

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

July 17, 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, NDOT Deputy Director**

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 transit operations during the Virginia Street construction project. He requested that bus operators allow passengers to exit at safe locations when regular stops are inaccessible due to construction. He also expressed concerns regarding the quality of janitorial services at the Fourth Street Station and RTC facilities, stating that restroom cleanliness and interior maintenance were inadequate and recommending additional oversight of the contracted cleaning services.

Donna Clontz with Age Friendly Reno and the Senior Coalition of Washoe County, discussed transportation challenges experienced by older adults, particularly those living in areas with limited transit service, and announced upcoming Sidewalks to Systems Community Forums focused on improving transportation access for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other transportation-dependent populations. She also commended RTC transit operators for their compassionate assistance provided to riders with disabilities.

Dora Martinez presented a recorded public comment on behalf of Mary P. Clark, an 84-year-old ACCESS rider residing in a nursing facility. The recording described an incident in which the rider

was instructed to exit an ACCESS vehicle at a closed shopping center after arriving at a destination that was no longer open before dispatch later directed the operator to keep her onboard and return her home. Ms. Martinez requested additional dispatcher training to ensure vulnerable passengers are not left unattended in isolated locations and thanked RTC for its continued support of ACCESS riders, including free rides provided in recognition of the ACCESS anniversary.

The Board Clerk noted that the video recording of Mary P. Clark had been submitted in advance and distributed electronically to the Board.

Item 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Vice Chair Reese to approve the agenda, seconded by Mayor Lawson, which motion unanimously carried, Chair Hill ordered the item be approved.

Items 4 CONSENT ITEMS

4.1 Minutes

- 4.1.1 Approve the meeting minutes for the 7/17/2026 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 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 Planning Department

- 4.3.1 Approve the FY 2027 Shared Work Program with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency. (For Possible Action)

4.4 Public Transportation/Operations Department

- 4.4.1 Approve Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. 306-25-063 with the Nevada Department of Transportation to provide continued funding to the RTC for the ED Pass Program, in the amount of \$650,000. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.2 Approve Amendment No. 3 to the contract with Spare Labs, Inc., (Order Form #SL-7743) to add the integration of the Spare Resolve platform in the amount of \$49,992 through the end of the current contract term of July 31, 2027. (For Possible Action)
- 4.4.3 Approve Amendment No. 3 with Celtis Ventures, Inc. for marketing consulting services for RTC Move More with Transit (formerly TOPS Program), final year of

Phase 3, in the amount of \$500,000, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,595,000. (For Possible Action)

4.5 Executive, Administrative and Finance Departments

4.5.1 Approve the RTC Goals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027). (For Possible Action)

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

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

Item 5 DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Receive a presentation on RTC's Youth Ride Free Pass Program for discussion and possible direction. (Informational Only)

Jim Gee, Director of Public Transportation, presented the first-year results of the Youth Ride Free Pass Program. He reviewed the program's development, noting that the Board and the Washoe County School District approved a one-year Memorandum of Understanding in April 2025 to provide free fixed-route transit service for Washoe County students. The program was launched in May 2025 and was expanded to include charter schools through the use of mobile passes and physical fare cards. He highlighted the collaborative partnership with the Washoe County School District, particularly its assistance with student verification, distribution of fare cards, and joint marketing efforts.

Approximately 4,800 student passes were distributed during the first year, resulting in approximately 240,000 rides. Ridership averaged approximately 1,400 trips on school days and 600 trips on weekends and holidays, demonstrating that students used the service for school, employment, recreational activities, and other community destinations. Marketing efforts exceeded industry engagement benchmarks, and positive public feedback reflected the program's benefit to families experiencing transportation challenges.

Mr. Gee reported steady enrollment growth throughout the school year, increased monthly ridership, and strong utilization within the Wooster and Hug High School areas. Route 5 in Sun Valley experienced the highest student ridership. He also discussed operational observations, including occasional overcrowding, undercounted ridership due to students boarding without scanning passes during high-volume periods, and the long-term goal of integrating the program with student identification cards.

Mr. Gee discussed potential next steps, including concluding the pilot program, extending or expanding the program, and developing a longer-term agreement with the Washoe County School District that would clearly define service expectations, funding responsibilities, and coordination between RTC fixed-route service and school transportation.

Vice Chair Reese commended staff for developing a successful program that improves transportation access, reduces barriers to education, and encourages long-term public transit use. He supports continuing the program, expanding eligibility to include students attending colleges, universities,

and trade schools, and recognized the environmental and mobility benefits created by increased transit use.

Mayor Lawson shared his experience supporting student transportation in the Sparks community and praised the program for helping students participate in employment and extracurricular activities while reducing financial barriers for working families.

