

CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the March 20, 1996, Meeting

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A regularly scheduled meeting of the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, March 20, 1996, at the Northgate Administrative Complex Conference Room, 2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 59, Carson City, Nevada, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy District Attorney Paul Lipparelli, Deputy Public Works Director Tim Homann, RTC Engineer Harvey Brotzman

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0001.5) - Chairperson Smith convened the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present although Commissioner Bennett had not yet arrived. (NOTE FOR THE RECORD: Supervisor Ayres was present and represented R.S.V.P. A notice of a possible quorum for the Board of Supervisors as Commissioner Bennett and Chairperson Smith are also Supervisors had been posted and is included in the packet.)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 21, 1996 (1-0005.5) - Commissioner Wolf moved to accept the Minutes. Chairperson Smith seconded the motion. Mr. Brotzman suggested the Commission modify its motion to remove Hillview from the list of priorities by keeping it on the list of priorities but crossed out. His suggestion and procedures for modifying the Minutes were discussed. It was decided to leave the Minutes as written and discuss the item again as part of the priorities at a Special Meeting. The motion to approve the Minutes was voted and carried 2-0. (Commissioner Bennett arrived following the vote--9:40 a.m. A quorum was present as previously indicated.)

2. STATUS REPORT PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED "BUSINESS PLAN FOR CARSON CITY" TRANSIT SERVICES (1-0032.5) - Mr. Brotzman introduced Paratransit Executive Vice President Steve Hutchins. Discussion among the Commission, staff, and Mr. Hutchins included the portion of "Gordan Shaw" plan which could be used for this plan, the proposed plan, modifications which he had made since the report was written, and the need to define the low income level. (1-0138.5) Mr. Brotzman agreed to give Commissioner Wolf a copy of the City's low income report. Elderly was defined as being 55 or older. Transportation is currently being provided by the Senior Center, R.S.V.P., and O.A.R.C. Violet Alstat explained the use of the Senior Center Transportation system. (1-0170.5) Mr. Hutchins then reviewed the plan in depth. The goals are to provide a centralized and computerized dispatching center, eliminate duplication of administrative services, maximize the funding, establish a plan to meet growth and financial needs, provide better insurance coverage, and a better service for a large percentage of the residents. The current user subsidy program is providing almost 400 trips a month. Service options were explained and would take the subsidy program base and expand it to meet more of the community's needs. The next step would establish both a north-south and a east-west fixed route. This would be a two vehicle operation running every half hour along the two main traffic corridors with a transfer station in the middle. Mr. Brotzman indicated that the College and Hospital had been included on the routes. Commissioner Bennett encouraged staff to consider including the Airpark Industrial area. Reasons this area had not been included in the original proposal were noted. Mr. Hutchins then explained the current usage including the charts, emphasized the need to combine the vehicles and maximize their usage, and outlined the four different transportation systems which could be provided. He recommended against a general public "dial a ride" as it is very expensive. Table 7 explained the costs for each option. The cost of the status quo system was explained on Table 5. Table 4 defined the consolidated program even though all the details of such a plan have not been resolved. Mr. Hutchins agreed that the financing would have to be innovative, creative, and may be reduced due to the loss of some Federal funding sources. Table 6 separated the different costs so that the areas which are to be funded could be compared and controlled. He then explained the proposed rolling stock acquisition plan. The following discussion included the Commission, Mr. Hutchins, Mr. Brotzman, R.S.V.P. Executive Director Janice Ayres, Senior Center Executive Director Jamie Lee, Violet Alstat, Senior Center Director Bob Kennedy, and Paratransit Representative Cliff Watkins. It explained the plan to continue providing individualized service for handicapped individuals who could not reach the fixed route line. The Ely service was used to illustrate how this service would work. The Carson City Senior Center users, type of trips, and the number of trips provided were noted. Other items covered by the discussion included Paratransit's responsibility for the maintenance and

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insurance costs for the leased vehicles; advantages to having leased vehicles; transportation needs for individuals currently on welfare; options modifying the plan; plans to utilize the cab service during peak demand periods; need for a population survey to determine where the users are; need to use pickup points which would not impede traffic specifically on Highways 395 and 50; problems encountered consolidating all of the current provider services including the Division of Aging Services refusal to fund the program and the required fee for the service; the potential use of a "scholarship" to supplement the required fee; the delay in providing the Division of Aging Services a report on the Ely program and the problems encountered in Ely about the original service.

