A regularly scheduled meeting of the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, February 21, 1996, at the Northgate Administrative Complex Conference Room, 2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 59, Carson City, Nevada, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Chairperson Greg Smith and Commissioners Kay Bennett and Marie Wolf

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy Public Works Director Tim Homann, Deputy District Attorney Paul Lipparelli, RTC Engineer Harvey Brotzman, and Recording Secretary Katherine McLaughlin (R.T.C. 2/21/96 Tape 1-0001.5)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - Chairperson Smith convened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. Roll call was taken. The entire Commission was present constituting a quorum.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 21, 1995 and January 17, 1996 - Commissioner Bennett moved to approve. Commissioner Wolf seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

2. STATUS REPORT ON "TRANSIT OPERATIONS UPDATE" (1-0018.5) - Mr. Brotzman briefly reviewed the status report including the contract amendment and budget. Mr. Brotzman indicated a need for a special meeting to consider transit issues and suggested March 6. Commissioner Bennett requested information be provided during this meeting on the status of the PSC involvement and contributions from the Senior Citizens' Center and OARC. Clarification indicated this report should be in writing. Mr. Brotzman indicated that the Agency on Aging had requested a report from Paratransit's operations in eastern Nevada before it funds would be approved for Carson City. Discussion indicated March 6 would be appropriate for this meeting. Mr. Brotzman will attempt to obtain the Sierra Room for this meeting which is to commence at either 8:30 or 9 a.m.

Mr. Homann detailed the Board of Supervisors' action on the contract amendment. ParaTransit will provide a Business Plan on March 6th including a report summarizing all the funding sources and requirements to obtain this funding. Costs are a major concern at this time and must be answered before a commitment after July 1 can be made. Mr. Brotzman felt that over 400 rides will be provided this month.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS (1-0126.5) - Discussion indicated Neil Goudswaard was interested in Item 5 and that Mr. David Kerfeld was interested in Item 6. Although additional public comments were solicited, none were made.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DIRECTING STAFF TO ESTABLISH A PRIORITY LIST TO USE IN PREPARATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996/97 (1-0145.5) - Mr. Homann briefly reviewed his status report on RTC projects and assignments and the list of projects which staff suggested be considered for funding in 96/97. His comments included the need to establish an estimate of the cost for these items before they are prioritized. Chairperson Smith cautioned staff to be sure and avoid a repeat of the stacking and access/egress problems encountered at the former 7-11 Store at Winnie and Carson Street when evaluating the Clearview and Carson Street intersection. Commissioner Bennett also requested median beautification be included in this project. Discussion ensued on the need to extend Sonoma to Curry Street from Carson Street as well as an alternative which would extend Stewart Street through the Forest Service property to Curry Street. Commissioner Bennett encouraged staff to consider guard rails along Hot Springs Road and stressed the need for additional guard rails along Curry Street. Mr. Homann indicated the City should analyze either guard rails or undergrounding the drainage channel along these strips, which has not been analyzed. Discussion noted the impact extending Sonoma Street may have on the need to address the traffic which has been cutting through the different businesses between Tenth and Rhodes to access Carson Street from Curry Street. Comments supported consideration of another connection to Arrowhead between Graves Lane and Bowers/Nye Lane. Commissioner Bennett requested adding funding for a master plan of Highway 50 East for beautification and landscaping to the list. She suggested that this funding could be used to match NDOT grants. Mr. Homann thanked the Nevada Appeal correspondent Irwin Goldberg for his assistance in publicizing this meeting and the public for its attendance. Chairperson Smith polled the audience to determine the subjects of interest.

(1-0478.5) Comments were then solicited on the proposed priority list beginning with Hillview. Richard Doke acknowledged the area's growth and increased traffic volume. He felt that the proposed extension would create a negative impact on his neighborhood and its rural environment. Current drainage problems were bad enough. The extension would create a "freeway bypass" in his front yard, decrease his quality of life and property values, and pose a safety hazard to the children and animals. (1-0518.5) Bill Solley felt that the street would be unsafe for the area children and that there are an adequate number of through streets in the vicinity. He requested this proposal be stopped permanently as it seemed as if the neighborhood was constantly having to fight the proposal. (1-0535.5) David Kerfeld explained the lack of homes fronting Saliman to support his contention that Hillview had not been planned to be developed to handle traffic. It would become as indicated "a freeway in our front yard" if it is extended. Dangers created by the extension were cited to further support his position. He encouraged the Commission to support the "real Bypass". (1-0553.5) Judy Nott felt that if Hillview is extended she would loose a portion of her property as she is on the corner of Hillview and Valley View. The street would be adjacent to her bedroom and create a noise problem. The safety of the children going to and from the three schools on Saliman would be impacted by the extension.

