

STAFF REPORT

Date: May 10, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, 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 2024 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement authorizing the RTC Program of Projects within the City of Reno and direction to staff to bring back to Council an amendment to include additional streets in the Downtown Micromobility Network.

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

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) 2024 projects include preventative maintenance, corrective maintenance, traffic signal intersection improvements, ITS traffic management, and roadway reconstruction.

In addition, there are seven major projects included in the program to begin the design and/or environmental process:

- Buck Drive Circulation
- Geiger Grade Realignment (Virginia Street to Toll Road)
- McCarran Boulevard Safety and Operational Improvements (Plumb Lane to South Virginia Street and El Rancho Drive to Rock Boulevard)
- Military Road Capacity (Lemmon Drive to Echo Avenue)
- North Valleys North Virginia Street Capacity (Panther Drive to Stead Boulevard)
- Virginia Street Bus Rapid Transit South (Peckham Lane to Gentry Way) and
- Downtown Micromobility Network

These projects will align with the Federal Priorities coming from the IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) and the increased funding for infrastructure. RTC's goal is to advance these projects in order to compete for Federal funding at the national level. All seven 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:

January 27, 2021 – Council approved the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

February 12, 2020 – RTC presented the 2050 RTP to Council.

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 2024 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.

In accordance with state law, the RTC prepares Interlocal Cooperative Agreements (ICA) specifying responsibilities for construction of the projects and authorizing RTC to exercise eminent domain, if necessary. These ICA agreements among the RTC, City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County are necessary to proceed with the work contained in these programs. Separate agreements are prepared by the RTC for each jurisdiction based on where the projects reside. This provides clarity to the overall program of projects and simplifies the process so that the approval of each ICA can occur independently; therefore, delays that may occur with one jurisdiction will not affect the ICA approval of another.

Discussion:

The ICA FY 2024 Projects are covered in three major categories: Pavement Preservation, Traffic & Intelligent Transportation Systems and Roadway Projects. Below is a description of each category, type of work, and the RTC allocated funding for FY 2024.

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 2024 allocated funding for Preventative Maintenance is \$6.5 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 2024 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. Selmi Drive – Sutro Street to Clear Acre Lane (Ward 4)
 - Estimated cost – \$1.3 million
 - Estimated construction start – Spring 2024
 - b. Raleigh Heights Area – Portions of Carlyle Drive, Lancaster Drive, and Yorkshire Drive (Ward 4)
 - Estimated cost – \$4.1 million
 - Estimated construction start – Spring 2024

- c. North Virginia Street – Sixteenth Street to North McCarran Boulevard (Ward 5)
 - Estimated cost – \$2.9 million
 - Estimated construction start – Spring 2024
- FY 2024 allocated funding for Roadway Rehabilitation on Reno projects is \$8.3 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 2024 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 2024 allocated funding for ITS/Traffic Management is \$4 million.

Roadway Projects

There are four subcategories of Roadway projects: Circulation, Safety & Operational Improvements, Capacity, Bus Rapid Transit Infrastructure and Micromobility. The Roadway projects included in the FY24 ICA will allow RTC to begin the design and align with the Federal priorities coming from the IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) to increase funding for infrastructure. RTC's goal is to advance the projects so they can compete for Federal funding at the national level. All projects are listed in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

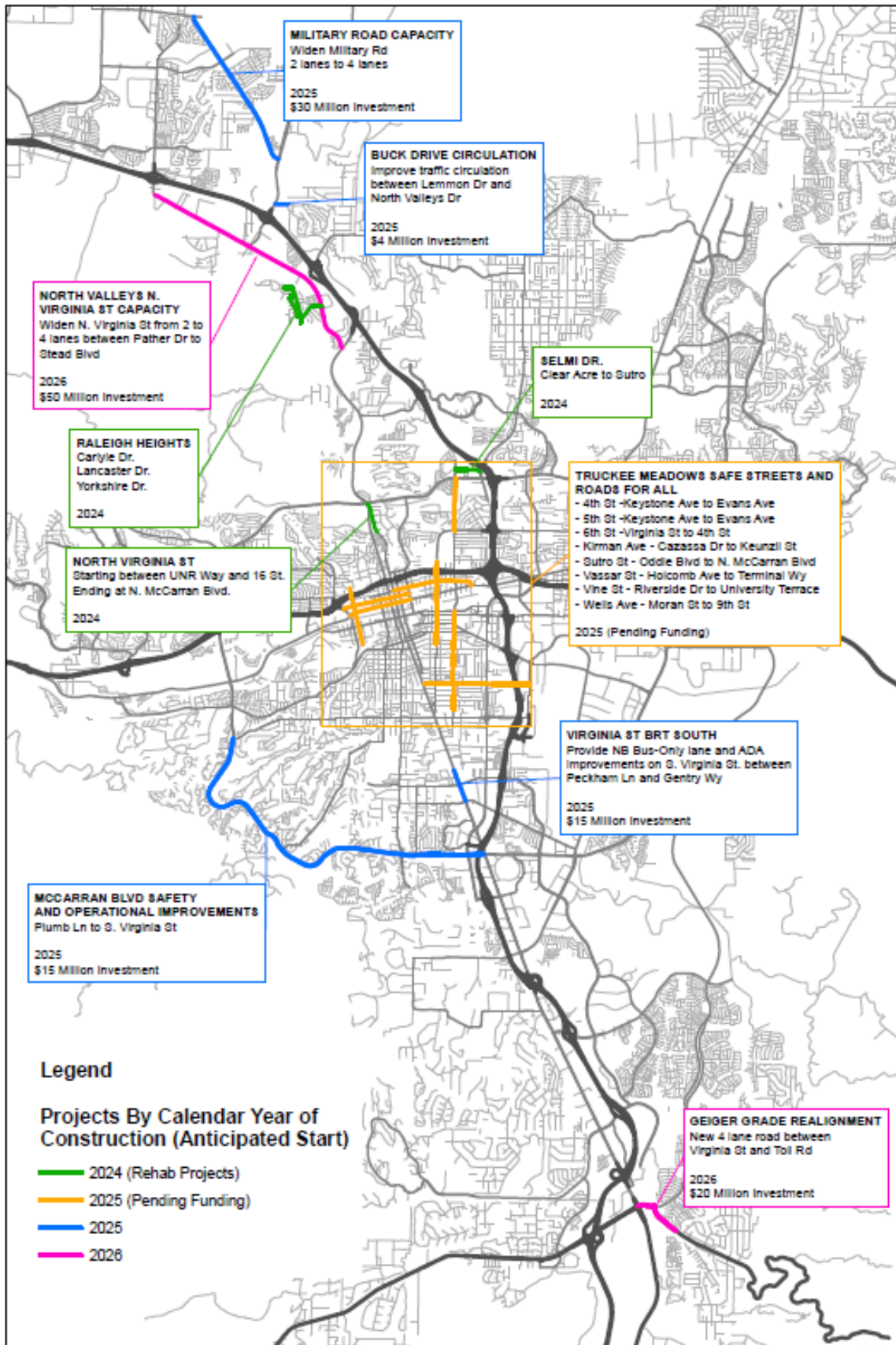
1. Buck Drive Circulation (Ward 4) – [Circulation Project] A capacity need was identified in the 2050 RTP. The project will improve traffic circulation between Lemmon Drive and North Hills Boulevard.
 - a. Estimated cost is \$4 million.
 - b. Estimated construction start is 2025.

