



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: OCTOBER 18, 2006

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS

DIRECTOR: CHARLIE KAJKOWSKI

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT:

Report on the progress of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Bus Rapid Transit

Fiscal Impact

No Impact

Augmentation Required

Budget Funds Available

Dept./Division:

Amount:

Funding Source:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Jacob Snow, General Manger of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada, will make a presentation on the status of the Bus Rapid Transit as requested by Mayor Goodman at the August 7, 2006 City Council Strategic Planning Workshop.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report only; no action required

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Submitted after final agenda - PowerPoint presentation
2. Submitted at meeting Comments by Tom McGowan

Minutes:

No motion required. A report was given.

CHARLIE KAJKOWSKI, Director of Public Works, introduced JACOB SNOW, General Manager of the Regional Transportation Commission, who gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is made a part of the minutes, on the status of the Bus Rapid Transit.

COUNCILMAN ROSS noted that he is aware that the RTC is focusing on improving transit in the areas that need it the most; however, he hopes the RTC is also planning on mass transportation solutions to more efficiently move people from the Northwest into the downtown area. MR. SNOW indicated that more double-decker buses are being purchased to be deployed, and the US-95 widening project will include a high-occupancy vehicle lane. Also, the RTC is already working with the City on designated park-and-ride locations. COUNCILMAN WOLFSON asked if the same is being planned for Ward 2, as part of the Summerlin Parkway expansion. MR. SNOW answered in the affirmative.

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COUNCILMAN WEEKLY asked MR. SNOW if public awareness meetings will be held. MR. SNOW answered that some public information meetings have already been held on the downtown inter-modal terminal. COUNCILMAN WEEKLY indicated that he would like presentations made by RTC representatives at the neighborhood meetings held by each Councilmember, or perhaps informational pamphlets could be provided for dissemination.

COUNCILMAN BROWN expressed that there are two sides to transit, addressing the current need, while creating a system that will draw even more redevelopment, especially to the downtown corridor.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN noted that there is a need for bus shelters, to which MR. SNOW indicated that 1,000 new shelters are going to be built. COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN then stated that she has received several complaints about people not giving up their seats for the handicapped. MR. SNOW commented that it is not a chronic problem. Police and security officers target and monitor problem areas.

TOM McGOWAN, Las Vegas resident, read and submitted written comments, a copy of which is made a part of the minutes, expressing his support for the MTS System. However, he requested immediate resignation of MR. SNOW and suggested that Councilmembers experience a bus ride to find out why he is making this request.

CHRIS CHRISTOFF stated that the City has come a long way on transportation, but opined that people in power in this community continue to hold up transit systems that are needed.

TED RUSSELL, Las Vegas resident, expressed his support of MR. SNOW, but stated that he is concerned about the lack of bus shelters and the termination of courtesy rides.