Chairperson Smith explained that the project had not been approved nor funded which would force the neighborhood to fight. It was being considered because it was one of the streets which deadend and other individuals felt should be "opened up". Similar deadend streets are opened unless it changes the neighborhood's characteristics. Public imput is encouraged when such changes are being proposed. He appreciated the comments and stressed that if the neighborhood misses one meeting, it would not be approved over its objections. Discussion between Ms. Nott and Chairperson Smith explained the plans to pipe the drainage along Koontz.

(1-0629.5) Pat Walsh reiterated the safety concerns expressed about the children and the feeling that the extension would be used by individuals traveling between Dayton and Walmart. He felt that the residents had chosen an undeveloped area as it is more secure and has less burglary and other law enforcement problems. He polled the audience to determine the opposition to the extension. Mr. Brotzman explained that there is a letter on file which is the reason for having the extension on the agenda. Chairperson Smith questioned the motivation for this individual's recommendation. (1-0669.5) Mr. Doke requested the Commission accept a recommendation to table the extension and write to this individual informing her that the proposal is not feasible. Her letter could then be placed in the "archives". He also felt that Koontz Lane had been an east/west thoroughfare for many years and had adequate space to be expanded to four lanes.

(1-0685.5) Ann Nunnemaker gave the Clerk a petition containing 10 to 12 names opposing the project. She suggested that this letter be used to counter the request to extend the street. Commissioner Bennett questioned the audience concerning support for the "Bypass". Mr. Doke responded by questioning the design and term "Bypass". He felt that until a concrete proposal is made, support could not be guaranteed. He could support an elevated freeway. Ms. Nott indicated that she had been informed about the Bypass when she purchased her home. Commissioner Bennett indicated the need for support for the Bypass or an alternative.

Chairperson Smith then passed the gavel to Commissioner Bennett and moved to not, not only table the issue of the Hillview Drive extension from Koontz Lane to Valley View, but that the Commission remove it from the priority list altogether. Following a request for rewording, **Chairperson Smith moved to remove Hillview from the priority list. Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion** and indicated the motion was based upon the testimony provided which will be part of the record. Chairperson Smith indicated his motion was based on the testimony as well as his view that the benefits derived from the extension would not be as great as the cost imposed to accomplish it and the exacerbation of problems found in the area. The extension would not address any of the problems currently found in the area. Mr. Homann also noted that staff was not a proponent of the project. There is an unimproved right-of-way in the area. There may at some future time be justification for having a street in that area. He was not sure when and how that could happen. He was not sure at this time whether that would be a local access street or if there would be a need for an upgraded status. If the City was considering extending it as a collector street, there would have to be some operational problems solved before extension to Clearview. These problems would be created due to the number of driveways which would be accessing the extension. He could not commit to "forever" taking it off of the priority list. There may be a time at some future date when the Commission and staff may wish to revisit the proposal. He did not have a problem with removing it from the annual review list at this time. **The motion to remove Hillview from the priority list was voted and carried 3-0.** Acting Chairperson Bennett returned the gavel to Chairperson Smith.

(1-0773.5) John Anderson, representing the current property owner of the previous Southwest Gas site, explained the plans for this site and desire to work with the City on the Sonoma Street extension. He requested clear direction from the Commission so that the site development plans can be finalized. Mr. Homann supported Mr. Anderson's explanation and outlined the proposed extension including the potential property trades. Benefits to the two property owners and City were noted. A signal would be included in the package even though NDOT may not provide any funding. Discussion explained the location, work currently going on at the site, and advantages to having another signal on Carson Street. Commissioner Bennett urged staff to include in the design adequate space/setbacks for future street widening as well as to meet current sidewalk and landscaping requirements.

(1-0942.5) Doug Hone encouraged the Commission to include maintenance in the plan otherwise the landscaping would be lost. The need for North Carson Street landscaping and median beautification was cited to support his request.

Discussion explained the procedure for establishing priorities including the meetings which will be held on the list before it is finalized.

(1-0975.5) Chairperson Smith explained the status of the Pheasant and Edmonds Drive. Mr. Fergusson emphasized the need to address the traffic problems encountered at this intersection as well as pedestrian safety concerns. Chairperson Smith explained the funding restrictions and the Commission's commitment to create a "safe zone" at this intersection. Mr. Brotzman explained a potential alternative which would create "safe zone" islands in the middle of the street which would allow a pedestrian to cross half way and wait for traffic to pass before completing the crossing. The plan would create two 30 foot islands which would eliminate the need for a traffic signal. Chairperson Smith indicated that the crossing has not met the required warrants for a signal although it is a major concern. Mr. Brotzman explained his reasons for feeling that the islands may be a better alternative than the light. Mr. Fergusson felt that the light should be installed. Chairperson Smith encouraged the Commissioners to visit the site and analyze the proposal. Public Works Director Jay Aldean encouraged the Commissioners to take a staff member with them so that it could be defined.

