors of Nevada Pinnacle Award and recognized RTC Project Manager Jessica Dover and the project team.

Mr. Thomas recognized Scott Gibson for receiving the 2025 Pavement Preservation and Recycling Alliance Network Hero Award and noted RTC's continued success in maintaining the regional pavement condition index at approximately 80.

Mr. Thomas reported that RTC recently implemented its new Tap-to-Pay fare system, providing customers with additional cashless payment options while improving operational efficiency.

Finally, Mr. Thomas announced the promotion of Alex Wolfson to Traffic Engineering Manager, where he will oversee the Regional Traffic Management Center, Intelligent Transportation Systems, signal timing, and traffic engineering capital projects.

6.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, provided an update on federal transportation legislation, including the proposed Build America 250 Act. He summarized provisions related to surface transportation authorization, metropolitan planning funding, bridge formula funding, transit formula funding, discretionary grant programs, and proposed changes to federal grant administration. He also reported on proposed federal budget reductions and ongoing federal rulemaking affecting grant recipients.

6.3 NDOT Director Report

Tracy Larkin Thomason, NDOT Director, reported that paving and sound wall construction continues along Interstate 80 near West McCarran Boulevard and is expected to conclude by the end of the summer. She also provided updates regarding the Reno Spaghetti Bowl Phase 2 public outreach process, improvements along Pyramid Way, construction of the Spooner Transportation Hub at Lake Tahoe, the I-80 Waltham Way acceleration lane project serving the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, and the appointment of Kevin Beer as NDOT Assistant Director of Planning.

Commissioner Garcia asked about funding arrangements for the Waltham Way acceleration lane project. Director Larkin Thomason advised that Tesla is advancing construction through an agreement with Storey County, which will reimburse project costs under a separate arrangement, while NDOT provides permitting and coordination.

Chair Hill thanked Director Larkin Thomason for the update and ongoing partnership with RTC.

Item 7 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Schieve thanked RTC staff for the successful completion of the Arlington Avenue Bridges Project and noted the positive public response to the project. She also thanked NDOT for partnering with local agencies to improve safety along McCarran Boulevard following recent serious traffic collisions and expressed appreciation for the continued collaboration among RTC, NDOT, Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County.

Item 8 PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Church addressed the Board regarding the proposed advisory ballot question on electric and hybrid vehicle fees. He encouraged the Board to distinguish between educating the public and advocating for a ballot measure, referenced Nevada statutes governing public resources, and urged caution during public outreach. He expressed concerns that excessive electric vehicle fees could discourage adoption of electric vehicles and encouraged agencies to continue seeking cost efficiencies. Mr. Church further advocated for expanded passenger rail service connecting Carson City, Reno, the University of Nevada, Reno, and USA Parkway, stating that rail could improve mobility and reduce traffic congestion.

Item 9 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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