

CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the October 14, 2009 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Shelly Aldean
Vice Chairperson Russell Carpenter
Commissioner Robert Crowell
Commissioner Charles Des Jardins
Commissioner James Mallery

STAFF: Andrew Burnham, Public Works Department Director
Joel Benton, Senior Deputy District Attorney
Dan Doenges, Senior Transportation Planner
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager
Darren Schulz, Deputy Public Works Director - Engineering
Jeff Sharp, City Engineer

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the commission's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record. These materials are available, in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, for review during regular business hours.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:31:17) - Chairperson Aldean called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present.

B. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 9, 2009 (5:31:57) - Vice Chairperson Carpenter moved to accept the minutes, as presented. Commissioner Des Jardins seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

C. MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (5:32:31) - None.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT (5:32:48) - Safe Routes to School Coordinator Dan Allison commended the Public Works Department on installation of the speed display signs in various school zones, and Mr. Pittenger on ensuring that all school zone crosswalks were "refreshed" prior to the beginning of the school year. Chairperson Aldean thanked Mr. Allison, and commended Public Works Department staff.

E. DISCLOSURES (5:34:50) - None.

F. CONSENT AGENDA (5:35:04) - Chairperson Aldean entertained requests to hear items separate from the consent agenda. When none were forthcoming, she pulled item F-1 and entertained a motion to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. **Commissioner Crowell moved to approve the consent agenda, as modified, consisting of item F-2. Vice Chairperson Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

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F-1. ACTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING OF AND AUTHORIZING THE CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION CHAIR TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE MATCHING AGREEMENT FOR CARSON CITY GATEWAY SIGNAGE, BY AND BETWEEN THE STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (5:35:55) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and Mr. Sharp reviewed the agenda report. He advised of a revision made throughout the agreement, and that revised originals were provided to Mr. Pittenger. Chairperson Aldean noted the revision was clerical in nature, and Mr. Sharp advised he would review the same with the appropriate Nevada Department of Transportation representatives.

Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment and, when none was forthcoming, a motion. **Vice Chairperson Carpenter moved to adopt the resolution approving of and authorizing the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission Chairperson to sign a Cooperative Matching Agreement for Carson City Gateway Signage, by and between the State of Nevada Department of Transportation and the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission, as amended. Commissioner Des Jardins seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

F-2. ACTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT 1 TO AGREEMENT PR333-08-063 FOR THE EAST FIFTH STREET AND GONI ROAD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT, BY AND BETWEEN THE STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

G. PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS:

G-1. REVIEW OF RTC AND STREETS FINANCIAL STATUS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 / 2009 (5:37:58) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and Mr. Burnham reviewed the agenda materials. He explained that the implication of the current financial status will begin to affect the “ability to borrow funds for future projects.” He referred to the \$7.5 million to be borrowed this year, as indicated in the transportation master plan element, in order to finish committed projects, including the next phase of the Roop Street Widening Project. “We still need to do that, but the ability for repayment is getting really tight.” Mr. Burnham recommended delaying the next phase of the Roop Street Widening project “to see how the revenues fare through the first quarter.” Staff will then return to the commission in December with new recommendations relative to the capital program. Mr. Burnham anticipates revenues will rebound “at least a little bit ... at some point.” He noted “this is a nationwide issue” in that gas tax revenues are decreasing in similar fashion all over the country. He advised of having met with bond counsel and financial advisors yesterday to “start the bonding process.” He reiterated that a recommendation will be submitted to the commission in December. He advised that the capital improvements program “going forward is going to be much less than what we’d anticipated.” He further advised that the Public Works Department has done very well in acquiring grant funding. He acknowledged that priorities will be reassessed, and this will be part of the recommendation presented to the commission in December. He further acknowledged the possibility of additional American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding after the first of the year. “It’s a matter of who spends it fast enough and whether or not some of that gets reallocated.” Mr. Burnham advised that funding requests have also been submitted to Congress. Chairperson Aldean commended Public Works Department staff on their efforts to secure funding. Mr. Burnham anticipates approximately \$3.5 million in grant funding this year.

