

CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the August 10, 2011 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission was scheduled to begin following adjournment of the Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

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

STAFF: Andrew Burnham, Public Works Department Director
Darren Schulz, Deputy Public Works Director
Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager
Daniel Doenges, Senior Transportation Planner
Ken Smithson, Transit Coordinator
Randal Munn, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Kathleen King, Deputy Clerk / Recording Secretary

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 part of the public record. These materials are available for review, in the Clerk's Office, during regular business hours.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (4:52:51) - Chairperson Aldean called the meeting to order at 4:52 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT (4:53:12) - Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment; however, none was forthcoming.

C. POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 13, 2011 (4:53:54) - Commissioner Carpenter noted a necessary correction. Chairperson Aldean entertained additional revisions or corrections and, when none were forthcoming, a motion. Commissioner Carpenter moved to approve the minutes, as amended. Commissioner Crowell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

D. AGENDA MANAGEMENT NOTICE (4:55:26) - Chairperson Aldean entertained modifications to the agenda; however, none were forthcoming.

E. DISCLOSURES (4:55:32) - None.

F. PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS:

F-1. INFORMATION REGARDING TRAFFIC CONCERNS ON EDMONDS DRIVE (4:55:43) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item. Mr. Pittenger provided background information and reviewed the agenda materials. In reference to Ralph Webber's request for installation of stop signs at various locations along Edmonds Drive, Mr. Pittenger advised of staff's determination that stop signs are not warranted at this time. He emphasized that "stop signs are not intended to be a speed control device."

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Chairperson Aldean entertained questions of Mr. Pittenger and, when none were forthcoming, invited Ralph Webber to the podium. (5:02:57) Mr. Webber thanked Mr. Pittenger for his assistance and for providing requested information. Mr. Webber reiterated the request to install stop signs at Koontz Lane, Clearview Drive, and Livermore Lane. He advised of having read the information provided by Mr. Pittenger relative to traffic controls, and disagreed with the same. "... when I bought my house in '04, I used to sit there in the front yard and ... a few cars went by. Those cars must have ... all filtered out before ... 1/10th of them got down to ... Snyder [Avenue]. As the beltway got closer every year, I would see more and more traffic and witness more and more people pulling out of adjoining streets and having to really hit the pedal to make it. The reason I'm requesting the stop signs ... is the number of cars merging onto Edmonds and the every day danger ... The Sheriff's Department can't possibly be there every day, 24 / 7, to enforce it." Mr. Webber expressed the opinion that the area has "become entirely unsafe. We should feel real lucky that we haven't had any major accidents yet." Mr. Webber agreed that the intent of stop signs is not to "slow people down, but it certainly wouldn't hurt ... before something does happen especially with the speeds that we're getting down there." He expressed the opinion that "Edmonds Drive should, above all, be treated as a residential neighborhood, a place where people can call home and feel safe living, not a bypass, not a major thoroughfare, not taking your chance merging, and not a speedway." He advised of having been informed that the high volume of traffic along Edmonds Drive "is temporary until the beltway can go through," and requested the temporary installation of stop signs. He suggested "just a couple [stop signs] would stop all this passing ..."

Chairperson Aldean entertained questions of the commissioners. In response to a question, Mr. Webber advised that the worst times are "usually from right about 6:30 in the morning 'til about 9:00 in the morning and then again from 3:30 to about 5:30. It's rush hour traffic on that street." Commissioner Des Jardins expressed agreement with Mr. Webber's concerns, and concern regarding enforcement procedures. Mr. Webber discussed additional concerns relative to safety. In response to a question, he advised of having considered requesting Mr. Pittenger to double-stripe the road "so there's no passing so the people that are doing the speed limit, they wouldn't be getting passed." He expressed doubt that anyone will "pay attention to that." Vice Chairperson Mallery discussed studies which indicate that stop signs actually increase traffic speed. Discussion followed, and Mr. Webber expressed an interest in considering strategies which don't involve stop signs. Chairperson Aldean suggested installing a radar sign at a strategic location on Edmonds Drive.

