

# **CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

## **Minutes of the February 9, 2011 Meeting**

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 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  
Darren Schulz, Deputy Public Works Director  
Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager  
Jeff Sharp, City Engineer  
Ken Smithson, Transit Coordinator  
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** - Chairperson Aldean called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present.

**B. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 12, 2011** - A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

**C. MODIFICATION OF AGENDA** - None.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT** - None.

**E. DISCLOSURES** - None.

**F. PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS:**

**F-1. ACTION TO APPROVE A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE STATE OF NEVADA AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION (“ADSD”) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$187,500 FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012, AND AUTHORIZING THE RTC CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN THE APPLICATION AND ASSOCIATED CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES** (4:34:15) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and Mr. Smithson reviewed the agenda materials. He responded to questions of clarification relative to the required 15 percent match. He acknowledged that when the grant is presented to the commission for acceptance, more detail will be available as to the amount of the match based on the amount of the grant as well as the match funding source. In reference to a question regarding the targeting plan, he advised that the ADSD specifically requests grant applicants to reach out to those with limited English proficiency. He acknowledged that riders who do not meet the aging and disabled criteria are not eligible to receive a subsidy. He further acknowledged that the \$2.50 fee accounts for the existing subsidy. “That’s basically what it costs to

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provide one trip.” In response to a question, he expressed uncertainty as to whether the U.S. Census Bureau distinguishes elderly and disabled persons by race. A brief discussion followed.

Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment and, when none was forthcoming, a motion. **Vice Chairperson Carpenter moved to approve a grant application with the State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division in the amount of \$187,500 for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, and authorizing the RTC Chairperson to sign the application and associated certifications and assurances.** Commissioner Crowell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**F-2. INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE BLUEGO 21X SERVICE AND OUTLOOK ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “TRIANGLE PLAN”** (4:40:32) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and Mr. Pittenger reviewed the agenda materials. In response to a question, he anticipates a decision will be made regarding the continued operation of the 21X service by Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. He clarified that “any service termination would take the public comment period to occur,” and he expects that the service would not terminate before approximately sixty days. In response to a further question, he noted the benefit of having recently completed an analysis of the current service. Chairperson Aldean requested staff to keep the commission updated, and Mr. Pittenger acknowledged that staff is regularly attending Tahoe Transportation District meetings. In response to a question, he advised that “the casinos have traditionally all participated financially in the local funding of the system in general ... and ... some of them have specifically noted their interest in continuing to be served by BlueGO ... Unfortunately, the legal actions ... regarding the previous ... governing agency and the previous contractor have actually resulted in some of the previous financial participants to withdraw completely ... until the legal matters are resolved.”

Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment. (4:47:14) Dan Allison expressed support for the 21X service “both to get to South Lake Tahoe and also because it’s a connection to other transit services in California through Amtrak.” He expressed understanding for the problems and the challenges.

(4:47:58) DeeDee Foremaster expressed concern over the possible cancellation of the 21X service “mainly because people with disabilities ... especially our veterans often utilize the spur that goes between Carson and also Douglas County.” Ms. Foremaster expressed the opinion that the service is utilized more frequently during the summer months. She suggested the possibility of considering a “four or five month situation where it starts in May and goes into September because ... it would help ... with the traffic up at the Lake and help also with pollution.” Ms. Foremaster expressed the opinion that bus service between Carson City and Douglas County and Lake Tahoe “is very, very important.” She discussed the possibility of a tri-county service “where the counties could join together and use all of the resources from all of the counties, especially in the economic situation that we’re in right now.” She described the bus system in Utah “where a lot of the outlying, smaller counties have come together with the larger counties ... and created an agency that encompasses not only the bigger city but the outlying ...” She advised that “Lyon County and Virginia City would love to have a bus system that came into Carson.” She suggested looking into grant funding “that might be available to smaller counties ... and pull some of those monies together and pool it into one, then we may have the ability to create more services with Carson City giving less and other counties giving a little bit more.” She suggested researching the State of Utah transit systems to discover their funding sources and determine whether they would be available to Carson City. She advised

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that the State of Montana has “extremely strong programs too,” and that extensive studies on people with disabilities and transportation systems have been done at the University of Montana. She discussed the importance of the transit system to people with disabilities.

Chairperson Aldean noted one of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency’s mandates is relative to air quality, and the corresponding importance of mass transit. She acknowledged the unfortunate situation and suggested that, once the dust settles, a connection between the Lake and Carson City can be re-established. Discussion followed, and Commissioner Mallory provided historic information on the triangle service and discussed its benefits. Chairperson Aldean entertained additional public comment; however, none was forthcoming.

