

billboard along I-80 and the west bound traffic did not see the center until they were past the center. Gary Koy would request the Nevada Department of Transportation to change the name of Hunter Exit to California Trail Center Exit and the other request was to remove the sign of no services.

Boyd Ratliff, NDOT Traffic Engineer, stated this request came across his desk previously. He understood Mr. Koy's concern was insufficient signage to get motorists off of the Interstate to the Trail Center. Boyd Ratliff stated this concern was reviewed and they have the standard trail blazer signage already in place. Boyd Ratliff reviewed NDOT protocols for service signs and noted the Trail Center did not provide for fuel, food, or lodging. He stated they could readdress it but they have all the signage up that they could put there under the current regulations.

Chairman Rice commented Beverly Hills Exit was renamed due to a request by a resident for marketing purposes.

Boyd Ratliff stated there was a protocol to change the name of exits. He stated they hesitate to do that because so many locals knew the exit name and for emergency response reasons.

Gary Koy noted their marketing says Hunter Exit 292. He asked if there was a possibility to consult with Maggie Creek Ranch for a change. He stated it would be beneficial to the Trail Center to have the exit renamed.

Commissioner Guttry inquired if they could add to the Hunter Exit the Trail Center name.

Boyd Ratliff stated that would still be considered a name change. He would look into that and speak with Jon Griggs of the Maggie Creek Ranch.

Commissioner Williams inquired if they could put more verbiage on the brown signs to give the tourists more information.

Boyd Ratliff stated the procedure to change the verbiage on the brown signs was more flexible because they were designed to inform the public about recreational/historical sites off their right of way.

Commissioner Williams inquired if they could place that signage further down the road before California Trail Interpretive Center to give the people more time to make the proper exit.

Boyd Ratliff noted there were billboards throughout town for the center.

Commissioner Guttry commented at Baker City, Oregon the Trail Center was 6 miles off the interstate and inquired how they notified the public. He noted that center had been open for twenty-three years.

Boyd Ratliff believed the Baker's Trail Center was so successful because of word of mouth.

Gary Koy had worked at the Oregon Trail Center and their visitation was

over 100,000 the first year. He stated they marketed the Baker City Center one year before they even opened. Gary Koy stated the California Trail Center was marketed through billboards which were funded by grants. He stated this Center was open seven days a week this summer to develop word of mouth.

Chairman Rice stated he sat upon the ECVA marketing committee and maybe there was something they could help them with.

Boyd Ratliff stated NDOT trip counts on I-80 and I-84 could be dramatically different too.

Gary Koy acknowledged the ECVA has been very supportive in the past.

[10:13:33 AM:](#)

II. APPROVAL OF PRECEDING MINUTES:

April 2, 2014 - Regular Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Williams moved to approve the April 2, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Guttry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[10:13:59 AM:](#)

III. ELKO COUNTY REGIONAL STREET AND HIGHWAY FUND:

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

Cash Minor reviewed page 3 which was a historical overview of the revenue receipts. He stated in 10 months they have collected \$2.182 million and the last two payments should be another \$450,000 so for the year they should have collected \$2.6 million dollars. Cash Minor stated the collected interest was deposited into the Safety Fund. He noted last meeting they discussed traffic signal maintenance in the County's portion for \$2,056 which was to upgrade the light and it was not a maintenance issue. Cash Minor stated the Devil's Gate Road was a magnesium chloride project and he would move that amount into the mag projects. He stated the road striping was overspent. He commented the Kittridge Canyon project was budgeted in next fiscal year's budget. Cash Minor requested a budget adjustment for road striping in the amount of \$4,700 and that they create a traffic signal maintenance budget in the amount of \$2,100 and for the White Rock lighting allocate an additional \$500 or \$1,000 to cover that lighting.

Chairman Rice inquired where they would move the money from.

Cash Minor stated the County still had \$200 so they were moving it among the County's apportionment with the exception of the White Rock lighting which came from the safety fund.

MOTION: Commissioner Guttry moved for approval of the quarterly financial report with the suggested budget adjustments to the road striping in the amount of \$4,700, create a traffic signal maintenance budget in the amount of \$2,100 within the County apportionment and from the Safety Fund allocate to the White Rock lighting an additional \$1,000 to cover that lighting. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10:17:18 AM:

IV. SPRING CREEK TO ELBURZ/INTERSTATE 80 ROAD:

Discussion and consideration of a request to build a highway from Spring Creek to Elburz and Interstate 80. A few years ago, this request was made to the RTC for consideration. Lack of available funding at the local or state level was considered the main obstacle to this project.

