



## West Truckee Meadows/Verdi Citizens Advisory Board

**DRAFT:** Approval of these draft minutes, or any changes to the draft minutes, will be reflected in writing in the next meeting minutes and/or in the minutes of any future meeting where changes to these minutes are approved by the CAB. Minutes of the West Truckee Meadows Citizen Advisory Board meeting held at Verdi Community Library & Nature Center, 270 Bridge St. Verdi, NV 89439 on January 18, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was determined. The following CAB members were in attendance: Carly Borchard, Sarah Rively (zoom), Alice (Tina) House, Josh Bronitsky.  
  
Absent: Anthony DoMoe, Denise Kolton,
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The pledge was recited.
3. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were no requests for public comment.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) FOR THE MEETING OF November 17, 2021** (For Possible Action) – This item was postponed to the next meeting.
5. **WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE** - General community update  
There was no representative in attendance.
6. **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING & ARTRAIL UPDATE** – This item will be postponed to the next meeting.
7. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (RTC) TRAFFIC STUDY** – Presentation by RTC representative on approved Verdi Study that highlights improving road network. Dan Dennis, Director of Planning for RTC, provided an overview and background. He introduced Chad Hanson who provided a presentation.

A public member asked if their study is based on the master plan. A RTC representative said the area study is data driven. He said we evaluate conditions, geometry, land use, forecast of what is coming. He said ultimately, where there is demonstrated needs for improvement, we will incorporate it into our long-term needs as well as short term. He said low-hanging fruit could be responded to sooner. He said long-term projects would be prioritized with the region. He said we would take public comment as feedback.

In response to a public member (inaudible) inquiry about the area, RTC said they would look at the regional roads. He spoke about a sidewalk to the schools. He said we will look at how they get to school. He said we will take the local's opinion and feedback to help guide and find a solution. He said you are the voice of the community. RTC representative said we don't own or operate the roads. He said NDOT operates its own facilities. He said we work with them for improvements on interchanges. He said the RTC board comprises elected officials from 3 jurisdictions – Reno, Sparks, Washoe County. He said we follow their direction. He said we conduct area studies and we work with that representative.

A public member asked about details of sidewalks, curb, and gutter. RTC representative stated those details get worked out during the design phase. He said we would seek feedback from the community if they want to see the curb and gutter.

RTC representative said this study would be high level. He said we would consult the RTC engineer, and when we get into design work, there would be a design consultant and project manager.

A public member asked about improvements on the highway. RTC Representative stated we try to partner with NDOT. He said they provided funding for the spaghetti bowl improvements, but ultimately that's his project.

A public member (inaudible) asked about equestrian trails. RTC stated equestrian is out of our realm. He said we could look at the intersection of roadway and trail intersection.

In response to a public member (inaudible), the representative and Board members stated their names.

Ms. House spoke about extreme fire danger. She said she is concerned about roadway safety. RTC spoke about looking at widening to help with the evacuation. RTC representative said it's good to look at access which might be long-term projects. Ms. Borchard stated a person attending via zoom had the same question about evacuation. We are all concerned as a whole in Verdi with evacuation efforts. Ms. House asked if they had taken into consideration the issue of flooding. She said we have huge problems with flooding and fire. RTC representation said we are looking at flooding/transportation solutions up in North Valley. He said we are working with City and County on that.

Mr. Bronitsky said because developments put an additional toll on the roadways, it is within your scope to assign to that development. He asked how that funding works. RTC representative said developers have to pay the regional road impact fee. He said we have a north and south district with I-80 as the dividing line. He said other funding sources are fuel tax. He said we also have access to federal funding. Those are the three main funding sources.

Ms. Borchard said she wanted to articulate some points – she said she appreciated RTC being open to community involvement. She asked how will they facilitate feedback. RTC representative stated public meetings are the best way to gather feedback. He said we would have a presentation and get public feedback. He invited them to go to the RTC website. He said they would probably also have a survey. Ms. Borchard said there was a stakeholder meeting via zoom last year. She said she was fortunate enough to be on the call. She asked if they had the recording or minutes from that call because there were exceptional feedback and talking points. RTC representative said Amy has the background information but doesn't have the recording.

Ms. Borchard asked if we don't want sidewalks and streetlights out here to maintain the community character. It's a sensitive point. We want safety but want to maintain character. She said she is concerned about deer crossing highway 40 within the community streets. She said speeding is a concern. She said she wanted to make sure they consider wildlife when conducting their study. We have a lot of wildlife and horses. RTC representative stated we are concluding a similar study on Mt. Rose highway. He said we would review crash data, and if it's warranted, they will look at wildlife crossing. He said we wouldn't recommend anything you don't want, such as sidewalks, paths, detached paths.