2. Geiger Grade Realignment (Ward 2) – [Safety & Operational Improvement] A new four lane road between Virginia Street and Toll Road was identified in the 2050 RTP.
 - a. Estimated cost is \$20 million and is pending federal funding.
 - b. Estimated construction start is 2026 and is pending federal funding.
3. McCarran Boulevard Safety and Operational Improvements (Plumb Lane to South Virginia Street and El Rancho Drive to Rock Boulevard) (Wards 1, 2, and 3) – [Safety and Operational improvement] These needs were identified in the 2050 RTP. The McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study identified needed improvements in these sections that include additional vehicular lanes, intersection improvements, and increased protection on bike and pedestrian facilities.
 - a. Estimated cost is \$15 million.
 - b. Estimated construction start is 2025.
4. Military Road Capacity (Lemmon Drive to Echo Avenue) (Ward 4) – [Capacity] A need for increased capacity is identified in the 2050 RTP. The project will widen Military Road from two lanes to four lanes.
 - a. Estimated cost is \$30 million.
 - b. Estimated construction start is 2025.
5. North Valleys North Virginia Street Capacity (Panther Drive to Stead Boulevard) (Ward 4) – [Capacity] A need for increased capacity is identified in the 2050 RTP. The project will widen North Virginia Street from two lanes to four lanes.
 - a. Estimated cost is \$50 million.
 - b. Estimated construction start is 2026.
6. Virginia Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) South (Peckham Lane to Gentry Way) (Wards 1, 2, and 3) – [Bus Rapid Transit Infrastructure] The project will provide a north-bound bus only lane and ADA improvements.
 - a. Estimated cost is \$15 million and is pending federal funding.
 - b. Estimated construction start is 2025.
7. Downtown Micromobility Network (Wards 1, 3, and 5) – The 2050 RTP identified all of the following streets as future multi-modal projects. The following projects were grouped together in an effort to apply for future funding under the Federal Safe Streets for ALL Program. These projects would implement proven safety countermeasures for pedestrians and micromodes.

- a. Estimated cost is \$62.5 million and is pending federal funding.
- b. Estimated construction start is 2025.
- c. City of Reno Streets include:
 - i. 4th Street (Keystone Avenue to Evans Avenue)
 - ii. 5th Street (Keystone Avenue to Evans Avenue)
 - iii. 6th Street (Ralston Street to 4th Street)
 - iv. Kirman Avenue (Cazassa Drive to Kuenzli Street)
 - v. Sutro Street (Oddie Boulevard to N McCarran Boulevard)
 - vi. Vassar Street (Holcomb Avenue to Terminal Way)
 - vii. Vine Street (Riverside Drive to University Terrace)
 - viii. Wells Avenue (Moran Street to 9th Street)

Since the development of this list, Council accepted the Gehl Placemaking Study and the Micromobility Pilot Study. An amendment to this to this list is necessary to include additional streets. The amendment to include Virginia Street from Liberty Street to E. 9th Street as identified in the implementation plan of the Gehl Placemaking Study and the additional streets as determined from additional public input and Reno City Council and RTC Board approval on the Downtown Micromobility Network.

ICA FY 2024 CITY OF RENO PROJECTS



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 2024 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement authorizing the RTC Program of Projects within the City of Reno and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement and direction to staff to bring back to Council an amendment that includes additional streets in the Downtown Micromobility Network.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Interlocal Cooperative Agreement City of Reno and Washoe County – Partially Executed
FY24 RTC New Projects