

CARSON CTIY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the April 20, 1994 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, April 20, 1994 in the Carson City Senior Citizens Center Activity Room, 911 Beverly Drive, Carson City, NV at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Greg Smith, Chairman
Kay Bennett
Marie Wolf

STAFF: Harvey Brotzman, Regional Transportation Engineer
Mark Forsberg, Deputy District Attorney
Pat Hughey, Recording Secretary
(RTC 4/20/94 1-000-A)

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, each item was introduced by Chairman Smith. Individuals speaking are identified following the heading of each item. 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.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND B. ROLL CALL - Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - (1-003-A) - Under 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS, the name of the person speaking is Ruth Blake. Commissioner Bennett moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Commissioner Wolf seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

2. DISCUSSION ON "SPECIALIZED TRANSIT SERVICE AND COORDINATION AND EXPANSION REPORT" AND 3. DISCUSSION ON SENIOR TRANSIT NEEDS - (1-012-A) Harvey Brotzman, Senior Citizens Center Director Patricia Blake, Senior Citizens Center Advisory Committee Member Carl Dahlen, Senior Citizens Center Advisory Committee Member John Cawley, Senior Citizens Center Advisory Committee President Bob Kennedy; NDOT Representative Jim Mallery, NDOT Representative Sandi McGrew; NDOT Representative Monica Puddington - Mr. Brotzman reviewed the report and discussion took place regarding the recommendations made in the report. RTC's cost to expand and coordinate the current services would be \$30,000.

Ms. Blake would like to see more "shoring up" of the present system. Vehicle maintenance and replacement needs should be looked at. She feels the amounts suggested in the report for discretionary funding for support of existing programs may not be adequate. Because their clienteles are so different and the OARC and Senior Center are not sure how they can integrate their systems, Ms. Blake is not sure she can fully support the coordination of the different systems. Funding from NDOT for operating expenses for expanded services has been applied for. NDOT feels coordinating the four programs would be a good use of the money. The ad valorem tax is for construction, maintenance and operation of facilities only. Section 18 funds can only be used by a public body; therefore, the only eligible applicant would be the City. NDOT wants to see a coordination of effort by current transportation providers and would prefer to deal with just one coordinator in an area. Cab companies are presently not subsidized. Without more funding, the Senior Center will have to cut its hours. Mr. Mallery stated that since the needs of the people being served by the different programs are so varied, having the separate programs totally coordinated would be impossible, but it can be something to work towards. Ms. McGrew stated that since funds are limited, NDOT feels the best use of the funds would be an after-hours program which pays for the rider not the provider. The rider would receive reduced coupons for use with any provider. Through a contract with the cab company, the cab company would turn its accumulated coupons in for reimbursement at the end of each month. Senior citizens currently using the system would be eligible for the subsidies after hours. The current system is not breaking even - the suggested donation had to be increased from one dollar to two dollars. A suggested alternative was that the City take over the senior transportation program and assume all the costs associated with it - insurance, maintenance, etc. The purpose of the program is a community function more than a Senior Center function. Commissioner Bennett agreed saying the proper place for a transit system is with the Regional Transportation Commission. If the City were to take over the service, it would have to meet numerous Federal requirements regarding drug testing of drivers, certifications of drivers, etc. Also, City drivers would have

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to be paid benefits in addition to their salary, something the drivers in the present programs do not have. Ms. Blake would like to see the current systems supported until such time the City is able to take over the program. Having the City contract out the service was also suggested. Eligibility for Section 18 and Section 9 monies was discussed. Chairman Smith expressed misgivings about the joint transportation proposal between Reno and Carson City. Commissioner Wolf has spoken to several businesspersons who are strongly opposed to such a system. She expressed the opinion that people should start depending upon each other rather than on government. Commissioner Bennett stated there is a segment of the population that does depend upon public transportation and it is the responsibility of the City to address that segment.

(1-000-B) Chairman Smith felt the optimum thing to do would be to shore up the existing system. At Chairman Smith's request, Ms. Blake will give the RTC a list of things that need to be done to keep the current system operational, functional and well-run. The City should begin considering how it will take over the transit system. When asked about the City taking over the system, Mr. Mallery said NDOT would be receptive to any requests the City might have. Section 18 requests have to be in by October 1. All requests are prioritized according to the new State Management Plan. Funding is approximately \$300,000 for the entire State. \$30,000 is about the maximum Carson City could expect to receive. It was suggested that since Carson City's transportation needs will continue to grow and Section 18 monies will probably not, the RTC should be careful that applying for this money every year does not start to dictate the City's transportation needs. The City has submitted an application for next year's funds. Ms. Puddington would like a copy of the City's short-range transportation plan as well as the City's plans for the money by the end of September.

Commissioner Bennett suggested upcoming RTC agendas contain an item addressing transit needs so the matter is kept before the RTC. Representation from the Senior Citizens Center and NDOT at future RTC meetings was encouraged. Ms. Blake had sent a letter to Mr. Brotzman on March 22 concerning senior transit needs.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS - (1-105-B) - None.

5. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS - Senior Citizen Center Accountant Dick Hudson (1-107-A) - Commissioner Wolf feels with such a limited budget, RTC should not be getting so involved with transit. Her understanding was that the RTC's main focus was roads. Chairman Smith stated that Carson City has not historically focused on transit, but that under NRS it can. He also said RTC should start looking at other funding sources for transit such as a sales tax increase. Presently, the only funding source for RTC is the gasoline tax. The money the Senior Center receives from property taxes goes to retire the bonds used to build the new center. Mr. Hudson briefly answered questions regarding the Senior Center's financial situation.

6. STAFF'S COMMENTS - (1-307-B) - Mr. Brotzman said a previous Leigh, Scott and Cleary report stated the City would need an eighth of a cent tax in order to operate a full transit busines. Edmonds Drive is slightly behind schedule.

7. ACTION ON FUTURE MEETING DATE(S) AND TIME(S) - (1-339-B) - The bid opening for Graves Lane/Community College Parkway is April 26. The next meeting of the RTC was scheduled for May 5, 1994, at 8:30 a.m. The Leigh, Scott and Cleary report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on May 5 at either 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. This will be a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the RTC.

8. ADJOURNMENT - (1-368- B) - There being no further business, Commissioner Wolf made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

The Minutes of the April 20, 1994 meeting the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission

ARE SO APPROVED _____, 1994

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Greg Smith, Chairman