Chairperson Smith solicited additional comments on the priority listing, however, none were made. Mr. Homann explained staff's need to estimate the costs for each project. The Commission will establish the priorities at the next meeting. No formal action was taken on the Item.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PAVING OF PRIVATE ROADS EAST OF SNYDER AVENUE NEAR THE MEXICAN DAM (1-1099.5) - Chairperson Smith passed the gavel to Commissioner Bennett and explained his request for staff to establish an estimate of the cost to bring the road to an acceptable standard which the Commission could consider. He then indicated his support for staff's recommendation on this Item. (Chairperson Smith left the meeting at 9:45 a.m. A quorum was still present.)

Mr. Homann defined the requests from both the developers and area residents to bring the roads up to a standard for acceptance by the City. The City would then maintain the dirt and gravel roads. He indicated that the residents/developers would be responsible for the improvement costs. The roadways in the Mexican Dam area would have to be dedicated to the City once the improvements are made. The Snyder extension would have to be dedicated to the City from BLM and the State. The question before RTC is, if the residents are unable to fund the improvements, would RTC be willing to fund the total or partial cost of the improvements.

(1-1219.5) Andrea Leftwich detailed road problems found in her area and the feeling that the public should fund some of the improvements based on the public's use of the area for recreational purposes. Maintenance is needed to eliminate the washout areas and "wash board" problems. (1-1265.5) Neal Goudswaard expressed his appreciation for the Commission's willingness to consider the problem. He supported staff's proposals. He was concerned about the access particularly if an emergency occurred and the road is not passable. He felt that some of the area's taxes should be used to grade the road periodically. He also explained BLM's request for a limited public access road to the Johnson Lane area. He suggested that BLM be contacted about participating in the cost or improvements. He indicated a willingness to phase the improvements. He was also concerned about the Mexican Dam Road as it is often flooded and questioned whether that location should be maintained for public use. He suggested Sierra View Vista be used as an alternative. He indicated his support for the request to have RTC fund a study of the area and its alternatives.

Mr. Aldean indicated the question of whether the City should accept the roads for maintenance is a Board of Supervisors issue. The reasons for having the Item before RTC was to determine whether RTC wished to fund the maintenance and project. He did not feel that a consultant would be necessary to perform this work. Staff could provide the minimal requirements for the homeowners. The Board could then accept the standard. RTC would establish the standard and provide funding. Vice Chairperson Bennett requested the residents obtain support from the residents for an assessment district for funding the road improvements. RTC should match the funding provided by the assessment district. She felt that the Board may be more amenable to this approach. Mr. Aldean agreed to support this approach. He then explained the liability concerns if the City were to step in at this time and install a culvert, etc., on a project which is not City owned. The City had been dumping dirt and filling the washouts which is not considered a major improvement to the status quo. The City had not accept the liability nor responsibility for major improvements. He emphasized that the proposal would bring the road to an agreeable engineered standard. This would not require paving but would address the drainage, washout, safety, etc., problems. Vice Chairperson Bennett expressed her acceptance of the liability concerns, however, felt that the City should do something. Commissioner Wolf expressed her feeling that the City owed the residents something as they are taxpayers. This problem had been ongoing for several years.

Ms. Leftwich expounded on her concerns and stressed the need for a four-wheel drive vehicle in order to travel back and forth. Mr. Homann indicated he had authorized Streets to once again fill in the washout and requested direction on a better solution. Ms. Leftwich continued to stress her safety concerns. Mr. Homann reiterated staff's request for a permanent solution and the recommended motion. Mr. Goudswaard requested expanding the areas to include both the Mexican Dam area and the Snyder Road extension. Ms. Leftwich expressed the residents' appreciation for any assistance provided. Vice Chairperson Bennett expressed her feeling that there would continue to be an increased demand for access to this area. Mr. Homann indicated that staff would explore Mr. Goudswaard's suggestion, however, felt that it may not occur due to the Federal budget problems. Vice Chairperson Bennett noted the cooperation BLM has been providing on recreational programs and erosion issues and expressed the feeling that this attitude may be expanded to include this area. Commissioner Wolf moved to approve the concept of including the Snyder Avenue dirt road extension and the Mexican Dam area access roads for improvement funding consideration on future RTC priority lists provided that proper right-of-way matters are addressed and proper minimum standards are adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Vice Chairperson Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. Discussion indicated that Gary Helseth should be utilized as the contact person.