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Chairperson Aldean acknowledged the importance of capital improvements projects, but suggested that, in many respects, maintenance is more important. Mr. Burnham noted that both the RTC and Streets budgets were presented together in order to ensure sufficient maintenance funding. In reference to the agreement with NDOT to assume ownership of State streets, he noted that maintenance costs were increased but the action “also decreased our exposure to \$1 million a year in expenses for the freeway ...” He noted that the cost of projects is “the lowest we’ve ever seen it. We’re seeing some of our projects come in as much as half of what we estimate.” He suggested continuing to pursue completion of the next phase of the Roop Street Widening Project “because we will never get it at a better price than right now. But, if you can’t afford to pay it back, you can’t do it. That’s what we’ll have to decide in December.”

Commissioner Des Jardins agreed with Chairperson Aldean’s comments regarding the importance of maintenance. Mr. Burnham commended the commission on ensuring maintenance as a priority. He responded to questions of clarification regarding the combined Streets and RTC revenues, as delineated in the agenda materials. He acknowledged a 25 percent decrease since FY 2008 and, in response to a further question, discussed projections. In response to a comment, he advised that most of the revenues are from gas tax. Discussion followed. Chairperson Aldean emphasized the RTC and Streets funds are not operating in a deficit. In response to a question, Mr. Burnham provided additional information regarding the debt service fund, as delineated in the agenda materials. In response to a question, Mr. Pittenger provided an overview of the effect of Washoe County’s RTC 5 question. Mr. Burnham provided additional information regarding passage of the question. Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment and, when none was forthcoming, thanked Mr. Burnham for his presentation.

G-2. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON THE DESIGN OF PHASE II OF THE ROOP STREET WIDENING PROJECT (5:53:53) - Chairperson Aldean introduced and provided background information on this item. Mr. Schulz reviewed the agenda report and possible solutions to accommodate a bicycle lane, in conjunction with a displayed Roop Street Widening Project plan. He explained that the project was designed with two travel lanes in each direction and a middle turn lane throughout. Consideration was given to the intersections requiring a turn lane, including Highway 50, Long Street, and Corbett Street. Accommodating a bicycle lane through those intersections would require extension of the right-of-way on either side. Mr. Schulz explained that a five-foot wide bicycle lane can be accommodated in both directions to Adams Street; at Adams Street to Long Street, a four-foot wide bicycle lane can be accommodated in both directions; and from Long Street north, a shared bicycle lane can be accommodated. He advised that this will cost an additional \$50,000 to \$60,000 in acquisition of additional right-of-way, construction and engineering costs. He further advised that the center turn lane will be forfeited along the entire length of Roop Street. He expressed the opinion that the proposal represents a compromise.

In response to a question, Mr. Schulz advised that the required additional acquisition of right-of-way will not represent a “complete taking” in any case. “In a lot of places, we’re talking about maybe 18 inches on one side or the other where we’re already taking.” Mr. Schulz expressed confidence that the \$50,000 to \$60,000 figure is “a good number.” He advised that the right-hand dedicated turn lane to accommodate southbound traffic turning west from Roop Street to Highway 50 will be eliminated. He noted this as an additional compromise. In response to a question, he advised that the project will not be re-modeled upon final design due to the associated cost and time. He acknowledged that the entire project is subject to review and approval at the December commission meeting, as discussed by Mr. Burnham under item G-1.

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Vice Chairperson Carpenter commended Public Works Department staff. In reference to the shared lane from Long Street north, he expressed concern over automobile traffic and suggested the possibility of painting a fog line to provide some sense of a designated bicycle lane. Mr. Schulz advised that a fog line can be painted, but cannot be designated as a bicycle lane. Vice Chairperson Carpenter expressed concern over having to forfeit the center turn lane. In response to a question, Mr. Schulz advised that accommodating the bicycle lane requires forfeiture of the center turn lane.

Chairperson Aldean opened this item to public comment. (6:02:16) With regard to Vice Chairperson Carpenter's concerns, Dan Allison, a member of Muscle Powered, expressed understanding that shared lanes "are a new thing and it will take drivers some time to adjust to them and understand what they mean." Mr. Allison expressed the personal preference to work toward educating drivers regarding the function of shared lanes "because they allow us to include bicycle facilities in places where we otherwise could not." He expressed concern over the four-foot bicycle lane from the Adams Street to Long Street intersections "because as streets are repaved and debris accumulates in the bike lane, ... four feet is often not enough because the edge that develops in repaving sort of removes the gutter pan as part of the bike lane and then the lane gets narrower and narrower and four feet can feel too narrow." He requested staff to consider whether the Adams Street to Long Street section "might be better served by a shared lane." He advised that five-foot lanes are the standard and "some places are even moving toward six-foot lanes." With regard to Vice Chairperson Carpenter's suggestion to paint a fog line from the Long Street intersection north, Mr. Allison advised that every situation is different. He expressed a preference for a designated bicycle lane.