Chairman Rice asked this to be placed on the agenda when Roy Elsner requested it be considered at their last meeting. He had spoken to Randy Brown and they recalled the Hamilton Stage Road and Burner Basin Road were the options. Chairman Rice stated NDOT estimated \$100 million dollars to build the road from Elburz to Spring Creek so this project was not feasible and not a priority for the County. He believed in the future they would have greater needs to connect Elko and Spring Creek. He stated Hamilton Stage Road may be the connector with more development of Lucky Nugget. He noted the person that made the request was not present today.

Randy Brown had reviewed the RTC Master Plan and the proposed road was not listed on it. He stated that the Hamilton Stage and Burner Basin Roads were not discussed. He pulled the traffic counts on Lamoille Road to Secret Pass and the counts averaged 11 to 20 vehicle trips a day. He had looked at this road within the Spring Creek/Lamoille Master Plan and it was not feasible because the road would be across private property and the logistics of acquiring rights of way and easements were not feasible.

Commissioner Williams received the same letter requesting consideration. He believed the person had not received the information that this was discussed in the past and suggested a letter be sent from staff to the individual. Another access may be Burner Basin, and in the future that may be long range alternative.

Chairman Rice suggested they hold a transportation workshop with this committee to look at these types of things. Chairman Rice noted there was no funding available and stated it would probably take federal funding.

Randy Brown would submit a letter to the individual. He stated in 2006 they drafted an RTC Master Plan with road priorities and did some cost analysis. He noted the Burner Basin was discussed and it was estimated at \$6 million dollars to cross the river. Randy Brown believed NDOT picked the right location to put the road due to the costs and feasibility.

Commissioner Williams understood the emergency route was the lower Lamoille Road out to the highway. He stated they should look at that route to see if it would serve them in an emergency situation.

Randy Brown stated they discussed a parallel road through the east side of the highway but the City had annexed a portion of the parallel road. He stated the terrain was steep in places for a secondary access.

Chairman Rice asked to review the master plan with Randy Brown. He noted it was taking extra time to get to Spring Creek due to construction upon that highway. He stated they may hold a workshop to inform the public and when speaking to federal delegates they could discuss the possibility of an alternative access to Spring Creek for the future.

Commissioner Williams stated they may have the potential with oil development in that area to change the scope of the landscape.

Boyd Ratliff, NDOT Traffic Engineer, agreed with their concept of planning. He stated when talking with federal delegates the biggest hurdle was the State law called PISTOL for condemnation or eminent domain to obtain rights of way. He suggested they take proactive steps in talking with their congressional delegation to amend that particular law. Boyd Ratliff stated currently the public agency has to pay the highest imaginable price for the property which was detrimental to the taxpayers. He referred to project NEON in Clark County which had private landowners who were asking astronomical prices for an acre of land.

Commissioner Gutfry felt it should be a reasonable or fair market value.

Randy Brown noted the State law said they have to pay for the land if condemned, and the highest and best uses projected by the landowner upon the land had to be considered.

Chairman Rice suggested speaking to Assemblyman Ellison and Congressman Amodei about amending this law. He recommended the County improve lower Lamoille Road in case of emergencies.

Commissioner Williams encouraged them to start planning now and place it upon future agendas to get updates.

Commissioner Gutfry inquired if there was a trigger that NDOT had to build an alternate access in their long range plans to Spring Creek.

Boyd Ratliff stated a 100,000 population threshold or capacity may direct them to address alternate access. Boyd Ratliff agreed with the concept to have additional access to that area. He encouraged a workshop or another RTC meeting discussion. He noted the current construction project exposed some serious issues on that highway such as surgeons who could not get access to the hospital in case of an accident. He noted the hospital was working on another access plan.

10:37:46 AM:

V. GET MY RIDE – ELKO AREA TRANSIT SERVICE:

A. Update status on transit including grant awards and donations to the Elko Area Transit Service.

Abby Wheeler reported they received \$5,000 from the Union Pacific Railroad and she would put in for another UP grant in August. She stated they received \$250.00 from Smiths and they were a preferred recipient of their organization. She would educate the community upon the rewards incentive. Abby Wheeler reported they received the Veteran's grant to aid the Vets in getting a ride to their medical services. She stated they were working on a coordinated transportation plan to get Veterans from Carlin and Wells to the Elko VA Clinic. She stated Wells may use the Senior Citizens transportation which was part of this grant process. She noted Veterans in Spring Creek who have a mobility issue would have a problem getting to the VA van to Salt Lake City. She would be speaking to Wal-Mart about a contribution. Abby Wheeler will be contacting NV Energy Foundation for possible grants. She informed them of the Home Depot Veteran program and would solicit their help with the vehicle maintenance issues. Abby Wheeler was coordinating with the Ruby Mountain Resource Center on a fund raiser and was seeking a sponsor. She noted the center had building maintenance issues and we needed operational funding so they would split the proceeds from the fund raiser. She stated there had been a 47% increase in ridership from last year and they had 3,000 trips during the school year which averaged to be 35 trips per day, per route. Abby Wheeler stated those routes include service to Spring Creek, Ryndon, and White Rock. She reported they would be raising their fares and stated Elko's gross cost per trip was \$14.72 but the local cost per trip was \$3.46 for Elko; \$8.64 for Spring Creek; \$3.75 to Ryndon/Osino and \$13.56 cost to Lamoille. She would present to the County Commission her proposal to establish routes within the City of Elko. The circuit routes would go from the hospital throughout the city and once the one route was established another route would be instituted going in the opposition direction to make shorter wait times. Abby Wheeler would propose to

the Commission to set fare zones with the bus route in Elko remaining at \$1.00 per trip; \$2.00 door to door; and each zone will raise incrementally by \$1.00 with Lamoille at \$5.00 per trip. She would propose a punch card that allows fluid movement between fare zones. Abby submitted a copy of the community assessment performed by Impact Evaluation & Assessment Services. She noted there was a lack of knowledge about the service to the public so they would work upon their marketing to build the bus route. Abby Wheeler stated they would seek sponsorships with regards to advertising on their vehicles to offset maintenance costs. She stated Kristin McQueary would review her proposed advertisement policy/contract on Friday. She would rather see wraps on the vehicles other than stickers. Abby Wheeler had numerous requests for the van to go to Salt Lake City. She had contacted the USDOT facility and spoke to the Southern Nevada Transportation about crossing state lines. She stated maybe in the future they could consider that request and hire it out to Coach who would have the proper authorities. She commented they could do some additional services in-State such as trips from Ely to Elko for dialysis. Abby Wheeler stated she would like to work with other transportation networks to have connections with other communities if possible. She believed they would be able to do community events such as the Cowboy Poetry under a separate cost rate table with a sponsor. She noted they need to refurbish the inside of the vehicles with regards to the tie down bags, straps for wheelchairs, secure straps for canes and walkers and they need bus stop signage. Abby Wheeler stated they would like to add banner frames to the exterior of the vehicles for advertising. She stated they will be working upon the marketing.

B. Discussion and consideration of a funding request for \$30,000 for the transit service.

Commissioner Guttry inquired if this funding was to do these projects.

Commissioner Williams inquired where that funding would come from.

Cash Minor stated RTC has approved funding for mass transit through the Safety Fund even before the County became involved. He stated \$9,700 was unappropriated in the Safety Fund and they would have another \$25,000 to \$30,000 in interest which could go to the Supplemental Reserve. Cash Minor stated if they were going to continue this it would eventually come from the County's allocation.

Commissioner Williams inquired traditionally what the amount was allocated to them.

Cash Minor stated \$25,000 but last year they were given \$50,000 to play catchup. He stated there would be funding for this next fiscal year but beyond next year they will have to look at the County allocating some funding towards the mass transit program.

Abby Wheeler noted in Southern Nevada their funding was not under Clark County but the RTC actually funded the mass transit. She was working to find grants and sponsorships to lessen the amount. She stated in Washoe County all their transportation comes from RTC.

Commissioner Guttry stated the County currently funds \$200,000 now along with federal monies together with her sponsorship fees, donations and grants. He stated now they would ask the County to further supplement it. He inquired if the funding could come from the joint RTC funds.

Cash Minor stated currently the only joint funds was the safety funds. He stated Washoe and Clark Counties also implemented tax rates to go along with this service.

Commissioner Williams suggested these items should be addressed immediately but RTC meetings were only held quarterly.

Chairman Rice noted they had given \$25,000 in the past and understood there was an increase in costs. He stated this was a service that was enjoyed mostly by the greater Elko area and she had plans to expand to the outlying areas. He noted taxes were in place for fixing the roads. He suggested they go ahead with the allocation for this year at this meeting and try to figure out what they would do within the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Williams noted it was a short notice to come up with \$30,000 for funding. He noted Abby had a great track record of staying within her budget.

Commissioner Guttry inquired if she had an estimate how much sponsorships would bring in and did she have a policy of what to put on the sides of the busses.