(1-0805.5) Commissioner Bennett admonished Paratransit for its failure to provide monthly status reports and attend the meetings. Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Watkins responded to her comments and indicated there would be more timely reports. Mr. Watkins explained the status of the taxicab problem with PSC. Commissioner Bennett stressed her willingness to provide support wherever possible and urged them to keep the Commission posted so that this communication could occur.

(1-0885.5) Mrs. Ayres explained the medical transportation requests requiring trips to Reno. Mr. Hutchins indicated that the program had not included this need. It could be included once the service is expanded and stabilized. Individual service will be provided for handicapped and ill users. He did not feel that the service provider and drivers would change with consolidation. He would provide the insurance which would be at a higher level with a lower premium. Mrs. Ayres requested a copy of the White Pine study (Ely) when it is available. Mr. Lipparelli defined the PSC problem and with Mr. Hutchins outlined the status of the City's request for clarification. The City felt that Paratransit could provide the service without a permit. The Statutes allow a City or handicapped providers to provide services without a permit. Paratransit is a contractor for Carson City. The question was whether it would provide an unfair advantage to Paratransit as it must compete with the taxicabs for customers. NDOT is taking the lead on resolving this question as it will resolve several issues.

(1-1040.5) Clarification indicated that the general public could ride the fixed route service for fifty cents. The "Dial-A-Ride" program would be used by the transit dependent individuals who were handicapped or over 55. Paratransit currently provides a limited "Dial-A-Ride" program. Last month there were approximately 400 trips. The user pays a \$2 fee which the City matches. This service is coordinated and utilizes O.A.R.C. vehicles or Capital Cab. Reasons O.A.R.C. had contracted with Paratransit were discussed. R.S.V.P. could not contract due to insurance costs/problems. Paratransit's insurance program would now address those problems. Mr. Brotzman indicated that monthly ridership and revenue reports have been made to the Board of Supervisors and Regional Transportation Commission. The need for additional Section 18 funding was noted and will again require the Board of Supervisors to match. Mr. Kennedy, as a private citizen, was concerned about the expenditure of City money for this purpose. Mr. Kennedy, as a Senior Center Board Member, then explained a radio problem encountered with Paratransit's radios and its transmissions. Mr. Watkins indicated this problem had been addressed. Mr. Brotzman volunteered to provide Mr. Kennedy with a copy of the report. Ms. Lee volunteered to provide a one page report on her Senior Center transportation service. It would include the two income criteria utilized by her Agency and the average donation and ridership. Chairperson Smith indicated he had had difficulty following the charts as had Mr. Kennedy. He felt that this was indicative of the need to improve the communication between the transportation providers as well as with the RTC. His comments urged Paratransit to improve the report as time is of the essence when reporting to the Board of Supervisors. He also felt that it illustrated the need for better public education. Commissioner Bennett also encouraged them to bring the Lee, Scott, and Cleary report. Mrs. Ayres also reminded the Commission of the need to send agendas to the other Agencies. Mrs. Alstat echoed her concerns as she is a Senior Center dispatcher and had been contacted by individuals who could ill afford the \$2 rate increase. Chairperson Smith stressed the need for a complete report when seeking funding during the Board's budget sessions. He offered to assist in any manner possible. Mr. Hutchins indicated he understood the need. Chairperson Smith thanked him for coming and the presentation.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON "ESTABLISHING A MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION" (1-1401.5) - Mr. Brotzman indicated each Commissioner and the Clerk had been given a copy of the District Attorney's letter and distributed copies of other agencies mission statements. Mr. Lipparelli explained that his opinion was not to require the mission statement but rather to make findings when prioritizing projects. This would avoid the appearance of reacting to the audience and

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emotions of the moment. He recommended that the Commission adopt a procedure similar to the Planning Commission's which would require staff to provide materials and documentation upon which the findings could be made. The process would not eliminate the politics involved with the process nor limit the Commission's discretion in making its decisions. Discussion supported this approach and indicated that the motions would include the findings. Staff's report would not restrict the Commission's ability to make its own decision. Mr. Lipparelli emphasized that the Commission could reject staff's recommendation if findings are made to support that decision. This would eliminate any appearance of making arbitrary or capricious decisions. Mr. Homann noted the difference between Carson City's RTC and Clark and Washoe Counties' RTCs. The traffic noise issue will provide the Commission with its first unique circumstance when it considers the priority listing due to its cost. The priority list includes many projects and with warrants they can be reassigned. Chairperson Smith did not wish to draft a mission statement today. Commissioner Bennett indicated a willingness to do one but not today. Chairperson Smith encouraged staff to include the findings in the report, motion, or recommendation. The Commissioners could then refer to them when making the motions. Reasons for requesting the mission statement and its purpose were noted. Mr. Homann requested suggestions and indicated the item would be agendized for a future meeting. No formal action was taken.