(6:05:07) Muscle Powered President Jeff Moser discussed a long-term Muscle Powered goal for Carson City to be a designated bicycle-friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists. He advised that Nevada is currently the only western state without a bicycle-friendly community. He noted Roop Street "as a connector will help us reach that designation by connecting different parts of the City and the City centers." He advised that South Lake Tahoe is a bronze member of the League of American Bicyclists, recently having achieved the designation through the work of the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition. He requested the opportunity to review pertinent information with Mayor Crowell. He discussed the attraction of bicycle-friendly communities to businesses, people considering relocation, etc. Mayor Crowell welcomed the opportunity to review the information.

(6:06:46) Luke Wold advised of having lived in Carson City for less than two years. In consideration of forfeiting the center turn lane, he advised of having visited large cities with "horrible traffic," and suggested "Carson doesn't have that heavy of traffic." He expressed support for forfeiting the center turn lane to accommodate the bicycle lanes, "especially with the highway going through; ... that it wouldn't be that big a sacrifice and that big a delay."

(6:07:44) Tim Rowe, a member of the Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board and the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition, expressed support for painting a fog line along the shared bicycle lane from Long Street north "because a lot of the older people tend to ride way to the right." He expressed appreciation for the consideration given to accommodating the bicycle lanes on Roop Street.

Chairperson Aldean thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation. She thanked Mr. Schulz and, in response to a question, he offered to provide exhibits showing the bicycle lanes. He recommended agendaing an action item for the November commission meeting. Chairperson Aldean suggested installing Share the Lane signs to raise the consciousness of automobile drivers. She again thanked the citizens for

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their attendance and participation. Commissioner Des Jardins suggested that the additional \$50,000 to \$60,000, in consideration of the cost of the entire project, is minuscule. Chairperson Aldean thanked Mr. Schulz, Mr. Pittenger, and Engineer Mark Rotter.

G-3. ACTION TO DETERMINE THAT Z7 DEVELOPMENT IS THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, PURSUANT TO NRS CHAPTER 338, AND TO AWARD CONTRACT NO. 0910-079, EAST FIFTH STREET PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AND GONI ROAD PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS, TO Z7 DEVELOPMENT FOR A BID AMOUNT OF \$581,016.00, PLUS A CONTINGENCY AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$58,000.00, TO BE FUNDED FROM THE GONI / EAST FIFTH NDOT PROJECT FUND, AS PROVIDED IN FY 2009 / 2010 (6:10:38) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and Mr. Pittenger reviewed the agenda materials. He advised that because the contract, including contingency, is well below the amount of the grant funding at over \$714,000, the City will be able to recoup staff time invested in project design. Commissioner Des Jardins advised that the speed limit on the stretch of roadway between the round-a-bout and Hells Bells Road has been reduced from 35 to 25 miles per hour. He commended said reduction in conjunction with the subject project.

Chairperson Aldean opened this item to public comment. (6:13:46) Safe Routes to School Coordinator Dan Allison confirmed Fifth Street as an important access for Eagle Valley Junior High School students. He advised of having noticed the traffic is “much calmer” with reduction in the speed limit.

Chairperson Aldean entertained additional public comment and, when none was forthcoming, a motion. **Commissioner Des Jardins moved to determine that Z7 Development is the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, pursuant to NRS 338, and to award Contract No. 0910-079, East Fifth Street Pedestrian Improvements and Goni Road Pedestrian Improvements to Z7 Development for a bid amount of \$581,016.00, plus a contingency amount not to exceed \$58,000, to be funded from the Goni / East Fifth Street NDOT Project Fund, as provided in FY 2009 / 2010. Commissioner Crowell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

