

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
OF
SOUTHERN NEVADA**

AGENDA ITEM

Metropolitan Planning Organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transit <input type="checkbox"/>	Administration and Finance <input type="checkbox"/>
SUBJECT: 2009-2030 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN		
PETITIONER: JACOB L. SNOW, GENERAL MANAGER REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA		
RECOMMENDATION BY PETITIONER: THAT THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2009-2030 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN		
GOAL: IMPLEMENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS THAT IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN SOUTHERN NEVADA		

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of this amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan is a necessary condition for receiving Federal funding but does not itself have fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is applying for funding through the "Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery" (TIGER) program established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to implement Bus Rapid Transit along Sahara Avenue between Hualapai Way and Boulder Highway. This project will involve restriping the breakdown lanes as bus-only lanes; installing passenger shelters, ticket vending machines and other ancillary equipment; and making associated roadway and pedestrian access improvements.

To support this application, it is necessary for the RTC to amend the 2009-2030 Regional Transportation Plan, which was originally adopted by the RTC on November 13, 2008.

The amendment is included in the backup, together with information on the air quality conformity finding and fiscal impact. The amendment has been made available for public comment and two outreach meetings have been held. No adverse comment has been received to date.

Staff recommends approval.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED OHENE
Assistant General Manager

Regional Transportation Plan for 2009-2030

Detail of proposed amendment

Regional Transportation Plan, Page 102:

Summary of Regional Strategic Investments – Transit Capital Improvements

Add line item:

Sahara Ave from Hualapai Way to Boulder Hwy: Construct Bus Rapid Transit

Cost (in year of expenditure): \$40 million

(Source of funding: ARRA TIGER program)

Date in operation: 2012

Page 103:

Figure 5-11: RTP Projects – Transit and Park and Ride Projects

Add Sahara Ave as a Transit Improvement to Figure 5-11

Page 106:

Summary of Regional Strategic Investments – Unfunded Needs

Line item:

Sahara Ave from CC.215 to Boulder Hwy

Amend description to read:

Improve traffic flow and upgrade bus rapid transit

No change to cost range.

Page 107:

Figure 5-13: Unfunded Needs

Show Sahara Ave as “Roadway” (Blue line) instead of as “Roadway and Transit” (Red line)

Chapter 5:

Investment Strategy

Make corresponding changes to the Plan narrative on Pages 81, 85 and 93 and add Sahara Ave as a Transit Project to Figures 5-3 and 5-7

Regional Transportation Plan for 2009-2030

Air Quality Conformity Finding

The Sahara Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project lies within the non-attainment area for all three pollutants, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Particulate Matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10) and Ozone.

The project is considered to be “Regionally Significant” and an air quality conformity analysis is required before the project may be added to the RTP. The purpose of this analysis is to demonstrate that these improvements will not result in reductions in air quality.

This analysis has been performed and demonstrates that predicted emissions are lower than the approved mobile source emissions budgets for the region, as summarized in the following tables. Ozone emissions are not calculated directly. Instead, the calculations are performed for the chemicals that contribute to Ozone formation in the lower atmosphere: Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and the Oxides of Nitrogen (NOX).

The results are summarized in the following table, which will replace the tables on Page 116 of the Regional Transportation Plan as approved November 18, 2008.

Year	CO (tons/day)		Conformity Requirement	PM10 (tons/day)		Conformity Requirement
	Emissions	Emissions Budget		Emissions	Emissions Budget	
2010	378	690	<i>Satisfied</i>			
2013	374	690	<i>Satisfied</i>	78.72	141.44	<i>Satisfied</i>
2015	384	768	<i>Satisfied</i>			
2020	400	817	<i>Satisfied</i>	95.26	141.44	<i>Satisfied</i>
2030	463	817	<i>Satisfied</i>	111.30	141.44	<i>Satisfied</i>
Year	NOx (tons/day)		Conformity Requirement	VOC (tons/day)		Conformity Requirement
	Emissions	Emissions Budget		Emissions	Emissions Budget	
2013	32.00	76.10	<i>Satisfied</i>	40.20	64.20	<i>Satisfied</i>
2020	20.10	76.10	<i>Satisfied</i>	33.96	64.20	<i>Satisfied</i>
2030	18.06	76.10	<i>Satisfied</i>	42.61	64.20	<i>Satisfied</i>

Pages 115 and 116 of the RTP include a summary of the air quality conformity process; additional information is set out in Appendix 4.

One important change in procedure has occurred since the RTP was prepared. On May 4, 2009, the United States Environmental Protection Agency announced that it had found adequate the motor vehicle emissions budgets for Ozone that had been developed by the Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management. As a result of this adequacy finding, it is no longer necessary to perform the “Build/No-Build” test to demonstrate conformity. These revised procedures were used in the analysis and the results are reflected in the above tables.

Regional Transportation Plan for 2009-2030

Fiscal Constraint

The TIGER program established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is an additional fund source to those identified on Page 114 and Appendix 5 of the Regional Transportation Plan.

The TIGER program requires no local match and the capital costs of the project, including final design and engineering, are proposed to be 100% funded under the TIGER program. Local funding of \$48,159 has been approved for environmental study and preliminary engineering.

The proposed operating plan includes some increases in service in the corridor but the project is expected to yield significant efficiencies over present transit operations along Sahara Avenue. As a result, the overall operating and maintenance costs of the project are projected to be consistent with the funding assumed for the RTC Transit Program as documented in Table 5-3 of Appendix 5 to the RTP.

Therefore it is concluded that the costs of implementing this project are consistent with the funding that is reasonably expected to be available.

Regional Transportation Plan for 2009-2030

Public Notification

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) intends to apply for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to implement bus rapid transit and related improvements along Sahara Avenue in Clark County and the City of Las Vegas.

The RTC is proposing to amend the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for 2009-2030 and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2009-2012 to support this application. The proposed amendment will add funding under the ARRA of 2009 for the implementation of bus rapid transit in side-running bus lanes along Sahara Avenue between Hualapai Way and Richfield Boulevard and between Joe W. Brown Drive and Boulder Highway, as well as related improvements along the entire route between Red Rock Station and the east side of the Las Vegas Valley.

Please join the RTC at the following public information meetings to learn more about the Sahara Avenue bus rapid transit project.

Public Information Meetings

Tuesday, August 4, 2009
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sahara West Library
9600 West Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

Thursday, August 6, 2009
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Parkdale Community Center
3200 Ferndale Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121

Comments will be accepted from July 20, 2009 through August 19, 2009 via e-mail to pollidorom@rtcsmv.com, telephone at (702) 676-1606, fax (702) 676-1589 or USPS to 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Suite 350, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106-4512, Attention: Communications Department.

QUESTIONS: (702) 676-1606 or rtcsmv.com

TDD: (702) 676-1834

Please call at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting to request a Spanish or sign-language interpreter.