BREAK: A three minute recess was declared at 10:11 a.m. When the meeting reconvened at 10:14 a.m. a quorum of the Commission was present although Chairperson Smith was absent as previously noted.

3. STATUS REPORT ON "TRAFFIC NOISE MITIGATION POLICY" (1-1615.5) - Mr. Brotzman explained the report on the traffic noise impacts and abatement measures for the Graves Lane extension project. He stressed the City's lack of a noise abatement policy and the State and Federal requirements which will abate only noises levels above 67 decibels. This would require sound walls at seven different locations. He requested direction from the Commission concerning whether to have the Commission adopt a policy setting a standard or to adopt this level as the policy mandating mitigation. The walls will add approximately $900,000 to the project. This is the entire fund for RTC for next year. He referenced NDOT's letter and noted the proposal to have NDOT takeover the Graves Lane extension as a major arterial connection between Highways 395 and 50. Discussion ensued between staff and the Commission on the distance between the residences and the extension, the "tunnel" which would be created in certain areas by the wall, the width of the right-of-way, the area where a reinforced wall is required, reasons the issue had not been agendized for action, Washoe County's policy, and possible alternatives.

Vice Chairperson Bennett directed staff to add this project to the priority listing with a cost estimate and justification as well as a revenue projection.

(1-1827.5) Discussion ensued with Doug Hone on his development plans for the parcel at Highway 50 and Graves Lane and reasons a sound wall would not be installed adjacent to his property. A Mr. McCloud owns the other corner parcel which is also zoned commercial. It will not have a sound wall abutting it. Mr. Hone suggested that a berm and landscaping be used instead of a block wall to mitigate some of the noise problems. His suggestion was discussed at length, however, due to the residential proximity and width of the right-of-way, it could not be done. Mr. Hone felt that the wall would become an attractive nuisance and graffiti collector. Mr. Homann indicated the consultant had been retained to analyze alternatives to the report and walls. Mr. Hone felt that the landscaping would beautify a City entrance. He committed to participating in the landscaping. Vice Chairperson Bennett reiterated her earlier request that the priority list include a beautification master plan for Highway 50. She thanked Mr. Hone for his offer. She directed staff to analyze the potential use of landscaping and berms as an alternative to the wall in areas where feasible and to include acquisition of additional property. Discussion ensued between Mr. Homann and Mr. Dorr on the need for five lanes. Mr. Brotzman explained that the extension would match the street west of Lompa Lane. He felt that the traffic volume would be at least 18,000 by 2016. Mr. Brotzman then explained the dual south and east bound turning movements planned at Highway 50. Mr. Homann indicated that staff would attempt to provide for growth in the plan. Vice Chairperson Bennett noted the challenges facing staff and the Commission in planning the extension. Commissioner Wolf suggested the City housing standard be raised for insulation. This could help reduce the noise level. Mr. Homann explained the need for an overall noise standard for the entire City in all areas. Staff is beginning to analyze the cost for a community noise master plan element. This would include industrial and residential interfacing as well as insulation issues. Mr. Brotzman explained Page 15 which estimated the cost effectiveness of the proposed walls and reasons the cost for insulation was not being offered to the residents. Washoe County, Wisconsin, and New Jersey's policies for mitigating the noise problems were discussed. He urged the Commission to establish a noise mitigation policy which could be used throughout the City. He requested the Commission analyze the reports and indicated a noise policy with its estimated cost would be included in the budget for next year. The road needed to be constructed. Vice Chairperson Bennett also requested NDOT indicate where it is willing to participate and if it is going to accept the road. Mr. Homann noted that NDOT is not mandated to do sound walls. He did not feel that NDOT would refuse the road if the sound walls are not constructed. Vice Chairperson Bennett felt that it could cost the City in other ways if mitigation measures are not done. Mr. Brotzman reiterated that some of the walls were required for retaining purposes and that the sound wall was only adding height to those walls. Vice Chairperson Bennett reiterated her request that serious conversations be held with NDOT.

4. STATUS REPORT ON ACTIVE PROJECTS (1-2360.5) - Discussion was included in Item 6. Vice Chairperson Bennett noted that copies of the report were available.

10. ACTION ON FUTURE MEETING DATE(S) AND TIME(S) (1-2365.5) - The meeting on transit had been scheduled for March 6th. The next regular meeting was scheduled for March 20.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND 9. STAFF COMMENTS (NON-ACTION) (1-2368.5) - None.

11. ADJOURNMENT - Commissioner Wolf moved to adjourn. Vice Chairperson Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and Vice Chairperson Bennett adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.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 February 21, 1996, Carson City Regional Transportation Commission meeting

ARE SO APPROVED ON_______________, 1996.

____

Greg Smith, Chairperson