

## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The Regional Transportation Commission for the County of Elko, State of Nevada, met in a regular session on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 in Room 105 of the Elko County Courthouse, 571 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada beginning at 10:00 A.M. (PDST).

Commissioner Members Present:	WARREN RUSSELL, Chair
ABSENT	MIKE FRANZOIA
	CHARLIE MYERS
Others Present:	ROBERT STOKES County Manager
	CASH MINOR Chief Financial Officer
	MARILYN TIPTON Deputy County Clerk
	MIKE MURPHY NDOT Dist. Eng.
	CASEY KELLY NDOT Traffic Engineer
	JIM AAGARD NDOT
	BILL MOONEY NDOT
	RANDY BROWN County Planning & Zoning
	OTIS TIPTON County Road Supervisor
	CASH MINOR County Chief Financial Officer
	LYNN HOFFMAN NNTC, Act
	SHIRLEY CHANTRILL Div. for Aging Services
	KAREN CLANTON Easter Seals
	CHUCK RICKER NEAT/ NNTC
	STEVE BOWERS Elko Co. School Dist.
	CHARLES WILLIAMS Spring Creek Assoc.

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The following proceedings were held:

### **Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

Chairman Russell noted that Mayor Mike Franzoia would not be attendance today because he was representing the City of Elko at the legislature.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Myers led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

### **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

No public comments were submitted.

**APPROVAL OF PRECEDING MINUTES:**

January 5, 2005 - Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Commissioner Myers moved to approve the preceding minutes from the meeting held on January 5, 2005 of the Regional Transportation Commission. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**ELKO COUNTY REGIONAL STREET AND HIGHWAY FUND:**

Quarterly Financial Reports relating to the Regional Street and Highway Fund.

Commissioner Russell noted that the report had not been printed due to legislative activities. Cash Minor stated that the report was similar to the last quarterly report because there was not very much activity. However, within the next quarter there would be more activity.

**NORTHERN NEVADA TRANSIT COALITION:**

**SB 440 - Rural Transit Operations:**

The Board held a discussion and considered a letter of support for this legislation that would make an appropriation to match federal funding for rural transit operations.

Chuck Ricker of NNTC noted under SB 440 there would be an appropriation for rural transit operations. He stated they were asking for \$761,000 per year for the next two years for rural transit for the seniors, disabled and for public transportation. He stated that would also include Job Access Reverse Commute, funding and possibly buying some new buses. Chuck Ricker noted under Section 1, number 2 required the cities and/or counties to allocate money toward rural transit. He stated that most of the rural communities could not even repair the potholes. Chuck Ricker stated they would approach the legislature and ask for an amendment to SB 440 to strike Section 1, number 2 with regards to the cities/counties allocation of funding. He noted the big push was for community based senior services. He commented that on page 7 there was a copy of an Executive Order from the Governor. He read from the Executive Order: *WHEREAS, the vast geographic distances and low population density of rural Nevada present an*

*additional challenge to sustaining an economically viable health care delivery system@;*

Chuck Ricker stated that the Governor, Legislators, senior citizens, and the strategic planning committees all agreed that it was much harder to provide services to seniors in rural Nevada and to keep them in their homes. He stated that they could spend all day providing services but if the Seniors had no way to get to those services then all the programs were for naught. He asked the Commission to support Senate Bill 440 with their amendment which struck the need for the Counties to contribute. Chuck Ricker stated this Senate Bill would be heard on April 13 in Carson City before the Senate Finance Committee in Room 2134 of the Legislative Building.

Commissioner Russell asked if he would also approach the County Commission for support. Chuck Ricker stated that they were on the County Commissioner=s agenda for this afternoon.

**MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved that the RTC support SB 400 with the removal of Section 2, subsection 1 requiring a city/county match. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion.**

Chuck Ricker pointed out it was Senate Bill 440 with removal of Section 1 subsection 2.

**MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved to support SB 440 with the removal of item #1, subsection 2 requiring city and county match and that this item be referred to the County Commission for approval also. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Chuck Ricker noted that they had submitted a copy of their current budget. According to SB 440, he was required to ask the RTC to allocate \$75,000 of funding this year to help them run the NEAT System. He stated that if they cannot fund that amount, then he asked that they submit a letter to the legislators stating that. Commissioner Russell noted that they did not have representation from the City of Elko. He believed they did should consider this with Mayor Mike Franzoia. Robert Stokes noted that was not mentioned on the agenda as a funding item. However, he felt they could make a statement. Commissioner Myers noted that the RTC was able to fund \$25,000.00 last year. Cash Minor suggested that they add this item into the budgeting process.

Commissioner Myers suggested they recommend to staff to include some level of appropriations within the letter that they would send to the legislature. He stated this would have to be a special meeting or come up on July 6<sup>th</sup> as an actual appropriation item. Cash Minor stated that could be done. Chairman Russell asked that process be instituted. Robert Stokes stated last year the Commission did allocated the \$25,000 and it was a difficult decision at that time. Robert Stokes believed that decision may be difficult to make in the future. He believed that staff could put their concerns within the letter. Commissioner Myers suggested they review the RTC budget to see if they could allocate an equivalent to last year. He stated they would have to ratify it on the July 6 meeting.

Commissioner Russell felt that the Regional Transportation Commission was the proper venue for their concerns.

#### **BURNER BASIN ACCESS ROAD:**

The Board heard an update report on the cooperative effort to address Burner Basin Access Road including discussion regarding the Hamilton Stage Road and KRL Properties.

Commissioner Russell stated they had a report from the RTC Technical Committee on a plan for accesses to the Spring Creek/Pleasant Valley/Lamoille Valley areas. He stated these were long range projections. Randy Brown, of the RTC Technical Committee, pointed out the potential accesses on a map.

Randy Brown stated that the Hamilton Stage Road was being considered as a secondary access from South Fork which would provide access from SR 228. He noted that there were several issues to be addressed such as internal subdivision roads and other roads which may not be conducive to this type of development. Randy Brown felt this would be more like a residential/recreational type of use. He stated it would not be a full-blown collector standard.

Randy Brown stated the second access they had looked was under development. He noted Judge Crane owned the properties on the summit and was looking at further development. The road Judge Crane was looking at developing would tie back into Errecart Boulevard and some of that may be over a portion of BLM. He noted that the County had a portion of the BLM under a patent. He noted it may present a problem with NDOT for access.

Randy Brown stated the third access was under development at this time. He noted a tentative map had been approved for Bob Womack of KRL which provided 40 acre parcels with the potential of going down to ten acre parcels. He stated that Mr. Womack proposed to build this road all the way down from the top and tie it into Powder House Road. He pointed out that Powder House Road had a controlled access. He stated that NDOT had problems with the current access to Elko Mountain which was an FAA road. Randy Brown agreed that was a dangerous intersection and it should be looked at.

Randy Brown commented that they have looked at a Burner Basin Road extensively. Randy Brown noted that the biggest problems were with the actual topography through the area. He stated it may not be a safe type of situation for a major collector road. He noted that the roads they had looked at would also cross through Last Chance Ranch No 3. He believed that would require some sort of land acquisition.

Randy Brown noted that two access options were within private development situations which may or may not work. He stated Judge Crane was following through with his proposal.

Commissioner Russell stated that he had spoken to Mr. Tipton and Mr. Brown about the cost of developing the original Burner Basin Road. He stated that it might cost approximately 3.5 million to four million to construct that road exclusive of purchasing the rights of way.

Commissioner Russell inquired if NDOT had concerns about the proposed roads.