Ms. Borchard said numerous projects on the presentation have already been approved. He said we were working on a wildlife overpass, but NDOT didn't like the location. She said there is no connectivity from south to north except for some sketchy and dangerous paths. She asked how will this potentially impact the developments. RTC Representative said the studies help document and develop a plan to point to. He said RTC is only advisory to local jurisdictions. He said we could not condition anyone. He said a plan or document helps give some teeth. He said we have staff review developments and respond with a recommended condition. Ms. Borchard said the cart had been before the horse for years.

She said, we appreciate you coming out. Ms. Borchard said we need guardrails on South Verdi Road. We don't want a school bus to go over. It might be considered long-term. It's an emergency. When it's ice over, it's dangerous. RTC Representative said this is helpful. He said crash data takes a year. He said if you know hot spots or trends, please let us know. Ms. House said big trucks aren't supposed to use that road, but they do.

Ms. Borchard spoke about impervious materials at the warehouse. She said we already have flooding issues. She said she was happy to show them the videos. She asked that I-80 westbound (between exits 3 and 4) be analyzed. She shared concerns that a truck or car can end up in the back of those homes near the freeway.

RTC Representative said we would work on speed management.

8. **CARCIONE/CANEPA RANCH AND RIVERBEND TRAILHEAD PROJECTS** – Update provided by Sophia Kirschenman (Park Planner) and Eric Crump (Division Director of CSD Operations).

Ms. Kirschenman presented the Riverbend trailhead and river access path project. She introduced Eric Crump.

A public member asked the distance of the path. Ms. Kirschenman stated the 4-ft is 1,600 ft. and the 10-ft is 575 feet. A public member asked the nearest building. Ms. Borchard explained the Riverbend park. There are

no buildings. A public member said that was a big fishing entrance. West meadows starts near the top of their map.

Josh Bronitsky asked if there were concepts or land limitations. Ms. Kirschenman spoke about mixed housing ideas but didn't know for certain but probably what's allowed in the development code.

Ms. Borchard said regarding keeping with community character; she said she wanted to ask if the trail would be paved. Ms. Kirschenman said only the parking lot would be paved since it's a primary code requirements. Ms. Borchard stated she is concerned about runoff into the river. Ms. Kirschenman stated we have to have a retention basin on the parking lot. It's on the north side of the river. Ms. Kirschenman spoke about access. There are fishermen who use this area already. This is to legitimize access and provide recreation opportunities. This is to protect natural resources. Ms. Kirschenman spoke about the timeline – she said we are hoping to move forward this summer or fall. She spoke about the grant funding and said we expect the award letter any day now. She said we have the Special Use Permit. She said this would be contracted out. Ms. Borchard asked if they were local contractors. Mr. Crump said as local as possible.

Josh Bronitsky asked if they had to do EIS or EAS. Ms. Kirschenman said they had to do an EAS. He asked if TMWA was involved. Ms. Kirschenman said they are a major part of this. They are full support. They approached us with concerns about rafters. Part of the project is on their property. In response to a public member's question, Ms. Kirschenman showed the County land and RV park; she said there are future plans for a nursery. A public member asked about riverfront access. Ms. Borchard said that the parcel that she points out is just east of the River Oak subdivision. The staging area for the waterline is where they set up construction, and that is the parcel they gave up.

Al Rogers, former Washoe County Manager, asked for the future expansion of the park. He asked if the County has discussed connectivity with River Oak. Ms. Kirschenman said they don't want public access through that parcel. They were concerned about public traversing onto their parcel. There is an opportunity on the other side of the street. She answered his question about future expansion and said we could consider portable restrooms in the future and there is a trash receptacle proposed. Ms. House stated the trash needs to be secure from bears.

Ms. Kirschenman provided a presentation regarding Carcione/Canepa property.

A public member asked about the existing bridge.

Ms. Borchard said when we were looking at the Meridian 125 south project and the huge concern for the safety and evacuation of that neighborhood. She said she did a site visit with a representative who said this could be an evacuation or just for county folks to use; not public access, not a roadway for people to come in and out. But in the case of an emergency that they needed to get out, it is agency owned, so it should be able to be opened and let these folks be able to evacuate in such a dire situation. She said for the purpose of doing analysis and studies of those bridge improvements, maybe that could be taken into account of that potential use. She said she knows the bridge is not necessarily sturdy or if it's been condemned. It's something to take into consideration. A public member said that bridge was on the CIP at one point, and that's why Bella ranch has an entrance sign coming back direction, and that's why Mario is wider because it's designed to be a collector road. If you notice why Mario is wider than the other roads, that's because that bridge was on the CIP at one point. She said she remembers working on that when she was with SVA, and we made plans for that but the money never came up to be able to construct that bridge. It was too expensive. And then also dealing with the crossings of the railroads was a big issue. Ms. Kirschenman said one of the concerns that we heard is emergency egress. And that's a very valid concern for the folks, and if you're bringing more traffic in there, what are those impacts. And so we've had conversations internally about talking with NV Energy about improvements to the bridge so that it could be used for emergency egress. In terms of the safety of the bridge, you are correct. And a number of years ago, Washoe County did a study to determine if the bridge was safe and determined that a number of improvements were needed to bring up that bridge really up to the standard that needs to be for that kind of use. It was just determined that that was a huge undertaking. She said she isn't sure why it petered out or what happened. But Washoe County, he never took ownership of the bridge. It was always in the NV Energy bridge. She said NV Energy uses the bridge now. She said she believes it's condemned, and not sure how long that will continue, or if they should be utilizing it. There could be some opportunities there to talk with them about whether that can be used for emergency egress. She said Carly's

