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**II. APPROVAL OF PRECEDING MINUTES:**

April 1, 2015 - Regular Meeting

**MOTION: Commissioner Eklund moved to approve the April 1, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Andreozzi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Review of Quarterly Financial Reports relating to Regional Street and Highway fund.

Cash Minor stated on page 3 was the first ten months of collections and they have collected 2.2 million dollars which was even with last year. He reported they accumulated \$53,000 in interest in the supplement interest fund. He noted they collect according to fiscal year. Cash Minor stated with regards to the information upon page 4 they would have to talk to Terry Lister because the mag/lig projects were over budget so they would have to correct that. He noted there were also some miscellaneous signs for \$987.94 that has no budget. He stated the Board would have to establish a budget for that \$987.94.

Commissioner Rice inquired if that expense could be transferred to a different fund.

Cash Minor replied signage historically came from the supplemental fund, which he recommended. He commented beginning on page 5 were the entity balances but they would not see the new allocations until the next quarterly meeting.

**MOTION: Commissioner Eklund moved that they accept the quarterly financial report relating to the Regional Street and Highway Fund with the \$987.94 for the signage coming from the supplemental fund. Commissioner Andreozzi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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**IV. PROPOSED LONG-TERM COUNTY ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM:**

Review of the County Road/Fire District long-term infrastructure proposal for a possible ¼ cent sales tax option for infrastructure, regarding the long-term road plan.

Cash Minor stated discussions for this tax started several years ago in the Budget Committee for the County. He noted the County was mandated to assume their Fire District and there was massive capital needs because of the

old equipment. Cash Minor stated the County has always funded road work through gas tax dollars only and that revenue was not there anymore. He stated they were at the point of either dropping maintenance upon roads or minimizing maintenance upon the roads. He stated they looked at the infrastructure tax to hopefully fund those deficits for acquisition of fire equipment for the Fire District and improvement/maintenance of roads. He stated there were other roads that the County should take over because of the traffic count and there was no maintenance upon them. Cash Minor gave a slide presentation upon the gas tax. He noted they considered property taxes but with the abatement process there was no revenue through raising property taxes. He stated they estimated the quarter cent tax would bring in 3.5 million dollars and they would allocate approximately 2 million to Roads and 1.5 million to the Fire District. He stated there were percentages in the presentation; 57% would go to Roads and 43% would go to the Fire District. He stated approximately 40% of the sales tax would be paid through tourism. Cash Minor reviewed the sales tax rates for the counties across the State. He stated based upon taxable sales through use of IRS publication 600 it gave estimation upon sales tax paid by a family of four at an income level of \$80,000 to \$90,000 per year to be an additional \$39.00 per year. He stated if they were within the \$20,000 to \$30,000 salary range it would be an \$18.00 per year impact. Cash Minor stated they would have to develop plans which they had prepared for Roads and the Fire District. He stated there has to be public hearings held and it would go through an Ordinance adoption process with notices and lengthy time frames. Cash Minor stated the plan would have to be reviewed annually because of the road issues. He stated where the population grows would change the need for road maintenance. Cash Minor stated there were fifteen year plans but the Road plan presented to the Commission was a 20 year plan. He stated people had questioned whether they could change the Ordinance and redirect the revenue. He stated it was possible but only in accordance with NRS 377B.

Chairman Rice inquired if the ratios of 57% roads and 43% Fire District would remain in the projection for 15 years.

Cash Minor replied yes.

Chairman Rice voiced support of the proposal but questioned if the revenue generated by the sales tax would be sufficient.

Commissioner Eklund noted NRS 377 limited the amount that the Commissioners could raise the taxes.

Cash Minor stated they would have to work with what the sales tax brought

in, depending upon the local economy.

Chairman Rice stated some of the City constituents voiced concern about the amount generated within the City. He did not see a problem with that because they all have the responsibility to the region because they all live in the County. He inquired where the calculation came from of 40% coming from the tourists.

Cash Minor replied from some of the economists that have worked with the State.