Commissioner Garcia stated that the majority of program ridership occurred within her district and stated the program has become an important resource for working families. She requested additional information regarding program costs and encouraged RTC staff to present the results to the Washoe County School District Board and community before pursuing future program modifications.

Chair Hill credited the collaboration between RTC and the Washoe County School District for the program's success and recognized the significant effort by staff to implement the initiative. She encouraged continued coordination with community partners focused on reducing chronic absenteeism and supports expanding partnerships that improve student transportation.

The Board gave unanimous support for continued development of the program and directed staff to continue working with the Washoe County School District and community partners on a longer-term agreement, evaluating opportunities to expand the program and improve ridership tracking, and returning to the Board with recommendations.

5.2 Receive a presentation regarding the progress of the RTC Active Transportation Program. (Informational Only)

Dale Keller, Deputy Executive Director, and Vanessa Lacer, Director of Planning, presented an update on the RTC Active Transportation Program. Mr. Keller explained that over the past five years the program has evolved from constructing individual bicycle and pedestrian projects into a comprehensive regional Active Transportation Program supporting safer multimodal travel, economic development, and complete streets throughout Washoe County.

Ms. Lacer reviewed the planning process used to prioritize projects through community engagement, data collection, safety analysis, funding identification, and implementation. She summarized the Active Transportation Program launched in 2025 following adoption of the Walk and Roll Truckee Meadows Active Transportation Plan and described ongoing neighborhood network planning efforts, dedicated funding for quick-build improvements, bicycle and pedestrian data collection, and establishment of the Active Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (ATTAC) to guide project implementation and regional coordination.

Mr. Keller reported that RTC has completed more than 90 miles of new or improved active transportation facilities and invested approximately \$360 million in projects containing bicycle and pedestrian improvements. He highlighted several major projects moving into construction, including the Biggest Little Bike Network, neighborhood quick-build improvements, the Sixth Street for All Project, West Fourth Street Safety Project, Eagle Canyon Safety Project, and Military Road improvements. He also reviewed more than \$550 million in active transportation investments identified in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.

Chair Hill requested a visual systemwide map illustrating completed bicycle and pedestrian improvements, as well as multimodal improvements to the river, to better communicate project accomplishments throughout the region.

Commissioner Garcia asked how the Active Transportation Technical Advisory Committee would evaluate the effectiveness of quick-build projects. Staff explained that baseline data collection is currently underway and future evaluations will measure project performance and determine whether modifications are necessary.

Vice Chair Reese praised the strategic direction of the program and requested that staff present the program to the Reno City Council. Staff emphasized the importance of Board members serving as community advocates for the program and explained that neighborhood-based planning represents a significant shift from traditional corridor-focused bicycle planning.

Executive Director Bill Thomas stated that the program's long-term objective is to increase walking and bicycling by making active transportation safer, more convenient, and more attractive for residents. Successful projects will help demonstrate the value of future investments and encourage continued Board support and community outreach.

Mayor Lawson emphasized the importance of improving bicycle and pedestrian access to the Truckee River throughout Sparks, particularly through future corridor improvements including Sparks Boulevard, Vista Boulevard, and Greg Street. Vice Chair Reese highlighted the importance of coordinating river corridor improvements among RTC, local governments, private property owners, and other regional partners to create a consistent regional trail system. Staff reported that recommendations related to the Truckee River corridor are being developed and will return to the Board later in the year.

Board members support the Active Transportation Program and encourage staff to continue working collaboratively with regional partners to advance multimodal transportation improvements.

5.3 Receive a presentation on the Locust–Taylor–Kirman–Wells Corridor Study Update. (Informational Only)

Xuan Wang, RTC Planning Manager, presented an update on the Locust/Taylor/Kirman/Wells Corridor Study. The study, initiated through the Unified Planning Work Program, evaluates transportation safety, mobility, and multimodal improvements within the corridor extending from Mill Street to Plumb Lane. She reviewed the project timeline, existing conditions analysis, crash data, agency coordination, and public outreach completed to date.

A proposed improvement for the one-way Locust Street and Kirman Avenue couplet explained that existing traffic volumes can be accommodated with a single travel lane in each direction. The proposal would convert the current two one-way travel lanes to one travel lane, allowing the remaining roadway space to be repurposed for dedicated bicycle lanes. Staff noted that reducing excess vehicle capacity is intended to help calm traffic, discourage speeding, improve safety, and provide safer accommodation for bicyclists.

