

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 24, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, direction, and potential approval of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC), the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County to collaborate on the deployment recommendations contained within RTC's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategic Master Plan.

From: Kerrie Koski, Director of Public Works and City Engineer

Department: Public Works

Summary:

The main purpose of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategic Master Plan is to regionalize transportation operations with the establishment of a regional Traffic Management Center (TMC), in which all local arterial networks can be managed for the individual jurisdictions in the urban region. Staff recommends that Council approve a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that identifies the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) as the agency that will strive to establish a regional TMC and operate the regional traffic signals, ITS network, and ITS infrastructure while the local agencies will strive to participate in and provide oversight of regional traffic signal and ITS operations.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Fiscal Sustainability

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

ITS technologies aim to develop innovations to advance transportation safety, mobility, and environmental sustainability. ITS technologies augment traditional infrastructure improvement approaches by integrating advanced communications technologies into vehicles and existing

infrastructure to improve transportation operations, efficiency, and reliability. Successful ITS deployments include traffic signal coordination, accident and incident detection, ramp meters, and traveler information systems.

RTC initiated the development of an ITS Strategic Master Plan to establish the region's near- and long-term vision and goals to leverage resources and capabilities of ITS applications into the future. In order to fully realize a functioning ITS system, cooperation and inter-operation among the local agencies is necessary. The purpose of this MOU is for RTC, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County to collaborate on the deployment recommendations contained within the Strategic Master Plan.

Discussion:

The ITS Strategic Master Plan identifies twenty-four (24) development strategies to support and expand the ITS program. The deployment strategies are divided into five strategy areas: software, infrastructure, staffing, training, and funding. In contrast, the MOU outlines roles and responsibilities related to decision-making, operations, signal maintenance, and network standards.

A main strategy of the ITS Strategic Master Plan is to regionalize transportation operations with the establishment of a regional TMC in which all local arterial networks can be managed for the individual jurisdictions in the urban region. The MOU identifies RTC as the agency that will strive to establish a regional TMC and operate the regional traffic signals, ITS network, and ITS infrastructure while the local agencies will strive to participate in and provide oversight of regional traffic signal and ITS operations.

The MOU shall not obligate the parties to allocate or transfer funds. Specific projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds or property will require the execution of separate agreements. RTC will be responsible for developing funding plans for each specific deployment recommendation in coordination with the local agencies.

Other stakeholders, such as the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT); University of Nevada, Reno (UNR); emergency services; etc., may be or need to be involved with deployment recommendations in the future. The goal of the MOU is to unify RTC and the local agencies regarding the management of these efforts and the vision for deployment before engaging other agencies or stakeholders. If and when agreements are necessary, RTC will use the direction gained from the MOU to pursue future agreements.

Financial Implications:

None

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council Approve a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC), the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County to collaborate on the deployment recommendations contained within RTC's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategic Master Plan.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

RTC Memorandum of Understanding
Attachment A – Strategic Master Plan