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To: [Christopher Martinovich](#)
Subject: RTC 11.8.23 meeting
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Dear RTC,

I know it was disappointing that many of us in the community did not participate in the meetings to learn about the funding options for street improvements. Part of the lack of participation was the result of the meetings being held during business hours, which excluded most of the people who have full-time jobs. I had other commitments or I would have attended.

I have major concerns. Why didn't the city budget for these expenses years ago? I've lived here for almost six years and to learn recently that we need to generate \$21 million annually to maintain our streets in their poor condition was shocking. Normally cities budget for their expenses and set aside funding as needed. If someone from the City could address this issue at the beginning of the meeting it would be extremely enlightening for me and others.

Back in 2005 the City told the public that if they got the V&T Railroad restored and running (which included a commitment for annual government contributions) that it would generate \$16-20 million of gross taxable revenue annually. The public believed them and voted in a .125% increase in sales tax.

I know people who were opposed to the railroad and I would have been too had I been living here. People might ride the train if they are visiting here, but very few tourists would decide to visit Carson City because of the train. By then teenagers were too sophisticated to get excited about riding a train. I don't know if the V&T train generated much income back then but it sure doesn't now.

The V&T Railroad website has the last three years of financial statements posted. The most current is their fiscal year ending 6/30/22. Their net operating loss was (\$1,051k). This loss was reduced by non-operating revenues of \$366k and \$315k of that amount was our "government contribution". The bottom line, a loss of (\$685k). That's not anywhere near the \$16-20 million gross taxable revenue that the residents of this city expected. Did the city have any restrictions on the V&T Railroad? It is difficult for many of us to understand why we've been funding a business that should have been allowed to fail since it wasn't making a profit nor drawing a significant amount of tourists into the area. That money could have been used

for street improvements. Perhaps someone from the City could address this at the beginning of the meeting too.

We've had raging inflation the last three years and Carson City residents are struggling like others across the nation. Many people are racking up credit card debt to put food on the table. I think many people would rather have poor roads than have their family budgets burdened by a new property tax assessment. However we need to do something. Any chance we can cut off V&T Railroad financial assistance before 2017? If V&T Railroad can't generate a profit, perhaps sell off the equipment to generate funds?

I am in favor of designating the portion of sales tax dollars financing V&T Railroad to be used for street improvements. I would be in favor of a **limited increase** in sales taxes to be designated for street improvements. That way everyone pays, citizens and tourists, not just property owners.

I want the streets of Carson City to be maintained, but not if it's going to result in some people not being able to afford to put food on their table or to seek needed medical care.

Regards,
Paula L. Peters