Mike Murphy of NDOT stated that the Lamoille Highway had an average traffic rate of 13,000 vehicles a day. He stated that any time they add intersections into that roadway it required a standard lighting and turn lanes. He noted those cost money. Mike Murphy stated NDOT had not seen any of the County=s developers wanting to invest money into that major highway to get access. He stated that they had spoken with KRL several times. He stated NDOT had deep distress in allowing access of any type off of that FAA permit. He noted that FAA permit was no longer in use. Mike Murphy stated no one really had legal access onto the highway from that tower road. He stated that if someone wanted to pursue that access then they would have to show them a development plan and a traffic study to show what type of contract would come in there, how would they deal with

it. He stated someone would also have to find funding for the intersection that would have to be created. Mike Murphy stated that with that amount of traffic NDOT had the obligation to make it as safe as possible. He noted that the access on top had the same situation. He stated the permit was issued for one single family dwelling. Mike Murphy stated that Judge Crane did not have the ability to tie his subdivision road into it. If he did, then NDOT would want development upon the Lamoille Highway. He noted that the Lamoille Summit traffic made it difficult for any developer to come in unless it was a large scale project. Commissioner Russell inquired from NDOT's point of view, which alternative would NDOT suggest. Mike Murphy felt they were all possible alternates and he suggested they consider them all. He did not believe that they could create only one alignment. Mike Murphy stated that KRL was proposing a good internal feed. He felt they should develop a network of multiple access. He believed that the subdivisions should intertwine. Mike Murphy felt they should work toward the development of all the proposals and then determine which standard each proposal should be developed. He noted one standard may be a local standard just to tie in the subdivisions. He stated they may look at the Burner Basin Road as high traffic and want to develop it to a higher standard. He felt they need to strive for the interconnecting of all the subdivisions. Commissioner Russell stated that was why he was asking the questions now before there were more lines on the map. Mike Murphy believed that everyone wanted to maintain the speed on their major collectors with SR 227 being one of them. He stated they would have to limit the number of accesses to the highway to maintain the higher speed. He noted that the Spring Creek Association had networked so that there were limited access roads to the major highway. Commissioner Russell inquired about a parallel road to the highway. Mike Murphy replied that NDOT limited their access through their access management standards. He stated that if a person had a parcel next to their roadway and they have no other way in, then NDOT had to give them access. He noted that developers usually did not want street frontages because it left a lot of open space and they could not develop along both sides. He stated as long as there were ties into the major nodes/collectors would be all they wanted. Commissioner Myers noted those funding opportunities would affect the development of the roads. He noted that they needed secondary roads coming from the Lamoille/Spring Creek area

for safety issues. He commented that they could have fires in that area and access to evacuate the residents could become a major issue. Commissioner Myers suggested they obtain preliminary cost estimates for all four of those proposals. He noted that on number three that may be more difficult because of the private development. Randy Brown stated the developer was interested in a public/private partnership on those costs. Commissioner Myers inquired if that route could be done with little or without access to the Lamoille Highway except where it went into Spring Creek Parkway or Last Chance Road. Randy Brown stated it could come out at Powder House Road. Randy Brown noted that Mr. Womack left a short section out of his tentative map. He stated the KRL development was physically attached to Spring Creek through two minor collections which were the primary access for his 40 acre parcels. He stated that there was an access from the back side of the development. Randy Brown noted that there was a small section which may be built for an access. Commissioner Myers stated that might be less costly and it would present another access. He stated it may not be a high speed access for the Spring Creek area but it would be an alternate in case of a safety issue.

Charles Williams representing the Spring Creek Association stated he appreciated their comments about long term planning. He noted the roads going into Western Hills and through the Hamilton Stage Road would not impact the SCA. Charles Williams acknowledged that there would be growth potential and traffic needs there. He stated that the SCA was concerned with keeping their corridor open to SR 227 to move vehicles and not having them continually stopped and slowed down. Charles Williams stated that limiting the accesses and intersections onto that SR 227 corridor was important to the Spring Creek Association. He stated when the 227 corridor was shut down through traffic accidents there was no other access. He commented that was a public safety issue. Charles William commented that they had been discussing loops and a route through Burner Basin connecting to Pleasant Valley for a long time. He stated focusing on the densities and the growth they were experiencing in those areas their connection from the SCA Tract 200 subdivision would have secondary access through Burner Basin. He stated that in the long term it could cross the river and connect to I-80.