Abby Wheeler would ask for sponsorships in the amount of \$18,000 for one year and hoped to bring in \$75,000 to \$100,000 through sponsorships. She believed they need to add an additional bus so there would be seven routes. She noted as ridership increases so would the revenues. Abby Wheeler stated the community has responded for need of transportation and there were demands for weekend and nightly ridership.

MOTION: Commissioner Guttry moved to approve the funding request for \$30,000 for the transit service from the Safety Fund on a one time basis until we can come up with a long term funding mechanism. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The

motion passed unanimously.

[11:09:40 AM](#)

VI. CITY OF WELLS:

Discussion and consideration of request for funds set aside by the RTC for the City of Wells for use in the 2014-2015 fiscal year for street and road projects.

Cash Minor explained as of June 30, 2014, \$62,525 was available. He stated the collections for FY 2013-2014 would add another \$32,000 to that revenue but that revenue was 2 months in arrears so they would not have that information until the end of August. He clarified that Wells was requesting the \$62,000 together with what was collected over the last 12 months. Cash Minor stated he could write them a check for the \$62,000 but it would be the first part of September before they have the numbers for the FY 2013-2014 year revenues.

Chairman Rice believed the project would move forward with the \$62,000.

MOTION: Commissioner Williams moved to approve the City of Wells' request for funds set aside by the RTC for the City of Wells for use in the 2014-2015 fiscal year for street and road projects (\$62,000) and that Cash Minor visit with the City Manager to determine what those figures would be for the past twelve months and cut a check to Wells once those remaining amounts were known. Commissioner Guttry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[11:12:39 AM:](#)

VII. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

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

Boyd Ratliff, NDOT District III Traffic Engineer, reported construction continues. He stated on the project from Lages to Curry there was widening and passing lanes added to US Highway 93 under Phase I. He stated Phase II had been awarded which would be from Curry to Warm Springs consisting of safety slopes, widening and putting in passing lanes. Boyd Ratliff stated the Ely/White Pine area was working with their counterparts in Twin Falls County regarding Interstate 11. He stated their plan was to have Interstate 11 running up Highway 93 taking that right of way.

Commissioner Williams understood there were other routes proposed.

Boyd Ratliff stated no was route determined at this time and there was a lot of political gerrymandering where the route should be. He noted there were several different states involved each with a different route.

Commissioner Guttry stated in their meeting with NDOT a month ago they indicated it would be approximately 20 years out before it was started.

Boyd Ratliff stated Interstate 11 was already being constructed in Arizona to Southern Nevada and the goal was three countries connected from Mexico to Canada. He stated Tucson and Douglas was the goal from Mexico, then Phoenix and Portland to Seattle but the in between routes were up in the air. He stated it would take 20 years to construct that interstate. He stated US Highway 95 was another potential route. He stated north of Winnemucca the current truck traffic was half of what it was north of Wells.

Commissioner Guttry inquired if they could go North on US Highway 93 and intercept to I-80.

Boyd Ratliff stated that was the concept. He stated in some places they find that the most direct shot might be a new right of way but it was not feasible or prudent for new rights of way so they were utilizing existing routes.

Chairman Rice noted in Wisconsin they have the same concept and two interstates share the same rights of way for a few hundreds of miles. He stated the original concept included a rail right of way in the medium which the trucking industry nixed. He inquired if there was any conversation with regards to the railroad linking north and southern Nevada with regards to Yucca Mountain.

Boyd Ratliff stated there was no conversation about railroad rights of way with regards to the interstate. He noted trucking and rail can benefit each other such as the operation at the Railport.

[11:19:49 AM](#)

VIII. ENTITY PROJECTS REPORTS:

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

A. City of Carlin:

No report was submitted.

B. City of Elko

Dennis Strickland, Public Works Director, reported the Silver Street CDB&G project for pedestrian access and design was to be 100% complete today. There would be ADA access from Fifth Street to Twelfth Streets.

Commissioner Williams departed the meeting room at 11:20 a.m.

Dennis Strickland stated their Errecart Traffic Signal was also in the design phase and hopefully by next quarterly meeting they should have those projects close to completion.

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 they were finishing up their mag and lig projects and were performing their general maintenance.

[11:22:48 AM](#)

IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ROUTINE RTC ISSUES:

No comments were submitted.

[11:23:01 AM](#)

X. OCTOBER 2014 RTC MEETING:

Chairman Rice commented the next regularly scheduled RTC Meeting was scheduled for October 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

[11:23:13 AM](#)

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No public comments were submitted.

[11:23:21 AM](#)

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Rice adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

APPROVED,

JOHN PATRICK RICE, Chairman

ATTEST:

MARILYN TIPTON, Deputy Clerk