G-4. ACTION TO DETERMINE THAT A&K EARTHMOVERS, INC. IS THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, PURSUANT TO NRS CHAPTER 338, AND TO AWARD CONTRACT NO. 0809-092, SOUTH CARSON STREET / EAGLE STATION LANE TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION TO A&K EARTHMOVERS, INC., FOR A BID AMOUNT OF \$437,000.00, PLUS A CONTINGENCY AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$43,700.00, TO BE FUNDED FROM THE RTC ROAD CONSTRUCTION FUND, AS PROVIDED IN FY 2009 / 2010 (6:15:48) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and Mr. Sharp reviewed the agenda materials. He described the location of the project at the intersection of Eagle Station Lane and the driveway to the Casino Fandango. He advised that, in addition to the traffic signal, right turn lanes in both directions on Carson Street will be installed. He reviewed the project time table, and advised that a Notice to Proceed is anticipated to be issued on October 15th. He discussed Carson Street lane closures between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Staff anticipates this will accelerate the project progress, and Mr. Sharp advised of the goal to finish the project by the first of November. In response to a question, he provided additional clarification of the project milestones, as delineated in the agenda materials.

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Chairperson Aldean noted that the project fulfills an obligation, pursuant to a Redevelopment Incentive Reimbursement Agreement, approved by this commission on September 30, 2008. Mr. Sharp acknowledged that the bid includes installation costs for the traffic signal itself. He advised of a provision in the agreement for the City to use existing materials in order to keep project costs at a minimum. He advised of a determination that there were no materials available to use for the project, and that the signal poles, controller, and the cabinet had to be pre-ordered and were all specific to the project. Chairperson Aldean read a portion of paragraph 3 of the agreement into the record and, in response to a question, Mr. Burnham advised that City staff will keep track of out-of-pocket expenses. Mr. Sharp responded to questions of clarification pertinent to the bid tabulation report and the project time table. Mr. Burnham noted that A&K Earthmovers are contracted to do the Curry Street Improvement Project which should reduce their mobilization costs.

Chairperson Aldean noted there were no public citizens present in the meeting room, and entertained a motion. **Commissioner Crowell moved to determine that A&K Earthmovers, Inc. is the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, pursuant to NRS Chapter 338, and to award Contract No. 0809-092, South Carson Street / Eagle Station Lane Traffic Signal Installation, to A&K Earthmovers, Inc. for a bid amount of \$437,000.00, plus a contingency amount not to exceed \$43,700.00, to be funded from the RTC Road Construction Fund, as provided in the FY 2009 / 2010 budget. Commissioner Des Jardins seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

H. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

H-1. STREET OPERATIONS REPORT (6:26:10) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and entertained questions or comments. None were forthcoming.

H-2. PROJECT STATUS REPORT (6:26:32) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item. Mr. Schulz anticipates that the Curry Street and North Stewart Street Improvement Projects will be completed by the November commission meeting. He described measures taken to prevent flooding issues associated with the recent rainfall. In response to a question, he described the status of the Fourth Street sidewalk improvements project. He anticipates completion of the design phase in the next four to six weeks. In response to a question regarding a temporary staging road on Moses Street, Mr. Schulz advised that it will be completely removed once the Curry Street Improvement Project is completed. He clarified that Moses Street will remain the original width; there was never any intent to widen it or to pave the south end. He explained the purpose of the utility markings in response to a further question. In response to a question, Mr. Pittenger explained the difference in the estimated project cost and the available funding for the gateway project. Mr. Burnham acknowledged that the final accounting has yet to be completed for the Fairview Drive Widening Project. He advised that the project is not yet complete, including purchase of an additional piece of property and completion of the landscape. In response to a question regarding a recent accident in which a semi truck turned over at the Fairview Drive interchange, Mr. Burnham advised that the driver was cited with DUI. Chairperson Aldean provided an overview of a discussion with Mr. Pittenger regarding a Quail Run resident's request to install "No Truck Brakes" signs along the south side of Fairview Drive.

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H-3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:34:10) - Mr. Pittenger reminded the commissioners of the November 4th meeting date, and reviewed the tentative agenda. At Chairperson Aldean's request, Commissioner Mallery provided an overview of recent meetings / discussions regarding the potential closure of Old Clear Creek Road.

I. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (6:41:42) - Commissioner Crowell moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. Commissioner Des Jardins seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the October 14, 2009 Carson City Regional Transportation Commission meeting are so approved this _____ day of November, 2009.

SHELLY ALDEAN, Chair