

STAFF REPORT

Date: March 12, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential direction to staff for the approval of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Fiscal Year 2026 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement authorizing the RTC Program of Projects within the City of Reno.

From: Khalil Wilson, Assistant Director

Department: Public Works

Summary:

In accordance with state laws, an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ICA) is needed to specify the responsibilities for delivering new projects located within the jurisdiction of the City and provide authorization for the RTC to exercise the power of eminent domain, as necessary. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 projects include preventative maintenance, corrective maintenance, traffic signal intersection improvements, ITS traffic management, active transportation and roadway reconstruction.

In addition, there are four major projects included in the ICA begin the design and/or environmental process:

- Wedekind Road Pedestrian Improvements
- Boomtown Garson Road Interchange Improvements
- Rio Wrangler Roadway Improvements
- University Area Roadway Improvements – Phase 1

All four major projects are listed in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Staff recommends approval of this agreement.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Economic and Community Development

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

The RTC's Program of Projects identifies and prioritizes funding for the RTC's regional streets and highways project, including RTC fuel tax revenues. This program has been developed in accordance with priorities established as part of the Unified Planning Work Program, Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP), and the regional road pavement preservation program.

RTC fuel tax revenues are the most significant source of funding for projects in the FY 2026 Program of Projects. In accordance with state law, in evaluating and determining whether to approve the use of fuel tax on a project, the RTC Board must evaluate the project in terms of the:

- a) Priorities established by the RTP;
- b) Relation of the proposed work to other projects already constructed or authorized;
- c) Relative need for the project in comparison with others proposed; and
- d) Money available.

After the RTC Board approves the projects, they are brought to the Washoe County Commission for approval to authorize the use of fuel taxes on the projects. Since the RTC does not own any of the roads, in accordance with state laws, an ICA is required to outline the responsibilities related to the delivery of new projects within the City's jurisdiction, as well as authorize the RTC to utilize the power of eminent domain if necessary.

These ICA agreements are essential for advancing the tasks outlined in these programs. The RTC drafts separate agreements for each jurisdiction, based on the project's location. This approach provides clarity to the overarching project program and facilitates the independent approval of each ICA and ensuring that delays in one jurisdiction does not impede the approval process in another.

Discussion:

The ICA FY 2026 Projects are covered in four major categories: Pavement Preservation, Traffic & Intelligent Transportation Systems Active Transportation and Roadway Projects. Below is a description of each category, type of work, and the RTC allocated funding for FY 2026.

Pavement Preservation Projects

Preventative Maintenance is a planned strategy of cost-effective treatments to an existing roadway system that preserves the system, retards future deterioration, and maintains or improves the functional condition of the system.

- Type of work includes pavement patching and slurry seals.
- List of Projects – RTC staff is in process of developing a list of candidates. Reno staff will review and confirm if the streets are viable candidates.
- FY 2026 allocated funding for Preventative Maintenance is \$7.5 million.

Corrective Maintenance activities are generally reactive, not proactive, and performed to restore a pavement to an acceptable level of service due to unforeseen conditions.

- Type of work includes pavement patching, milling of the roadway surface, and then filling with new asphalt.
- List of Projects – RTC staff is in process of developing a list of candidates. Reno staff will review and confirm if the streets are viable candidates.
- FY 2026 allocated funding for Corrective Maintenance is \$2 million.

Roadway Rehabilitation is the replacement of the existing roadway. Rehabilitation is required when a pavement either has failed or has become functionally obsolete. Roadways that have a pavement condition index of less than 55 and with the highest traffic volumes have the highest-ranking and are candidates for rehabilitation.

- Type of work includes removal and replacement of deteriorated sections of pavements, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, signage, striping, and ADA pedestrian accessibility improvements.
- List of Projects – Projects with the highest ranking for rehabilitation are:
 - a. 7th Street (Keystone Ave. to Washington St.), 6th Street (West St. to Arlington Ave., and West Street (5th St. to 6th St.)
 - Estimated cost – \$2.9 million.
 - Estimated construction start – Spring 2026
 - b. White Fir Street (East Bridge Abutment to End of Cul-de-Sac)
 - Estimated cost – \$4 million.
 - Estimated construction start – Spring 2026
- FY 2026 allocated funding for Roadway Rehabilitation on Reno projects is \$6.9 million.