4. STATUS REPORT ON "TRAFFIC NOISE MITIGATION POLICY" (1-1798.5) - Mr. Brotzman had given the Commission the noise report on Graves Lane. Neither Carson City nor the RTC currently have a noise policy. The State and Federal policies were noted. Washoe County's policy was included in the packet. Mr. Brotzman suggested the Washoe County policy be modified and sent to the City's consultant for review. The need for a policy when extending Graves Lane to College Parkway was explained. Chairperson Smith expressed concern about RTC establishing a policy which would not fit into a community noise standard. Mr. Homann supported having a consistent standard throughout the City for both streets and highways and industrial areas. He emphasized the need to have direction prior to the design and construction of the Graves Lane extension, however, cautioned the Commission about establishing a standard for the future which may create problems. State and Federal standards would require the Graves Lane extension through a neighborhood to be mitigated, however, it would not be required in the Airpark. Also, projects are not retrofitted when traffic increases. The next noise issue would be with the Bypass, however, this is not on the RTC priority list. Chairperson Smith felt that a policy should be established for noise as well as curbs, gutters, sound walls, sidewalks, etc. He felt that College Parkway had set the standard for the future. The cost to do the Graves Lane extension sound wall and reasons for doing it up front were noted. Commissioner Wolf suggested improving the Building Code requirements and/or retrofitting the residences. The NDOT standard to provide \$25,000 per residence in improvements was explained. Wisconsin's standard was outlined. The proposed cost ratio for Graves Lane was explained. Commissioner Wolf encouraged staff to consider alternatives. Mr. Homann explained the quality of life issues related to the use of backyards which the residential improvements would not address. Mr. Homann described the process which would be implemented when/if the Commission approves the sound wall as a priority. The consultant would provide alternatives which may be less than that indicated. He also noted the concerns created by a "tunnel" effect which the sound wall would create, however, the 80 foot right-of-way would restrict the alternatives. Commissioner Bennett encouraged staff to contact other areas including Palm Springs although its boulevards were a lot wider and had been pre-planned. No formal action was taken or required.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (1-2243.5) - None.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (1-2245.5) - Commissioner Wolf explained a citizen's telephone call concerning the ruts in Deer Run Road. Discussion noted this road is graded every two weeks on an on-going basis. It was felt that the paving project would be done in July when Highway 50 is resurfaced. Commissioner Wolf had also received a call about having a traffic light at Edmonds and Pheasant. This item will be considered as part of the priority list. Commissioner Wolf voiced her concern about the high density residential units now being constructed in Carson City. The traffic problems will never be addressed until this growth is stopped. Chairperson Smith explained that a majority of this development is as designated on the Master Plan. He felt that the Board and its Planning Commission had failed to visualize the impact that the development would have on the total City and its resources. Commissioner Bennett also explained that the Board does not consider a development as it impacts the entire City but only for the area under consideration. Chairperson Smith also pointed out that the City had not considered the impact that being a regional retail center for the surrounding area

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would have and its need for residential facilities for those employees. If the City had elected to be a bedroom community, it would be facing the problems which the surrounding Counties were now having. Discussion also noted the feeling that their financial problems could be due to the lack of prudent fiscal policies. No formal action was taken or required on this Item,

7. STAFF COMMENTS (1-2392.5) - None.

8. ACTION ON FUTURE MEETING DATE(S) AND TIME(S) (1-2395.5) - The March 27th meeting on the priorities will be in the Bonanza Room at 6:30 p.m. Chairperson Smith indicated he would contact the Public Access Television regarding filming. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 17 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 59. The mission statement will be included on that agenda. The budget should be completed by the end of the week. Chairperson Smith indicated that a special meeting could be held if necessary and that the report should just be given to the Commission. Mr. Homann requested any comments on it and expressed a willingness to schedule a special meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT (1-2448.5) - Commissioner Bennett moved to adjourn. Commissioner Wolf seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairperson Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:55 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 March 20, 1996, Regional Transportation Commission meeting

ARE SO APPROVED ON April 17, 1996.

/s/

Greg Smith, Chairperson