**F-3. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING EXPERIENCE WITH TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES (4:59:49)** - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item. Mr. Pittenger reviewed the agenda materials, and reported on experiences at the various locations in which traffic calming devices have been installed. In response to a question, he discussed comparative data collected over the years. He advised of having researched other cities’ policies on installation of traffic calming devices, and expressed uncertainty that “if we were to adopt something similar to other cities, … any of these locations would have warranted the installation of a traffic control device.” Chairperson Aldean expressed the opinion that the process was important in consideration of what has been learned. In consideration of the speed table, she expressed disappointment in that it was sold as a temporary, portable traffic calming device. Mr. Burnham advised that the speed table took approximately four days to install and that there have been “maintenance issues since then.” Chairperson Aldean discussed the possibility of mobile speed bumps, and provided a description of the same. Vice Chairperson Carpenter expressed a preference to “see more traffic controls in the form of people getting tickets or the visibility of having the Sheriff’s Department out on the streets where there are concerns from the citizens than to … spend \$25,000 on experiments.” He acknowledged the staffing limitations at the Sheriff’s Department, but suggested police presence is “a huge deterrent versus a speed bump.” Discussion followed.

In response to a question, Mr. Pittenger discussed the reliability of the data obtained from radar signs and traffic counters. In response to a further question, he described the small plates which collect speed data. He responded to questions of clarification regarding the resulting averages reported. Commissioner Mallory pointed out that traffic calming devices are “there 24 / 7, all the time. Other ways of curtailing speeding may be there for some hours and then when people see they’re not there, then they’re just back to their old practices. So, in some ways, traffic calming certainly has its place.” In response to a further question, Mr. Pittenger advised of having spoken to one of the Division Street residents within the last week, “and they indicated that their belief was that there was still a remaining issue but they would rather have the speed table there than not.” Mr. Pittenger advised of having asked the same question of the Sheriff, who indicated that the residents have not been satisfied with the enforcement activities before or after installation of the speed table. In response to a previous comment, Mr. Pittenger advised that the radar signs installed near the schools, using Safe Routes to School federal funding, have been very well received both by the School District and law enforcement. Chairperson Aldean suggested “there’s just so much we can do. People have to be more responsible, but we certainly can’t have a [police presence] out there 24 hours a day …” She thanked Mr. Pittenger for his report.

Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment. (5:18:04) Dan Allison advised that “over speed traffic is the greatest threat to bicycles and pedestrians out there because the higher the speed, the more likely for

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serious injuries and fatalities. So calming traffic is an important thing to do.” Mr. Allison expressed appreciation, on behalf of “Muscle Powered and other people,” that the commission and the City have been willing to experiment with traffic calming devices in various places. He acknowledged Mr. Pittenger’s earlier statement that the radar signs installed near the schools “have really made a difference.” He advised that “all of the [school] principals have also expressed frustration about not getting as much law enforcement support as they would like to have and all of them have said, ‘Can’t we do something physical out there to make sure that people can’t go fast even if there’s not an officer there?’ ... that’s what they’re thinking is that law enforcement is only a partial solution to the problem ...” Mr. Allison expressed a desire for “continued experimentation with different kinds of traffic calming in different places to see what works in different situations.” He suggested that the particular locations chosen were not the “most serious locations, but there are serious locations out there.” Chairperson Aldean entertained additional public comment; however, none was forthcoming.

**F-4. ACTION FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION** (5:19:54) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item, and Mr. Pittenger reviewed the agenda materials. Chairperson Aldean reviewed the statutory provisions relative to commission membership and officers, and entertained nominations for chair. **Vice Chairperson Carpenter nominated Shelly Aldean for chair. Commissioner Crowell moved to close nominations. Commissioner Mallery seconded the motion.** Commissioner Crowell commended Chairperson Aldean, who expressed appreciation for the commissioners. Chairperson Aldean called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairperson-elect Aldean opened nominations for vice chair. Commissioner Crowell expressed the opinion that everyone should have an opportunity to serve as vice chair. **Vice Chairperson Carpenter nominated Commissioner Mallery as vice chair. Commissioner Crowell moved to close nominations.** In response to a question, Commissioner Mallery inquired as to other interest in serving as vice chair. When no one was forthcoming, he accepted the nomination. **Chairperson Aldean closed nominations and called for a vote on the pending motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Chairperson Aldean congratulated Vice Chair-elect Mallery.

## G. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

**G-1. STREET OPERATIONS REPORT - JANUARY 2011** (5:23:06) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item and entertained comments or questions. None were forthcoming.

