

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

8:30 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

CONCURRENT MEETING

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Marsha Berkbigler, Commissioner
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
John Slaughter, Acting Assistant County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel*

ABSENT:

Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson
Kitty Jung, Commissioner

The Commission convened at 8:32 a.m. in concurrent session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada with Chairman Humke presiding. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

13-803 AGENDA ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission, Reno City Council and Sparks City Council as a whole.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

13-804 AGENDA ITEM 5 - RECOGNITION

Agenda Subject: “Recognition of staff at the Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) for their work to continue/restore services following a lightning strike at the RECC.”

Sheriff Mike Haley explained that the Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) provided a federal, State and local first responder communications network for the region. On June 28, 2013, an unprecedented lightning event struck the network operations center. He said a series of lightning strikes were

witnessed throughout the Truckee Meadows and described as a phenomenal lightning event that lit up the sky for several minutes. He commented that the lightning strikes caused severe damage to many internal components central to the operation of the RECC. Sheriff Haley acknowledged that staff immediately began restoring the emergency communications network and worked tirelessly around the clock to ensure that the safety of citizens was not compromised. He commended the communications specialists, the radio technicians, law enforcement, fire personnel and emergency management that responded.

Sheriff Haley recognized the following jurisdictions for their contribution: Washoe County Technology Services; Washoe County Radio Shop; Washoe County Emergency Management; the City of Reno Emergency Communication System; the Reno Radio Shop; the Reno Fire Department; the City of Reno Information Technology Department; the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD); the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; the Nevada Department of Emergency Management; the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT); NVenergy; and, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. He commented that all the entities worked in unison to repair the system and to maintain communications when the vital systems were damaged.

The Board and Council's recognized and commended the RECC and everyone who contributed to continue and/or restore services following the lightning strikes damaging the RECC.

Sean Taylor, RECC Regional Communications Coordinator, thanked the Board and the Council's for their recognition.

There was no action taken or public comment on this item.

13-805 AGENDA ITEM 6 - RECOGNITION

Agenda Subject: "Recognition of work performed by the Shared Services Elected Officials Committee (SSEOC); and possible direction on the future of the committee."

Reno Councilmember Berkhus stated that the formation of the Shared Services Elected Officials Committee (SSEOC) came through a State law, and she asked if that law was the outcome of the contentious 2002 Regional Plan update and litigation that ensued. Cadence Matijevich, Reno Assistant City Manager, explained that the SSEOC was formed following the 2009 Legislative session when the area was in the midst of the recession. She said the Legislature was interested to see if there were areas in local government where consolidation may result in cost savings. As AB 494 moved through the session, it had initially been proposed as an interim Legislative study to be conducted by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). However, in the final days of the session, AB 494 was amended to require Clark County, cities in Clark County, Washoe County and cities in Washoe County to prepare an evaluation of efforts for consolidation and/or regionalization. In addition to that evaluation, the local governments took the

opportunity to form the SSEOC, and research areas where the sharing of services was not already occurring. Through that research, it was found that the local governments had many shared services.

Commissioner Hartung requested an explanation of AB 494 and the SSEOC for the edification of the public. Ms. Matijevich explained that the SSEOC was established in 2009 to examine areas in which government entities could combine or share services. She said the participating entities were Washoe County, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks and the Washoe County School District. She said the two significant projects that went before the SSEOC were a Shared Services Feasibility Study Request for Proposal (RFP), which was awarded to Matrix Consulting, and a report to the Nevada Legislature regarding AB 494. Ms. Matijevich commented that both projects revealed that the local entities were already working closely together in multiple areas through informal and formal agreements. As the economy took a severe downturn, she said the agencies were forced to downsize and/or combine their own service provisions, diminishing the ability or need to pursue partial consolidation. However, the entities had integrated or shared some common services in areas such as Purchasing, Information Technology, Human Resources and Dispatch. Ms. Matijevich stated that the SSEOC had operationally run its course and said staff resources for the agencies should be redirected to focus on the IBM Smarter Cities report. She recommended that the SSEOC be retired.

Sparks Councilmember Lawson inquired on the number of services that were shared between the three jurisdictions. Ms. Matijevich replied that approximately 60 services were shared throughout the jurisdictions.

There was no public comment on this item.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried with Commissioners Weber and Jung absent, it was ordered that the Shared Services Elected Officials Committee be retired, and the Subcommittee working on building permits and business licenses be retired. It was further ordered that the staff resources for the agencies be redirected to focus on work to be completed as a result of the IBM Smarter Cities report.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Jardon, seconded by Councilmember Berkhus, which motion duly carried with Mayor Cashell and Councilmember Dortch absent, it was ordered that the Shared Services Elected Officials Committee be retired, and the Subcommittee working on building permits and business licenses be retired. It was further ordered that the staff resources for the agencies be redirected to focus on work to be completed as a result of the IBM Smarter Cities report.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Lawson, which motion duly carried with Mayor Martini and Councilmembers Ratti and Schmitt absent, it was ordered that the Shared Services Elected Officials Committee be retired, and the Subcommittee working on building permits and business licenses be retired. It was further ordered that the staff resources for

the agencies be redirected to focus on work to be completed as a result of the IBM Smarter Cities report.

13-806 AGENDA ITEM 7 - PRESENTATION

Agenda Subject: “Presentation from Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) on I-11 & Intermountain West Corridor Study - Sondra Rosenberg, Project Manager - NDOT.”

Sondra Rosenberg, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) Federal Programs Manager, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk. The presentation highlighted the I-11 and Intermountain West Corridor Study and included: the study area, schedule and participants; corridor-wide goals and objectives; key justifications; stakeholder partners and public meetings; stakeholder engagement in the evaluation process; the universe of alternatives; Phase 1 and 2 completed deliverables, Phase 3 deliverables, and what would happen after the study was completed.

***9:00 a.m.** Paul Lipparelli, Washoe County Legal Counsel, arrived during the presentation.

Chairman Humke said the site for the right-of-way in Nevada was important and he wanted to ensure that all the entities were receiving the pertinent information. He requested the Clerk’s from each entity send e-mail addresses of their elected officials to Ms. Rosenberg so that all the pertinent information would be received.

In order to have a partner to the north, Sparks Councilmember Lawson asked if partnerships had been considered for the alignment with Washington, Idaho, Oregon or Montana. Ms. Rosenberg replied that NDOT had reached out in a minimal level to those states and had them on their e-mail distribution list. She said staff was in the process of determining that the contact information was correct to enhance those efforts.

Sparks Councilmember Smith asked if a particular corridor would be focused on during the NDOT meeting scheduled in October. Ms. Rosenberg explained that the results of the initial Level I screening would be presented during that meeting. Councilmember Smith questioned if the corridor would be known by late 2014. Ms. Rosenberg replied that the connectivity segments, north of Las Vegas and south of Phoenix, Arizona, would determine the recommendation to move forward, but if other alternatives or further studies were needed, it would then be recommended that several alternatives could move forward.

Commissioner Hartung asked how priority was defined and if there was a ranking system in place. Ms. Rosenberg replied that “priority” was congressional terminology. She explained that the U.S. Congress passed resolutions to designate corridors as high priority and were meant to be high priority for the nation. She said this

region could have their own priorities and, if there were corridors that NDOT felt were priorities not just in the region but also for the nation, then the area representatives in Washington D.C. needed to be contacted. She indicated there was a high priority corridor designated along U.S. 95 and Highway 395 between Las Vegas and Reno. Commissioner Hartung asked how the region could move up on the ranking in respect to priority. Ms. Rosenberg explained that the high priority corridors were not ranked, but were a designation and were all in some sense equal. In order to bring attention to the high priority corridors in the State, she said local leaders needed to work with their State representatives in Washington D.C. She suggested the elected officials reach out to their congressional representatives and reiterate that this corridor was a priority for Nevada.

Reno Councilmember Berkhus asked if there would be right-of-ways reserved for railroads. Ms. Rosenberg commented that NDOT was looking further out in northern Nevada to identify which alternative alignments made sense to begin working on preserving right-of-ways. She said they wanted enough right-of-ways to be preserved so that any and all modes of transportation could be accommodated in the future. Councilmember Berkhus asked if there was any federal guidance allowing that climate changes be considered. Ms. Rosenberg replied there was currently no federal guidance in terms of climate change or transportation planning.

Reno Councilmember Zadra questioned which of the evaluation components would be most weighted in determining between the three routes described in the presentation. Ms. Rosenberg explained they were presently all weighted equally, but NDOT would prefer to hear from the elected officials on which were considered the most important to the jurisdictions they represented.

There was no action taken or public comment on this item.

13-807 AGENDA ITEM 8 - PRESENTATION

Agenda Subject: “Presentation from Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) regarding the Virginia Street & Fourth Street Corridor Plans - Lee Gibson, Executive Director - RTC.”

Amy Cummings, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Planning Director, conducted a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Corridor Plans for 4th/Prater Streets and Virginia Street, which was placed on file with the Clerk. The presentation included working toward the vision for transit, working toward complete streets, community outreach, design concept, Virginia Street Corridor Plan, RAPID Extension to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and Midtown roadway improvements.

Reno Councilmember Jardon inquired on the concerns for the Midtown area that citizens or businesses had expressed. Ms. Cummings replied there had been an equal balance concerning parking and bicycle connectivity. She stated that options were being considered for those concerns during construction.

Reno Councilmember Delgado said the timeframe for 4th Street construction was 2017, and he asked about the timeframe for the Virginia Street construction. Ms. Cummings indicated that the timelines were very similar. She said the preliminary study would be completed this year and the design for the Midtown improvements had been budgeted for next year. She felt the construction would also begin in 2017 for Virginia Street. Councilmember Delgado said there was a revivance occurring on the 4th Street corridor, and he asked if those businesses were being asked to weigh in on the upgrades. Ms. Cummings replied there had been an outreach to businesses, residents and other stakeholders in the 4th/Prater Street Corridor. She noted that staff was working with some of the local businesses in regard to the station design concepts.

Reno Councilmember Schieve inquired on the reception received from the Midtown business owners about the construction. Ms. Cummings said many of the businesses had participated in the workshops and public meetings. There had been a diversity of opinions and the RTC was still working on balancing the parking and other mobility needs. She stated there was a range of design options and added that those options would continue to be refined while receiving feedback from the City of Reno and members of the community.

In regard to Midtown, Commissioner Berkbigler asked about traffic calming procedures. Ms. Cummings explained there was currently one lane in each direction for the majority of that area, and she noted that striping and narrowing lanes tended to slow traffic. She indicated that signage and a crosswalk had been added which raised vehicle awareness to pedestrian traffic.

Reno Councilmember Jardon asked how quick a section of sidewalk could be replaced with the most minimal disruption to businesses. Ms. Cummings commented that also had been a concern expressed by several of the businesses. She reiterated that construction was not anticipated to begin until 2017 because of the length of time it took to develop the engineering, the right-of ways and utilities. She said the RTC would work with the businesses and share all the information in a timely, efficient manner.

Reno Councilmember Berkhus felt that transit funding was not keeping pace with the demand for increased public transportation. Lee Gibson, RTC Executive Director, said the RTC was reviewing a process to address those issues. He said they were moving toward a "Transit Summit" to determine how transit should be handled in the community and how to face the demographic challenges as baby-boomers aged.

Reno Councilmember Zadra inquired on the highest priority in terms of transit services between the different portions of the project. Ms. Cummings replied that the University Extension was the highest priority because that was the largest employment center and activity center not presently served with RAPID transit. Councilmember Zadra asked about the conversations with UNR about their planning process. Ms. Cummings explained that UNR was working with City of Reno staff to review ways to better integrate with the downtown area, in terms of their campus

expansion. She commented that UNR would begin working on their master plan early next year. Mr. Gibson said the RTC had been in discussions concerning some facilities that would be on the UNR campus and funded through the RTC. However, there needed to be some Legislative changes in order to bring back a discretionary funding program for those types of facilities and capital projects. He indicated that the discretionary funding programs were the mechanism used to build RTC's 4th Street Station and Centennial Plaza.

Reno Councilmember Schieve asked if it were feasible to complete the construction in smaller sections in order to mitigate the impact on businesses. Mr. Gibson indicated a schedule would be considered when the construction sequencing was being discussed.

Commissioner Hartung was concerned because light rail had been taken out of the conversation. He said light rail was a very efficient mode of public transportation.

Reno Councilmember Berkhus asked how the RTC was reaching out to the surrounding residential neighborhoods that may be impacted in the Midtown area. Mr. Gibson replied that the RTC had an array of tools ranging from technology to workshops. He remarked that the planning process would begin early with staff becoming acquainted with the business owners and would remain in close contact with those owners throughout the entire project. He said there would also be effective workshops held for businesses and residents.

There was no action taken or public comment on this item.

13-808 AGENDA ITEM 9

Agenda Subject: "Comments from the Councils, Commission and/or Managers."

Sparks Councilmember Smith requested a Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) update on the Veterans Memorial Bridge during the next concurrent meeting.

13-809 AGENDA ITEM 10 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: "Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission, Reno City Council and Sparks City Council as a whole."

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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9:56 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID E. HUMKE, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Stacy Gonzales, Deputy County Clerk*