Approximately 430 crashes occurred within the study area between 2020 and 2024, including 32 crashes involving pedestrians or bicyclists. Existing conditions identified opportunities to improve

pedestrian crossings, bicycle connectivity, intersection safety, lighting, and complete street infrastructure. Public outreach included bilingual online surveys, neighborhood meetings, business outreach, and coordination with advisory committees. Preliminary survey results indicated strong public support for roadway reconfiguration, expanded bicycle facilities, enhanced pedestrian crossings, and additional lighting improvements.

Chair Hill noted the importance of improving pedestrian safety within one of Reno's most walkable neighborhoods and supports continued investment in the corridor.

Vice Chair Reese discussed future land use changes associated with the Veterans Administration campus and Washoe County School District facilities and asked how those long-term changes were being incorporated into the planning process. Staff explained that coordination is ongoing with both agencies to ensure future transportation needs are reflected in the study.

Commissioner Garcia highlighted the corridor's crash history and asked how potential relocation of the Veterans Administration Hospital could affect transit service. Jim Gee, Director of Public Transportation, explained that RTC would evaluate ridership patterns and adjust Route 13 or other services as necessary while maintaining transit access to the surrounding neighborhood.

Chair Hill concluded by expressing appreciation for the public outreach conducted to date and encouraged staff to continue engaging the community as the study progresses toward final recommendations.

Item 6 REPORTS (Informational Only)

6.1 RTC Executive Director Report

Bill Thomas, RTC Executive Director, announced that RTC had received the full \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD Grant award for the Sun Valley Boulevard Project. He recognized RTC staff, consultant partners, NDOT, and Nevada's congressional delegation for their collaborative efforts in securing the maximum grant award.

Mr. Thomas also recognized RTC staff for submitting an application for the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) System of the Year Award. Paul Nelson, Government Affairs Officer, and Josh MacEachern, Public Information Officer, presented the promotional video prepared in support of the national award application and thanked the Board for participating in the production. They highlighted RTC's accomplishments in ridership growth, youth transit initiatives, technology improvements, customer service, community partnerships, and multimodal transportation investments.

Mr. Thomas further reported that RTC has also been nominated for the APTA Innovation Award for its implementation of transportation network companies, including Uber, Lyft, and local taxi providers, together with artificial intelligence technology to improve ACCESS scheduling and customer service. He noted that RTC's innovative approach has attracted national attention from peer transit agencies.

Mr. Thomas concluded by recognizing staff involved in the recently completed West Fourth Street improvements and thanked Chair Hill and Mayor Schieve for participating in the project celebration.

Chair Hill complimented staff on the successful completion of the Fourth Street improvements and highlighted the enhanced bicycle crossing facilities incorporated into the project.

6.2 RTC Federal Report

Paul Nelson, RTC Government Affairs Officer, provided an update on federal transportation activities. He reported that congressional leadership anticipates a short-term extension of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act while work continues on long-term surface transportation reauthorization. He also summarized ongoing congressional activity related to the Build America Act, federal appropriations, and transportation funding.

Mr. Nelson informed the Board that the U.S. Department of Transportation recently awarded approximately \$1.73 billion in BUILD grants nationwide, including RTC's \$25 million award for the Sun Valley Boulevard Project. He also summarized proposed Environmental Protection Agency revisions intended to streamline National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review procedures by reducing environmental review timelines and simplifying project delivery.

6.3 NDOT Director Report

Sajid Sulahria, NDOT Deputy Director, gave a report on the following.

Director Larkin Thomason recently participated in the national 70th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System celebration hosted by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Library of Congress. During the event, she highlighted Nevada's critical interstate system, including Interstate 80 and Interstate 15, and emphasized the importance of maintaining reliable freight and transportation corridors throughout the western United States.

Mr. Sulahria stated that Governor Joe Lombardo submitted Nevada's priority highway corridor recommendations to the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of the Freedom to Drive Initiative. Interstate 80 was identified as Nevada's highest priority corridor, along with Interstate 15 South, U.S. Highway 95, and the Henderson Interchange, for future federal investment focused on congestion relief, safety improvements, and capacity enhancements.

Chair Hill requested clarification regarding the additional priority corridors identified by the Governor.

Item 7 COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Commissioner Garcia appreciates the Board, RTC staff, NDOT, the congressional delegation, and community partners for their continued support of the Sun Valley Boulevard Project. She recognized the persistence required to secure federal funding and stated that the project will provide transformative improvements for the Sun Valley community.

Chair Hill requested that staff provide an upcoming presentation to the Washoe County Commission highlighting the scope and community benefits of the Sun Valley Boulevard Project, so residents better understand the significance of the investment. Mr. Thomas responded that staff would work toward scheduling a presentation in the near future.

Mayor Lawson noted that many regional initiatives are being deferred until after September.

Item 8 PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Hill opened the public comment period. There was no public comment.

Item 9 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission

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