Commissioner Andreozzi noted in order to pass this the County Commission would have to have four of the Commissioner's votes. He commented the County was finding it difficult to fund these issues. He knew Chairman Rice was aware of the cost of fire prevention and the cost of roads. Commissioner Andreozzi stated there were 15,000 miles of roads within the County and the County only provides some level of maintenance to approximately 1,100 miles of roads. He stated it was not feasible to maintain all the County roads. Commissioner Andreozzi liked the proposal because the dollars can only be used for acquisition or infrastructure. He noted the Fire District covers 17,000 square miles with a number of Fire Departments throughout the County which had a high number of volunteers for those Fire Departments. He stated there was an increase for fire protection and the County paid NDF for wildland fire protection annually. He commented the County operating funds were at 5.6% ending fund balance and not at the 8.3% as recommended by the State.

Commissioner Eklund had been approached by several constituents who voiced concern the money would be used for other things. He stated NRS 377.160 said the money can only spent for what it was designated toward. He noted everyone paid sales tax so that was what appealed to him in this proposal. He commented when Commissioner Guttry spoke to Newmont and Barrick they both expressed that they would not oppose it because it was a broad base tax. He believed this was the best solution to pay for these issues.

Chairman Rice voiced support of the tax proposal. He stated the community understands that when something needs to be fixed they have to pay to fix it. He stated even their property taxes can only be used for specific purposes. He commented they all live in the County and probably travel at some time upon those 1,100 miles maintained roads to make it worth their while to maintain them. He did not have any details on the proposal and thanked them for the presentation. He understood the importance of fire protection and was a volunteer at a Volunteer Fire Department and knew those older apparatus/resources need to be maintained. Chairman Rice stated at the Ten-

Mile VFD there was a 1938 Deuce and a Half fire vehicle.

Dennis Strickland, Elko City Public Works Director and former member of the Road Services Advisory Committee stated the RSAC's number one recommendation was for the sales tax to gain revenue for roads. He commended this board for looking at this and encouraged the County Commission to adopt this tax.

Commissioner Andreozzi thanked the Chairman for his interest and input. He stated it was obvious that there were shortfalls but with the abatement laws and tax cap they did not have many options for funding.

Commissioner Eklund believed the minimal annual impact upon the individual family members was appealing.

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#### **V. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:**

Update reporting as may be available relating to traffic counts, projects, and other matters of interest.

Boyd Ratliff, NDOT Assistant District III Engineer, gave a traffic count update from May and the comparison between 2014 and 2015. He stated the only significant changes were US 93 North of I-80 with a 7% increase of traffic west of Wells and a 5.5% decrease in front of the Convention Center upon Idaho Street. Boyd Ratliff reviewed the following Elko County projects: the Elko urban project continuation; south of Wells slope widening and passing lanes upon Highway 93; another wildlife crossing north of Wells upon Highway 93. He stated there would be a bid opening for a project to redo the Wells by-pass from Beverly Hills east of the town of Wells on I-80 to the other side of Wells. He commented there was another wildlife crossing upon I-80 on the Pequops Summit that would go out to bid by the end of the year. Boyd Ratliff reported the weather had held up projects and they were preparing for their chip seal projects on the Ruby Valley Highway and several miles of the Jiggs Highway.

Commissioner Eklund understood there would be additional road widening north of Wells on US Highway 93.

Boyd Ratliff stated upon the US Highway 93 from Ely to the Nevada State Line was in NDOT's long term plan for slope flattening, passing lanes, shoulder widening and that was broke into five phases. He believed NDOT was working on the third phase with widening and passing lanes. He stated it has taken five years for the first three phases and it may take another two or three years depending upon funding to complete the five phases.

Chairman Rice inquired about the stakes upon the west wide of the Mountain City Highway north of Elko.

Boyd Ratliff believed those stakes were for the pipeline.

Commissioner Andreozzi publicly thanked Boyd Ratliff and NDOT for their investment in the public infrastructure in northeastern Nevada and the Elko urban project.

Boyd Ratliff stated the urban project was becoming very successful.

Commissioner Eklund spoke with a trucker that ran coast to coast and he commented that Nevada had some of the best highways.

Boyd Ratliff stated Nevada had been ranked number 2 in the nation on pavement surfaces in the past but they had slide down within the top ten due to restrictions upon funding. He reported they were getting new authority, responsibility, and personnel in the storm water areas. He noted those laws took in effect upon the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. He stated they have two water quality specialists on staff here in the Elko Office. Boyd Ratliff believed they would be receiving 7 more people on the maintenance and enforcement side. He stated between the public agencies locally they encouraged an open line of communication and dialog. He stated there would be some conversations with private companies and property owners on discharges with regards to water quality. He stated now they have the authority to fine under the Clean Water Act with regards to anything that enters their right of away or issues with an adjacent property owner.