Charles Williams stated with regards to the KRL development the SCA

had some concerns. He noted Randy Brown alluded to the potential that the forty acres may change to ten acres, etc. He commented that they were also talking about a commercial development. Charles Williams stated that the Spring Creek Association was concerned because they pay for the roads and the maintenance of them. He acknowledged that RTC gave them approximately \$140,000.00. However, there would be concerns with bringing commercial activities through a residential area. Charles Williams noted that people coming from Jiggs, etc., would also be using that road. He questioned whether the SCA roads would be capable to handle that type of traffic density. He pointed out that type of traffic density would be a cost to the SCA to improve and stabilize those roads. Charles Williams noted that they have heard discussions about development on the other side of the highway. He stated the Spring Creek Association was concerned with the dumping of all the traffic from the future development. Commissioner Russell noted that there would be about five blocks of the Spring Creek roads that would be impacted by that access. Charles Williams noted there was another loop proposed through Buffside Drive and another loop which might come through Darby. He stated that would depend upon the density of the development. Charles Williams stated that if it stayed 40 acre parcels there would be no dense traffic. He noted the further up the hill, the topography may limit development on its size. Charles Williams noted that the developer could only afford what he could get out of his development. He stated that if the developer was spending everything up front on the road and there was no net return then he probably would not develop. Charles Williams noted it was easier to buy vacant land rather than buying occupied land with structures. He recommended that RTC ask staff to get some real plans and cost estimates. He stated they had talked about 3.5 million up to 30 million to develop the Burner Basin route.

Commissioner Myers felt there was an additional advantage to looking at the Bullion Road/Hamilton Stage Road especially if development happened on the other side of the road. He noted 110 cars were backed up from the accident at the light. He stated most of the traffic was headed to Spring Creek and it would have been nice to have an alternate access.

Commissioner Myers felt that Charles Williams brought up a good point with regards to the commercial traffic dumping into a residential area. He believed that the road going into the 200 Tract already existed as a dirt road.

Commissioner Myers inquired if there was a possibility of going into the far road by Khourys. He believed that there would only be two or three homes affected on that road. Randy Brown noted that there was a wash in that area and there were some typography problems coming down the hill and through the drainage. He stated they would be coming down the hill and going straight into a ditch. Commissioner Russell asked who owned that property. Randy Brown replied KRL owned a large parcel of 120 acres in that area. Charles Williams noted that there were Spring Creek residences near the AT@ in the road. Randy Brown noted that they would have to look at the whole project through Spring Creek. He noted that if they were looking at providing an access that close to the highway then the traffic counts would go up at that location by the Khourys.

Commissioner Myers did not see this as a day route but it may be a viable option as a secondary route when SR 227 was closed down. Charles Williams noted they were moving over 6,000 cars daily at Spring Valley Parkway and at Licht Parkway they moved 4,000. Charles Williams stated at Palace Parkway they moved 3000 cars through that intersection daily.

Randy Brown noted that the Burner Basin Road was planned to connect further back and to connect into the Lamoille Road. He noted when he spoke about 3.5 million dollars he was only discussing a portion of the Burner Basin Road development. Commissioner Russell stated he could see the County investing more money in the Burner Basin Road to handle more traffic at higher speeds. Commissioner Russell asked Randy to speak to the developer upon an alternative route and if he would be willing to partner.