point is taken. Ms. House member said it needs to take it down. So in order for these projects to go forward we have to have that bridge redone. And a safety measure that we have a second way out.

Ms. Borchard said to your project; you will have pedestrians and more traffic to get in and out of there. Ms. Kirschenman said we had a great conversation with our traffic engineer, who is going to look at what would be the increase of use, what kind of traffic are we looking at, and in terms of like speeding, are there ways to mitigate those kinds of impacts as well. Those are some of the top concerns that we've heard thus far. And so there is definitely some more analysis that needs to be conducted to figure out the best path forward.

A public member (inaudible) spoke about trail heads and access. Ms. Kirschenman said most people don't know it exists. It's public lands, and the public needs access to their lands. A public member asked why it needed to be in a private neighborhood. Ms. Kirschenman spoke about the challenge of getting an easement next to the railroad. It limits what we can do. Our only option to provide public access is the public lands. She spoke about topography, runoff, and other challenges with flooding. In terms of natural resources, this parcel is less impactful. We have to look at all the options of access. She spoke about issues with crossing the railroad and illegal crossing.

In response to a public member's inquiry, Ms. Kirschenman said NV Energy doesn't want their access blocked.

A public member asked about costs. Mr. Crump said there are 2-3 different funding sources. He said he understood their concerns. Al Rogers said he wanted to provide some context. He said in 2006, a trailhead was discussed and there are tough factors to overcome. Washoe County didn't want to take on the bad bridge. Union Pacific railroad is highly unlikely to give legal access. He said the 10-12 people here tonight do not represent the area. A public member asked when it was purchased and was the plan to provide a road through their neighborhood. Mr. Crump spoke about access to public land. The public member said there is a lot of people out there. She said hiking, biking, and equestrian use do not go together. You cannot put them all together. The trails are very narrow. The representative said that is the beauty of this development is to designate the trails.

A public member (inaudible). The Washoe County representative spoke about going through this process. He said it's amenities that you can enjoy. Ms. Kirschenman said the HOA members are against it. She asked them to look for aspects about this that could be beneficial to you, such as the interpretive aspect. A public member said if we had a police patrol that area, we might be in favor. That is why you are getting push back. She asked about the process to close the road. A Washoe County said there is a process to do that, but doesn't know enough about it.

The president of Bella Ranch Homeowner Association provided public comment. He said we became aware of this within two days of the public comment period deadline. We didn't have time to survey our 69 property owners. We got negative comments. It's all in opposition. We have an issue with egress. Anyone who emailed him and provided a comment is all opposed except for one person. Ms. Kirschenman said she knows she sent the notices and received comments from people who received the notices. She said she didn't hear from a lot of people. She said she will be happy to go to the HOA meeting. She said we appreciate the feedback and wants an open dialogue.

Ms. Borchard asked about additional public meetings and outreach. Ms. Kirschenman said the survey closed and the formal process has closed, but we are happy to take the feedback. She said there is another month before it's the end of the process. She encourages everyone to send their comments. The next step, this proposal will go before the Park Commission in March, then Board of County Commission for adoption.

In response to a public member, Ms. Kirschenman said it's not open for OHV use. Mr. Crump said as the County, we don't have any OHV trails, and the US Forest Service doesn't allow it. The public member said we live out here, and we are impacted.

Chair Borchard said she is encouraged to hear the County will go to Bella Ranch HOA. She said our next meeting is March 21. Ms. Kirschenman said she can see about coming back to provide an update.

**9. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS** — This item is limited to announcements and/or

requests for future agenda items by CAB members and/or Commissioner Alexis Hill (Non-Action Item)

Chair Hill provided updates. The County Commission will have a meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>; we will be discussing the Strategic Plan and future County investments and CIP investments. She said she would follow up regarding that bridge. She encouraged the public to reach out to her with any questions or concerns. She said she is the Commissioner for the area due to redistricting. Part of the initiatives was to reengage through the CAB. Please use the Community Services Department as a resource.

Chair Borchard said she is working on agenda items for the next meeting. She will follow each project coming through and ask for updates for the CAB.

She encouraged anyone to email her with items for future agendas.

10. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were no requests for public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.