

NEVADA COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE V&T RAILWAY
Minutes of the Wednesday, August 28, 2024 Meeting
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A regular meeting of the Nevada Commission for the reconstruction of the V&T Railway was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, in the Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Boardroom, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

The meeting video is available on Carson City’s website by clicking on the link below:
https://carsoncity.granicus.com/player/clip/2507?view_id=2&redirect=true

PRESENT: Chairperson David Peterson
Vice Chair Clay Mitchell
Secretary Stephanie Hicks
Commissioner Michelle Schmitter

STAFF: Mihaela Neagos, Deputy District Attorney
Cherrie Bailey, Executive Assistant
Tamar Warren, Senior Deputy Clerk

1 – 3. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(9:01:08) – Chairperson Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Treasurer Kruse was absent. Chairperson Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

(9:02:06) – Chairperson Peterson entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2024 MEETING

(9:02:30) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and entertained comments, edits, or a motion.

MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2024 and August 14, 2024 meetings. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell and carried 4-0-0.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE V&T COMMISSION’S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECKS PAID JULY 1-31, 2024.

(9:03:22) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and referenced the information presented in the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record. He also clarified that \$50,346.20 was allocated for FY 2024. There were no comments; therefore, he entertained a motion.

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MOTION: Vice Chair Mitchell moved to approve the payable checks totaling \$81,663.15, from June 1, 2024, through June 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitter and carried 4-0-0.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ADJUSTED V&T COMMISSION’S FISCAL YEAR (“FY”) 2023/2024 BUDGET REPORTS, PERIOD ENDED JULY 1-31,2024.

(9:04:39) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and reviewed the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. There were no Commissioner or public comments.

MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the adjusted V&T Commission’s FY 2023/2024 Budget Reports, for the period ending July 1-31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitter and carried 4-0-0.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING (1) A PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF TWO FLOCK LICENSE PLATE READER DEVICES (“LPRS”) BY THE CARSON CITY SHERIFF’S OFFICE (“CCSO”) ON PROPERTY/INFRASTRUCTURE ON HIGHWAY 50 EAST OWNED BY THE V&T COMMISSION AND (2) AUTHORIZATION FOR THE V&T SECRETARY TO PREPARE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CARSON CITY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE LPRS.

(9:05:55) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item. Secretary Hicks thanked Chair Peterson, Deputy District Attorney Neagos, and Ms. Bailey for having the item agendaized on short notice. She reviewed the Staff Report, including a PowerPoint presentation, incorporated into the record, and noted that the Carson City Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) had requested utilizing either the V&T-owned streetlights immediately east and west of the V&T Railway Bridge or the bridge overpass (both on Highway 50 East) to place the license plate readers (LPRs). Ms. Neagos explained that an agreement with CCSO would be required and recommended designating a Commission Member to prepare and execute the agreement.

CCSO’s Captain Craig Lowe confirmed that no permit would be required for the installation of the cameras which would be installed after two weeks of the Commission’s approval. He also informed Secretary Hicks that the cameras would not be taken down; however, an annual renewal would be required for the subscription. Chairperson Peterson recommended adding to the agreement a clause that would not require CCSO to revise the agreement for new/improved equipment. It was also noted that they would be paid for by the City’s Capital Improvement Project FY 2024 budget.

Ms. Neagos explained that the agreement would be contingent upon an agreement between the vendor and CCSO to install, maintain, replace devices, and remove them from the property if needed. She also informed Vice Chair Mitchell that the agreement may be terminated by either

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party after giving notice in writing. There were no public comments; therefore, Chair Peterson entertained a motion.

MOTION: Vice Chair Mitchell moved to approve the installation and to authorize the Secretary to prepare and enter into an agreement with the Carson City Sheriff's Office, as discussed on the record. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitter.

Ms. Neagos clarified that the agreement would be with the vendor, Flock Safety, and not with the CCSO directly.

The motion carried 4-0-0.

9. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION REGARDING FALL 2024 MEDIA PLAN.

(9:20:39) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item. Melissa Deitz of Deitz Media and Marketing reviewed the draft Fall (August through October) 2024 Media Plan, incorporated into the record, and responded to clarifying questions. She recommended radio, outdoor, and streaming ads to avoid competing with election/political television advertising. This item was not agendized for action.

10. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

MONTHLY NON-ACTION ITEMS:

a. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE

(9:28:00) – Ms. Bailey reported on a successful wine train in August and noted that her interview conducted by Reno News and Review would be published in September 2024. She also hoped to have Nevada Wines served on future Wine Trains. Ms. Bailey updated the Commission on the preparations for the upcoming Polar Express events, adding that auditions were already on the way and ticket sales would begin in September 2024. Chair Peterson cautioned that a contract amendment with Coons Construction, LLC would be reviewed at the next meeting to incorporate changes made by Rail Events, Inc. He noted that an audit was also underway. Discussion ensued regarding the use of existing lights in the retail area, outside the Polar Express Experience, to reduce expenses. Chair Peterson offered to discuss it with Rail Events.

b. OPERATIONS/TRAINS REPORT

(9:36:35) – VTRR Sales and Marketing Coordinator Candy Duncan stated that she was working on the ticket design and that a new sections, the VIP Parlor Car Family Lounge and the Polar Express Deluxe Coach, would be added this year. Ms. Duncan also reported that an email blast to remedy unsold tickets had resulted in doubling the number of tickets sold. She noted that the rider feedback had been positive as well; however, she recommended additional “push” for diesel engine rides and Sunday excursions. Ms. Duncan recommended more Wine Train rides and a

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possible increase in prices. Commissioner Schmitter was informed that one way tickets were available for a Saturday morning ride to and a Sunday return ride from Virginia City.

c. UPCOMING MEETINGS

(9:44:36) – Chairperson Peterson noted that the next scheduled meeting would conflict with the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) conference which Vice Chair Mitchell and Secretary Hicks had to attend. He recommended meeting on September 26, 2024 instead. Ms. Bailey offered to check with Community Center Scheduling and suggest an appropriate date and time accordingly.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

(9:48:12) – Secretary Hicks announced that the Carson City Board of Supervisors had approved a Bill Draft Request (BDR) to forward to the Nevada Legislature regarding changes to the Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway. The BDR would request staffing assistance from the State for an executive director and additional support functions such as legal counsel and meeting minutes. She added that the request included having the Commission’s finances handled by the State instead of contracting it out to Storey County. Secretary Hicks believed that the Government Affairs Commission had looked favorably at the BDR.

(9:52:38) – Vice Chair Mitchell cited a negative Instagram post incident that had mentioned Virginia City and noted the quick response which had alleviated most of the concerns.

CLOSED NON-MEETING TO CONFER WITH OPERATIONS MANAGER AND COUNSEL.

This item did not take place.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

(9:52:01) – Chairperson Peterson entertained final public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

13. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN

(9:52:12) – Chairperson Peterson adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

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The Minutes of August 28, 2024, Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway meeting are so approved on this 25th day of September 2024.

STEPHANIE HICKS, Secretary