Commissioner Myers suggested that they leave this on the agenda for preliminary costs. He believed they need to decide what area would be developed and set aside money to make those developments. Robert Stokes inquired if they wanted some internal estimates. Randy Brown inquired about what type of standard would they be looking at. Commissioner Myers felt they should consider 45 mph to 55 mph speed on the Burner Basin Road. Commissioner Myers felt that they may have to stage that road development. Commissioner Russell suggested a cooperative effort between Otis and Mr. Brown for rough estimates. Commissioner Myers noted they should have acquired the rights of way in the past. He stated they may budget for those acquisitions now. Randy Brown stated he may discuss this with Mike Murphy.

## **NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:**

Casey Kelly submitted the latest traffic counts for 2004. He noted the counts were down in January to February due to Winter. He stated in March the traffic counts have increased. He stated Idaho Street had been in a steady decline. However, on SR 225/Mountain City Route they had gained in traffic counts.

Commissioner Myers inquired if the sensors were not working on Tuesday night when they had the head-on accident. Mike Murphy stated they had plowed out in that area but there was a quick storm come in and the road was slick. He stated an accident also had happened on Emigrant Summit that night. He stated they did not have enough staff or manpower to do all of these areas at once. He stated when law enforcement closed the road sometimes it was more dangerous because then NDOT could not get through to open up the road. Commissioner Myers noted that there were a Sheriff=s deputy and two city police at the scene of the accident. He commented that the plow trucks could not get back up to the area due to the backed up traffic. Mike Murphy noted that when they have scattered storms NDOT did not know how badly it would hit and how much it would leave on the road. He noted there was pre application of lig on that road the night before. He stated NDOT had to rely upon the peoples= judgement to slow down. Mike Murphy noted road conditions changed rapidly this time of year.

## **ENTITY PROJECTS REPORTING:**

The Board received reports on the status of entity projects being financed by Regional Street and Highway Fund apportionments.

### City Entities:

Carlin:

No report was submitted.

Elko:

Robert Stokes commented that Delmo Andreozzi had a conflict and could not attend this meeting.

Wells:

Jolene Supp stated they had two or three regional opportunities. She inquired of NDOT if anyone had contacted them with regards to four way curb and gutter changes. Jolene Supp stated she received a copy of the

plans on Monday for a significant development at the four-way intersection. She believed that the property owner's intention was for some significant parking lot changes. She noted the curb was not prominent off of the slip ramp. Jolene Supp asked NDOT for their input on that particular area. She noted development would be significant and felt there would be more traffic coming off from that slip ramp.

Jolene Supp stated there was a second development off of Hacienda Road for BTI. She noted that the City was keeping its eyes open because it was a private road going onto the State road. She believed that there would be 26 trucks per day using that road.

Jolene Supp stated several years ago they had received CDBG funding for the curb and gutter work around Clover and Lake Streets. She stated Lake Street curbs and gutters would be completed this year. She noted they were working with the School District on that project. Jolene Supp stated Dixon had been awarded the contract and it would probably start in July. She noted this project would assure pedestrians and kids on bikes more safety.

Jolene Supp stated that they were looking at Shoshone and Cobre Street because of the increase of traffic. She stated they had completed all of their utility issues in Shoshone and were completing a new water line along Cobre Street. Jolene Supp stated they would look at that situation through the budget process. She noted some would be merely resurfacing but a portion was still gravel which presented problems with snow removal in the wintertime. Jolene Supp stated there may be some elevation changes made to alleviate some of the problems.

West Wendover:

No report was submitted.

Town of Jackpot:

Cash Minor stated there was no report submitted.

Spring Creek Association:

Charles Williams thanked the NDOT representatives and Elko County for their cooperative efforts on the safety improvements being performed on the section of Lamoille Highway between Spring Valley Parkway, Spring Creek Parkway/Licht. He stated they realize that there would be delays during the construction on those highways. Charlie Williams stated that the SCA Board of Directors have asked if a representative, elected official or staff could

come to one of their meetings to discuss road maintenance, options and issues. Charlie Williams stated there had been a lot of discussion about the SCA turning over the roads to the County for maintenance. He stated the current Board of Directors were realists. He stated that staff was proud of the services that were provided to the SCA property owners. Commissioner Russell stated they had received the letter and there were some scheduling conflicts this month. Commissioner Russell stated he and Otis would be attending their May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at 5:30 p.m. Charles Williams stated they would be placed upon the start of the agenda and wanted to confirm that date.