**G-2. PROJECT STATUS REPORT** (5:23:20) - Chairperson Aldean introduced this item. Mr. Schulz reviewed the freeway landscape project description report, as outlined in the agenda materials.

Chairperson Aldean entertained public comment. (5:26:20) Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides (“GROW”) President Mary Fischer noted “it’s taken almost six months ... to get this far,” and inquired as to the status of the environmental study. Mr. Schulz advised of having inquired of NDOT staff whether an environmental study is required. “... we feel that 99 percent of the area has been cleared already. There are a few slivers of land that haven’t. We have submitted those to NDOT and asked them if we need to do a study and we’re waiting for an answer.” In response to a question, Mr. Schulz described the environmental study as “a requirement that ... the feds make us go through to make sure that the whole area has been cleared. It’s not an EA. It’s much simpler than that.” Ms. Fischer expressed the understanding

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that “all this material was to be to NDOT by the 1<sup>st</sup> of ... February. And now we’re into the second week of February.” She expressed the understanding that materials were returned to Winston and Associates last Thursday or Friday. She discussed concerns relative to the time tables, and stated, “We haven’t kept to the schedule that we made a month ago. We haven’t kept to the schedule that we made in September.” In response to a question, Mr. Schulz reviewed time tables associated with the construction document review and bid processes. Ms. Fischer expressed concern that the federal funding granted in the transportation bill was not assigned a time line. “It has not been one of these things that they’ve had to really worry that ... if it doesn’t get spent, it’s going to be lost. But we’re now in another ... Congress and we’ve got ... an economy that everyone is looking at every dollar that comes.” Ms. Fischer expressed concern over the funding becoming jeopardized. She expressed the opinion that the project “has become more important than it was to start with because so much of what’s been done on the freeway now is what we initially visualized could be done, would be nice if was done. The seeding’s coming back. The sound barrier walls look great. But this next phase is going to add to the City just in more things for tourists to look at, more things to advertise ...” Ms. Fischer expressed the opinion that the project will help the City’s economy, will provide jobs, and will be a source of community pride. She reiterated concern “that it’s already behind the schedule that was given last month and that it doesn’t just drag and drag and drag.” Chairperson Aldean expressed appreciation for Ms. Fischer’s attendance and participation, and advised that the commission shares her concerns. She expressed confidence that RTC staff will do their very best to adhere to the schedule. Ms. Fischer expressed appreciation for the RTC’s support of the project.

Commissioner Crowell advised of having recently interfaced with RTC staff on a couple projects, and commended their turnaround time in responding to constituents and concerns. Chairperson Aldean commented on Ms. Fischer’s vested interest in the freeway landscape project, and expressed confidence in the project’s completion.

Mr. Schulz reported “good news from NDOT,” relative to the final phase of the freeway. “As it turns out, they are going to package it altogether in one ...” Mr. Schulz clarified that funding is not yet established; however, NDOT staff has been instructed to “have this ready to go [out to bid] in the fall of this year.” He further reported that the “landscaping portion of this next phase was to be included in that package.” He offered to keep the commission posted on the progress.

Mr. Sharp reviewed the gateways signage project description report, as outlined in the agenda materials. He discussed the favorable working relationship between City and NDOT staff. He reviewed cost estimates relative to the gateways signage project, as outlined in the agenda materials, and discussed possible materials. Chairperson Aldean inquired as to the possibility of utilizing the former prison industries service for obtaining and affixing the stone veneer. Mr. Sharp agreed to check into the possibility. Chairperson Aldean requested staff to agendize an unveiling ceremony at the appropriate time. She entertained public comment; however, none was forthcoming.

Mr. Schulz provided a status report on the programmed water projects which will affect traffic around the community. Chairperson Aldean entertained comments or questions of staff; however, none were forthcoming.

**G-3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (5:46:37) - Mr. Pittenger reviewed the tentative agenda for the March commission meeting. Chairperson Aldean advised that she would be absent from the March meeting. She advised of discussion regarding the possibility of extending a spur line from the future V&T

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Depot into the Pony Express Pavilion, and suggested the possibility of researching federal funding for rubber-tired trolleys. A brief discussion followed, and Chairperson Aldean requested staff to research funding availability. Vice Chairperson Carpenter discussed the importance of developing a comprehensive plan to market Carson City. Additional discussion ensued, and Chairperson Aldean suggested agendizing an item for the April commission meeting.

**H. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (5:54:52)** - Chairperson Aldean entertained additional public comment and, when none was forthcoming, a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Des Jardins so moved. Vice Chairperson-elect Mallory seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

The Minutes of the February 9, 2011 Carson City Regional Transportation Commission meeting are so approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011.

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**SHELLY ALDEAN, Chair**