Traffic Operations & Intelligent Transportation Systems Projects

Traffic Signal Intersection Improvements include traffic operational issues. RTC and Reno's Traffic Engineer identify problem areas. Proposed changes are evaluated for effectiveness, which includes saving money and providing for quicker and more localized response.

- Type of work includes new signals and roadway geometry upgrades.
- List of Projects – RTC staff is in process of developing a list of candidates. Reno staff will review and confirm if the streets are viable candidates.
- FY 2026 allocated funding for Signal Intersection Improvements is \$6 million.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Traffic Management is a combination of leading-edge information and communication technologies used in transportation and traffic management systems to improve the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of transportation networks, to reduce traffic congestion and enhance drivers' experiences.

- Type of work includes improvements to regional infrastructure using new technology to manage traffic.
- List of Projects – RTC staff is in process of developing a list of candidates. Reno staff will review and confirm if the streets are viable candidates.
- FY 2026 allocated funding for ITS/Traffic Management is \$4 million.

Active Transportation Program

This category of projects is new this year and was created to expand the region's multimodal transportation network to connecting people to key destinations. The Active Transportation plan includes:

- The creation of a safe, comfortable network of active transportation facilities.
- Providing on-going education and engagement opportunities.
- Streamline processes for efficient design and implementation.

The RTC has completed an extensive public engagement process from which areas have been ranked and moved forward to design. The area selected for the City is the Central Reno / MidTown Area and is included in FY 2026 ICA.

- FY 2026 allocated funding for Active Transportation is \$5 million.

Roadway Projects

There are four Roadway projects included in the FY 2026 ICA and all projects listed are included in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