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Continued:**

Mike Murphy stated they had seven projects in the Elko area. He stated that two of those projects were not in Elko County. He stated those projects were the replacement of the bridge at Beowawe at Exit 306. Mike Murphy stated there were two contracts in the Elko area which were bid out to F & F Construction. He stated one contract was on SR 227 and the other was the Elko bypass area from exit to exit. He stated there was work scheduled on US 93 with one job on Bishop Flat to top the top of H-D Summit. The other job on US 93 was located 10 miles north of the first contract up to the O=Neil Basin Road. Mike Murphy stated the NDOT Jackpot project was on line but the last ten miles and the widening of Jackpot would not go to bid until Winter, so it would be 2006 construction. He stated they held some meetings up in Jackpot and would try to keep that project in line. Mike Murphy stated in mid summer NDOT would be widening sections of US 93 which currently do not have shoulders. He stated they hoped to get shoulders of four feet width on those portions. Mike Murphy stated their first project would be located South of Wells for a length of 18 miles. He stated there were two miles that suffered during the wintertime and for those two miles they would do a road bed modification. He stated the majority of the paving would be in the 2006. Mike Murphy stated on US 93 A there was a project 15 miles South of Wendover which was a surface rejuvenation project and would be going out to bid shortly. Mike Murphy stated that there was a project on I - 80 from Emigrant Pass maintenance station to Carlin which would go to bid in midsummer. He believed most of that work would be completed in the 2006 season. Mike Murphy stated that there was about 35 million dollars worth of

work to be completed in Elko County.

Commissioner Myers inquired about the time frames for the work to be performed on US 93 in Jackpot. Mike Murphy replied it would probably go to bid in the Fall of 2005 or in Spring of 2006. He stated there were hydraulics issues that had to be addressed in the Jackpot project.

**ENTITY PROJECTS REPORTING Continued:**

Elko County School District:

Steve Bowers stated they were proceeding with phase one construction of the Elko Middle School. He stated there would be a bid opening next month for that project. Steve Bowers stated that project would include the walkways up to the site, utility extensions and the preparation of the building pad in preparation for the construction. He stated they would be working on the signal crossing or stop light after the building was built. He stated there would be no expenditures of funds for two years.

County:

Otis Tipton noted the Bull Run Bridge, the Secret Creek Bridge and the Thorpe Creek have all been completed. He noted the Bullion Bridge was in progress right now. He stated they had a right of way meeting last week. Otis Tipton noted there was a meeting with NDOT on the interpretive center. He hoped they would get a permit signed. Bill Mooney of NDOT stated that permit was signed. Otis Tipton commented that the local NDOT people had really helped them get this permit. He noted RTC had participated in the approximate amount of \$400,000 for the widening on the Lamoille Highway.

Otis Tipton noted the County had put in a request for grindings with NDOT. He stated that Mike Murphy relayed to him that NDOT would like to know the roads that those grindings would be placed upon. Otis Tipton stated by mid-month he would relay that information to the Commissioners at their meeting. He noted the grindings would be stockpiled west of town so they would have to use it within the area to reduce their hauling costs. Commissioner Myers suggested that RTC send a letter to NDOT thanking them. Otis Tipton believed that the City of Elko would also get a share of those grindings.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION OF RTC ISSUES:**

There were no comments submitted

Commissioner Russell noted that the next regular quarterly meeting would be scheduled on Wednesday, July 6, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. (PST).

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved to adjourn. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED,  
WARREN RUSSELL, Chairman

ATTEST:  
MARILYN TIPTON, Deputy Clerk