Chairperson Aldean entertained additional questions or comments and, when none were forthcoming, invited Sheriff Ken Furlong to the podium. (5:11:07) Sheriff Furlong reviewed statistical information relative to speeding citations issued along Edmonds Drive. "There has been an extraordinarily aggressive patrol pattern out there all year long." Sheriff Furlong referred to e-mail correspondence complaining of the "overly heavy handed, aggressive officers out there on this corridor." He described the situation as "almost a rock and a hard spot. If I put more, then I've instilled fear and anger in the citizens. 150 citations over a single area of town is pretty heavy enforcement with the number of officers that we actually do have working the streets." Based on the statistical information, Sheriff Furlong advised that the citations issued "cover all hours of the clock, not only in enforcement activity but all else." He advised that the Sheriff's Department has a radar enforcement trailer and that Sheriff's Department volunteers place it at various locations around town. He advised that, at Mr. Webber's request, the radar enforcement trailer can be installed at or near his front yard. He assured the commissioners that the Sheriff's Department has been and continues to be "very, very aggressively conducting enforcement activities ... in that area." In response to a question, he advised that the radar enforcement trailer is available seven days a week for placement.

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Sheriff Furlong advised that his staff works closely with Transportation Division staff on the traffic accident trend data and speed count surveys. He assured the commissioners that “the enforcement is going on and we are doing everything we possibly can to reduce those speeds, not just on Edmonds but on ... those arteries that feed that area.”

Commissioner Carpenter advised of having been a former resident of Pleasant Valley and of having been very active in working with law enforcement and transportation planners and engineers to reduce speeding. Mr. Pittenger responded to questions of clarification relative to the traffic volume and speed information provided in the agenda report. Commissioner Carpenter suggested assigning a Sheriff’s Department patrol car to Edmonds Drive during peak traffic periods “just as a presence.” Sheriff Furlong advised that the 150 citations issued in that area “is substantial enough to say that our officers are doing what you’re asking. When they have the time to get in there, they do it.” Extensive discussion followed.

Vice Chairperson Mallery inquired as to other concerned citizens in Mr. Webber’s neighborhood, and discussed his involvement in the discussions between NDOT representatives and the residents of Pleasant Valley. He suggested that Mr. Webber involve his neighbors in making the concerns known. Mr. Webber advised of neighborhood concerns that the issues would go unaddressed by City officials and, therefore, an apathy regarding involvement. Vice Chairperson Mallery discussed the Pleasant Valley residents’ involvement in addressing their issues and concerns. Mr. Webber expressed a willingness to further attempt to involve his neighbors. Commissioner Carpenter encouraged Mr. Webber to organize his neighborhood to make the concerns known. Chairperson Aldean discussed various methods by which to address the issues. Commissioner Des Jardins commended Mr. Webber for bringing the matter to the attention of the commission, and encouraged him to continue pursuing a solution. Mr. Webber reiterated appreciation for the assistance and information provided.

Mr. Schulz expressed a willingness to cooperate with Sheriff’s Department staff to consider a solution. Mr. Pittenger noted the importance of any potential solution having “fairly universal applicability because while Mr. Webber has concerns ... we do ... receive calls that are not dissimilar ... from every corner of the City ...” Sheriff Furlong advised of a fatal accident at the intersection of Koontz Lane and Edmonds Drive which occurred several years ago. He acknowledged the concern, and reiterated that the Sheriff’s Department will continue to “do what we can for that area.” He expressed appreciation that his officers are “stepping up.”

Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment. (5:36:20) Vicky Reifer, a resident of South Edmonds Drive, agreed with concerns regarding speeding on Edmonds Drive and discussed specific incidents relative to the same. In response to previous comments, she advised of having been in attendance during hearings regarding the Schulz Ranch development. “There was a room full of residents that were against the project ... and it was still approved.” She expressed a loss of faith “with commissioners lately in our local government.” She expressed concern that the subject meeting agenda hadn’t been mailed to each of the Edmonds Drive residents. Chairperson Aldean explained that the subject item was agendized for information only. Ms. Reifer thanked the commission and requested any assistance relative to the speeding and traffic problems. Vice Chairperson Mallery advised that the “best purpose of having a community meeting is so that everybody’s on board with the same thing. Because I think you’ll find that some of the people that are speeding are your very neighbors out there and they’re going to and from maybe one block

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up from Edmonds so it's your own people sometimes and if you have that meeting, along with the radar signs ... you'll probably see something happen. But the meeting's purpose ... is to get your own people aware of the speeding issue."

Chairperson Aldean entertained additional public comment. (5:40:10) DeeDee Foremaster suggested that the neighbors install signage relative to reporting speeders. She agreed with concerns regarding the speeding issues, and discussed specific experiences.

Chairperson Aldean requested staff to organize a meeting with Sheriff's Department staff, and to include Mr. Webber, Ms. Reifer and anyone else in the neighborhood who might have creative suggestions. Chairperson Aldean entertained additional comments or questions; however, none were forthcoming.

F-2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRANSIT BUS ADVERTISING PROGRAM (5:44:51)

- Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and Mr. Smithson reviewed the agenda materials. Chairperson Aldean expressed support for generating advertising revenue, and concern regarding the bus shelters being "plastered with advertising." She advised of having suggested that bus shelter advertisement be confined to the interior. In response to a question regarding the possibility of vinyl bus wraps, Mr. Smithson advised of little need to cover the entire bus. "There are creative ways to do wraps that use just a portion of the bus ... so it doesn't necessarily have to cover up the paint scheme or the logo." Chairperson Aldean expressed a preference that the buses don't "look like traveling billboards."

Commissioner Carpenter suggested that smaller businesses interested in advertising could submit their gross revenues in consideration of staff stratifying advertising rates. Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment and, when none was forthcoming, the commissioners commended Mr. Smithson.

F-3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE RTC INTERCITY SERVICE INCREASE (5:48:44) -

Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and Mr. Pittenger reviewed the agenda materials. In response to a question, he provided background information on the service increase. At Chairperson Aldean's request, he agreed to review the agreement between Carson City and the Washoe County RTC relative to service increase provisions. In response to a question, he advised that Washoe County RTC had previously "cut the service by 44 percent." He offered to review the ridership data to determine the decrease. "Basically, they didn't lose 44 percent of the ridership." Discussion followed. Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment; however, none was forthcoming.

G. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

G-1. STREET OPERATIONS REPORT - July 2011 (5:56:04) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and entertained comments or questions. None were forthcoming.

G-2. PROJECT STATUS REPORT INCLUDING AN UPDATE TO THE GATEWAY SIGN PROJECT (5:56:18) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item. Mr. Schulz reported that the gateway sign project is currently out to bid; bids are scheduled to be opened August 24th. Mr. Schulz anticipates awarding a bid award recommendation at the September commission meeting.

In conjunction with a displayed aerial photograph, Mr. Schulz provided background information on a concern raised, at the July commission meeting, by Susan Hoffman, owner of Dog-Eared Books. Mr. Schulz advised of having been aware of issues and concerns in the area since Fairview Drive opened and

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traffic has increased to 25,000 to 28,000 vehicle trips per day. He further advised of no simple solution “without widening the road. The down side is the freeway is not going to get built for a while and we’re going to be stuck with this problem.” In conjunction with the displayed aerial photograph, he reviewed a suggested solution to install a left-turn lane. Chairperson Aldean expressed the opinion “it would be better than nothing,” but emphasized the importance of not compromising safety. Mr. Schulz acknowledged having discussed the possible solution with Mrs. Hoffman, who indicated “anything would help.” In response to a question, Mr. Schulz reviewed costs associated with restriping and installing the left-turn lane. Consensus of the commission was to proceed with the solution.

In consideration of “accidents and concerns and people making illegal turns,” Mr. Schulz advised that Public Works Department staff has been entertaining the idea of installing a raised median along the subject stretch of Fairview Drive. He advised that Public Works Department staff is discussing the possibility with traffic engineering consultants to determine the feasibility. “The down side is businesses may portray that as ... we’re trying to stop traffic from going in there when, in reality, we’re trying to make it flow better. So we’re trying to balance both of those.” Discussion followed, and Mr. Schulz advised that staff will keep the commission informed. He responded to questions of clarification relative to the proposed location of the median. Chairperson Aldean suggested discussing, with Planning Division Director Lee Plemel, the possibility of allowing the businesses to install temporary signage. The commissioners thanked Mr. Schulz.

Chairperson Aldean advised that Stanley Brokl had appeared before the Carson Nugget Development Advisory Committee to complain that the City is not “spending any money east of the freeway.” She suggested touring the area, and offered to provide Mr. Brokl’s contact information. She entertained additional questions or comments and public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

G-3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:06:59) - Chairperson Aldean requested an update on the V&T Depot shuttle. She entertained requests for additional agenda items and, when none were forthcoming, Mr. Pittenger reviewed the tentative September commission agenda.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT (6:08:55) - Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment. (6:09:08) DeeDee Foremaster advised of having recently visited the improvement project being done in the area of Woodside Drive east of Airport Road, and commended the City on its efforts relative to accessibility. Chairperson Aldean entertained additional public comment; however, none was forthcoming.

I. ACTION TO ADJOURN (6:11:57) - Vice Chairperson Mallery moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m. Commissioner Crowell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the August 10, 2011 Carson City Regional Transportation Commission meeting are so approved this 12th day of October, 2011.

SHELLY ALDEAN, Chair