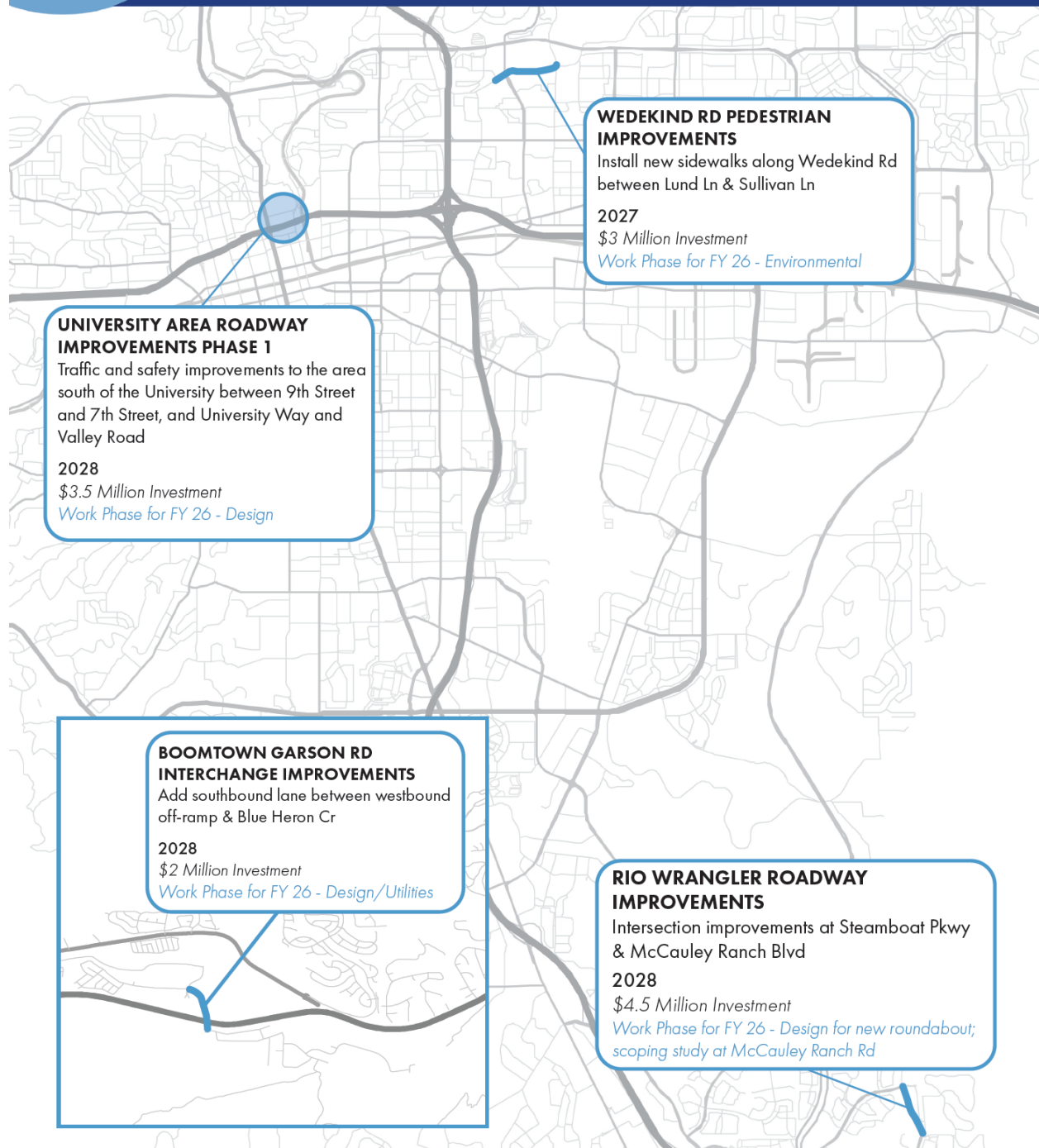
1. Wedekind Road Pedestrian Improvements (Ward 1) Project will install new sidewalk along Wedekind Road between Lund Lane and Sullivan Lane.
 - a. Estimated cost is \$3 million.
 - b. Estimated construction start is 2027.
2. Boomtown Garson Road Interchange Improvements. (Ward 5) Project will provide capacity improvements by adding southbound lane on Boomtown Garson Road from I-80 westbound offramp to Blue Heron Circle.
 - a. Estimated cost is \$2 million.
 - b. Estimated construction start is 2028.
3. Rio Wrangler Roadway Improvements. (Ward 6) Project will provide improvements to traffic circulation on Rio Wrangler Parkway with the construction of a roundabout at

Steamboat Parkway and Rio Wrangler Parkway intersection. Additionally, the project includes a traffic impact and scoping study of Rio Wanger Parkway from Steamboat Parkway to McCauley Ranch Blvd. intersection.