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## **VI. ELKO COUNTY TRANSIT DEPARTMENT: GET My Ride**

Discussion and consideration of a request for \$40,000 contribution from the RTC. Historically the RTC has contributed between \$25,000 and \$30,000. This funding is used as a federal match for the transit program.

Abigail Wheeler, Elko Transit Coordinator, stated she had sent a request letter.

Chairman Rice stated that would be included in the record with the minutes.

Abigail Wheeler stated they were requesting \$40,000 this year but historically they have received a \$25,000 to \$30,000 contribution from the RTC safety fund. She noted the blue line route was getting more attention and they had handled out 750 brochures. She reported ridership numbers had increased but were now steady. Abby Wheeler stated the additional funding request was for maintenance of the older fleet. She stated they projected \$53,000 in maintenance and probably will see \$70,000. Abigail Wheeler stated the new buses had full maintenance inspections and were running good. Abigail Wheeler reported the advertisement was upon the Newmont bus and there was blue line advertising upon the big busses.

Commissioner Eklund voiced support for the transit system because they provided a great community service to people who did not have the ability to pay for transportation. He commented the County paid for a portion of that transportation and the program has really grown.

Commissioner Andreozzi commended her for providing service to a great deal of people. He understood they received federal funding but it did not cover the entire cost of the program. He also understood the need for maintenance. He supported her request and asked Cash Minor what fund this additional \$10,000 request would come from.

Cash Minor stated this was a new allocation request and they have the \$30,000 already allocated to them. He stated they have \$57,000 available in the supplemental interest fund. He believed going into the future the County may have to look at taking this from their portion of the RTC allocations because there would not be sufficient supplemental funds.

Commissioner Rice stated the more they investment into the program the more benefit they see from it. He believed it would become a better option for people to get around town in the future. He stated they were looking at sales tax to take care of other things but as this program grows they would have to think how they were going to invest into it in the future. He noted this funding would leverage more federal funding.

**MOTION: Commissioner Eklund moved to approve the request for \$40,000 contribution from the RTC to the GET My Ride Program. Commissioner Andreozzi seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Andreozzi inquired if they should designate what fund it should come from and received an affirmative response from Cash Minor.

**Commissioner Eklund amended his motion that the funding would come from the safety fund. Commissioner Andreozzi seconded the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.**

[10:40:50 AM](#)

## **VII. ENTITY PROJECTS REPORTS:**

Report on status of entity projects financed by Regional Street and Highway Fund apportionments.

**A. City of Carlin:**

No report.

**B. City of Elko**

Dennis Strickland, Public Works Director, reported there was nothing to report.

Commissioner Eklund stated at the Nevadaworks meeting in Reno three

weeks ago he met the Eureka County Commissioner from Crescent Valley who commented the City of Elko could do all this street work because of all the mines north of Carlin being in Elko County.

- C. **City of Wells**  
No report was submitted.
- D. **City of West Wendover**  
No report was submitted.
- E. **Town of Jackpot**  
No report was submitted.
- F. **Spring Creek Association**  
No report was submitted.
- G. **Elko County School District**  
No report was submitted.
- H. **GET MY Ride (formerly Elko Area Transit System)**  
No report was submitted.
- I. **Elko County**

Randy Brown reported the bid for road improvements on Kittridge Canyon and Coal Mine Canyon Road would be approved today and the crews were finishing the mag and lig projects.

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**VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ROUTINE RTC ISSUES:**

No comments were submitted.

[10:43:14 AM](#)

**IX. OCTOBER 2015 RTC MEETING:**

Chairman Rice commented the next regularly scheduled RTC Meeting was scheduled for October 7, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

[10:43:22 AM](#)

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

No public comments were submitted.

[10:43:33 AM](#)

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Rice adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

APPROVED,

JOHN PATRICK RICE, Chairman

ATTEST:

MARILYN TIPTON, Deputy Clerk

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

REGULAR SESSION

JULY 8, 2015

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