

CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the October 15, 1997, Meeting
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A regularly scheduled meeting of the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, October 15, 1997, at the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairperson Greg Smith and Commissioner Marie Wolf

STAFF PRESENT: Community Development Director Walter Sullivan, Deputy
Public Works Director Tim Homann, and Recording
Secretary Katherine McLaughlin (RTC 10/15/97 Tape
1-0001.5)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - Chairperson Smith convened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present although Commissioner Tatro was absent.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Discussion indicated the August 20th Minutes had been approved on September 24th. Commissioner Wolf moved to approve the September 24th Minutes as written. Chairperson Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS (1-0021.5) - Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President Larry Osborne explained the Chamber's research on and decision to have a fixed route, rubber tired trolley in the historic district. Potential funding sources and concerns were briefly described. These resources will be finalized after the first of January. The current proposal would lease and operate the trolleys during July, August, and September 1998. The success of this concept will determine its future. The concept will allow the tourists to park on the outskirts of the City and catch the trolley, shop in the downtown area, and catch the trolley back to their cars. This will eliminate their need to drive and park in the downtown area. Additional comments were solicited but none given.

3. STATUS REPORT ON PROJECTS (1-0061.5) - Mr. Homann reviewed the status report. Discussion indicated that the signals at Goni and Hot Springs as well as at College Parkway and Roop should be installed by the time Goni Road is reopened. Clarification indicated that there had been a signal at College Parkway and Roop approximately eight years ago. This signal was installed due to a surrounding development, however, traffic did not warrant it and it was relocated to Hot Springs and Carson Street. College Parkway and Roop currently warrant a signal. Reasons a signal was not being installed at Hot Springs and College Parkway were discussed and were based on the fact that Hot Springs will be cutoff when the freeway is constructed. Design requirements for signals were discussed along with the reasons signal masks arms cannot be relocated. The electrical equipment can be transferred from one signal to another. Discussion ensued on the interaction which would occur between the Transportation Advisory Ad-Hoc Committee, the consultant, and the RTC. These issues will be addressed in the future. Chairperson Smith suggested at least two joint meetings be held to provide for a dialogue on each group's responsibilities. Commissioner Wolf suggested that the Committee also be provided with a copy of the NRS so that they will be able to understand the Commission's limitations. Mr. Sullivan explained how the Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee had functioned and its joint meetings with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission took the final product to the Board of Supervisors. He suggested that periodic joint meetings be held to allow direction to be given and to eliminate a potential for conflicts to occur. Benefits of the program were noted and emphasized its ability to have a higher profile with more citizen participation. Traffic is becoming more of a problem in Carson City. The need to have the master plan developed adequately to designate projects within the budget time constraints was noted. The cost to extend Graves Lane and for the Graves Lane-Arrowhead connector road were explained. Mr. Sullivan also explained that the Graves Lane extension will create some setback problems for residents adjacent to it. He expressed his intent to work with the residents on an administrative level to address these problems and not require them to seek a variance through the Planning Commission as the City created the hardship. He will be sending a letter to all of the residents about this process. Chairperson Smith also noted that City's arborist would work with the residents and attempt to save as many of the trees and as much of the landscaping as possible. Mr. Homann indicated that the Board will consider three property acquisitions for Graves Lane tomorrow. Discussion ensued on the ISTEAF funding for the Murphy Drive bike path. Mr. Homann indicated that Murphy Drive will not be paved unless NDOT constructs the bike path. Concerns were also expressed about the lack of bicycle etiquette and emphasized the need for public education

programs teaching safe bicycling practices. Mr. Homann indicated that the RTC consultant who had developed design standards for bicycle roadway designations will be holding public hearings on his recommendations shortly. It may be necessary to seek funding from the Parks and Recreation Department/Commission for a public education program. Commissioner Wolf suggested that bicycle enthusiasts be involved in this program. She was also opposed to using RTC funding for these programs. Discussion indicated that NDOT Representative Sue Newberry and Ken Cooper are in the process of developing a school public education program. Mr. Homann indicated that the consultant contract for the Brunswick Canyon bridge was not included on the project list. The Board of Supervisors will consider it tomorrow. Discussion indicated that the Ormsby Boulevard extension should also be on the list. Its priority is pending the preliminary Master Plan report which should be completed prior to the next budget allocation. The solar power light system at Clearview and Edmonds was explained. It should function even in bad weather/El Nino storms. Comments supported continuing the spread sheet style for the report.

4. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS (1-0754.5) - Mr. Homann indicated that he would have the heavy truck traffic on Curry and Division investigated.

5. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF TRUCK ROUTE DESIGNATIONS (1-0760.5) - Mr. Homann briefly described the criteria he must use to establish truck routes. The Board/Commission handle appeals to these decisions. The Municipal Code, which Mr. Homann read into the record, further compounds the criteria and is confusing due to its prohibition against having more than "2,000 pounds per axle" but "allows the hauling/moving of a single 10,000 pound or more item" exception on State designated highways where the State Statutes establish the criteria. The statutes mandate that an engineering study be completed prior to establishing and restricting trucks. He was unsure whether an engineering study had been completed to establish the City's load limit. A majority of the streets, which the trucks are using, can handle the trucks at the current volume. He hoped to have a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in December which would provide the authority to post a street as "not a truck route". This signage will have to be enforceable and he will work with the Sheriff's Department on it. Any complaints as a result of this enforcement will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Chairperson Smith supported his recommendation that the ultimate result be enforceable and supportable. Commissioner Wolf explained her concern and desire to see something done posthaste. Mr. Homann explained his reasons for addressing the situation as soon as possible. Commissioner Wolf then urged staff to develop a public education program so that residents will know what to do if another flood or emergency situation arises. Mr. Homann explained the flooding which had occurred in her neighborhood and the improvements that were made which should reduce the potential for its reoccurrence. Staff has already developed an operational plan for different types of emergencies. Reasons this information has not been distributed to the community were noted. Commissioner Wolf felt that the residents needed to know such information as where and how to turn off their gas, water, etc., if an emergency arises. Mr. Homann indicated that such informational packets are available and have been distributed from time-to-time. Chairperson Smith indicated it may be time for the Board of Supervisors to provide funding for a public information officer on either a part-time or full-time basis. His perception of this program was described. Commissioner Wolf expressed her opposition to the voice mail telephone system. Mr. Homann described several programs which had been implemented as a result of the last flood including a signage program advising the public of where to find sand and sand bags. Chairperson Smith predicted the next flood event would not occur for 20 or 25 years and that all of the individuals who had participated in the last one would be gone. The new people will have to relearn and develop reaction programs.

6. STAFF COMMENTS (1-1118.5) - Mr. Homann distributed copies of the September Transit Report and indicated that the ridership had gone over 1,000. The new manager is Mark Reynolds. He will be in Carson City five days a week. The State Welfare ride program should begin soon. Discussion indicated that during a "disaster" residents should stay home. Mr. Homann explained that the emergency response program included an evacuation program and a list of vehicles which would be commandeered for this service. Chairperson Smith explained that City employees had actively worked to be sure that medical emergencies were met for any residents needing assistance. Discussion also explained the new list of contractors who could be contacted for assistance. Commissioner Wolf indicated that she had obtained a generator which should operate if the electricity fails. Comments indicated that it would provide emergency electricity but not all of the appliances could be operated at one time.

7. ACTION ON FUTURE MEETING DATE(S) AND TIME(S) (1-1229.5) - Chairperson Smith supported having evening meetings when a topic warrants it. The need to raise the RTC's profile was emphasized. Reasons for the lack of public participation/involvement were discussed. Mr. Homann indicated that the Master Plan element consultant DKS and the Transportation Advisory Committee will provide a status report at the next meeting. The next meeting was then scheduled for 3 p.m. on November 19. The priority establishing meetings are to be heavily publicized and any large scale projects should include a public information meeting/open house similar to NDOT's. Regular meetings similar to today's are to remain at 3 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT (1-1302.5) - Commissioner Wolf moved to adjourn. Chairperson Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Chairperson Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's office. This tape is available for review and inspection during normal business hours.

The Minutes of the October 15, 1997, Carson City Regional Transportation Commission meeting

1998. ARE SO APPROVED ON _____,

Greg Smith, Chairperson