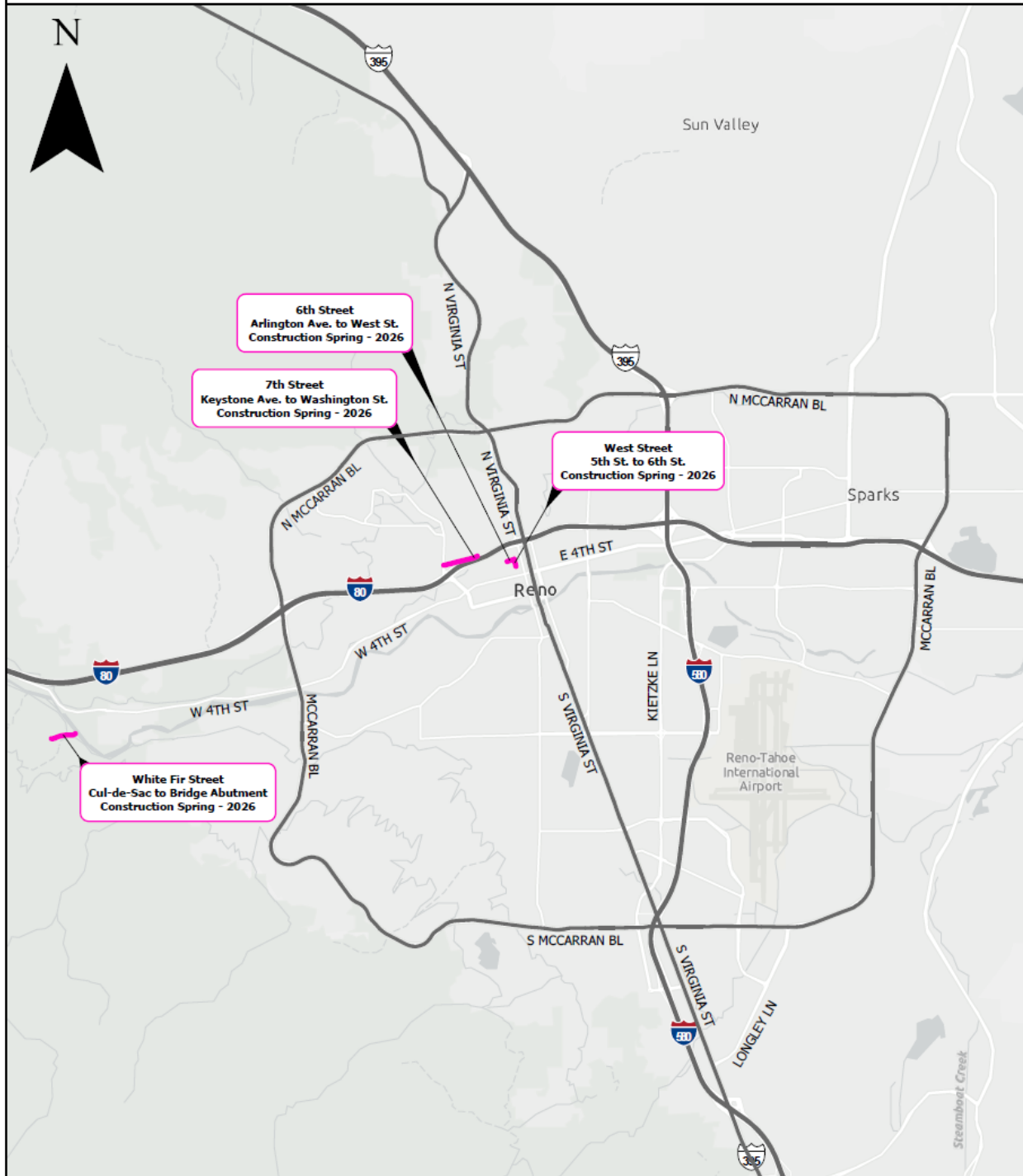
- a. Estimated cost is \$4.5 million.
 - b. Estimated construction start is 2028.
4. University Area Roadway Improvements – Phase 1 (Ward 1) – This project includes multimodal and traffic circulation improvements in University Area of 9th Street, Evans Avenue and Valley Road. Project includes the realignment of 9th Street from Lake Street to Evans Avenue with realignment along Lake Street and through the horseshoe pit area of Evans Park. The project will also construct an extension of 9th Street from Valley Road to Wells Avenue along with multimodal improvements from Evans Avenue to Valley Road. In addition to the Roadway improvements, RTC is also working with the University on the pedestrian bridge over I-80 that would provide safe connectivity south of the freeway to the University. The first step in this plan is to develop concepts that align with the roadway connectivity. Funding for this bridge connection has not been identified.
 - a. Estimated Cost is \$3.5 million.
 - b. Estimated construction start 2028.



City of Reno New Projects FY 2026



CITY OF RENO REHABILITATION PROJECTS FY 2026



Financial Implications:

The agreement requires no financial contribution from the City of Reno.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law. The Interlocal Cooperative Agreement is in accordance with Chapter 373.140 of the NRS for said projects.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Fiscal Year 2026 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement authorizing the RTC Program of Projects within the City of Reno and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments: