



## Warm Springs Citizen Advisory Board

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 regular meeting of the Warm Springs Rural Citizen Advisory Board held JANUARY 12, 2022, at Regional Shooting Facility, 21555 Pyramid Highway, Palomino Valley

### 1. \*1. \*CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Susan Ambrose. CAB members present included: Kevin Cook, Marshall Todd, Pam Roberts (alternate), Hugh Ezell, Susan Ambrose.

Absent: Karenne Smith

### 2. \*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The pledge was recited.

### 3. \*PUBLIC COMMENT –

Wonda Wright stated she has issues with a lack of mail service. She said she had been down to the post office, and they haven't been responsive. She said they go days without mail, and packages are left below the mailboxes and get stolen or blown in the wind. She asked if anything can be done.

Candee Ramos announced that Washoe County is starting a Washoe Community Leadership Academy – 5 people from each district will be selected. Participants will get a behind-the-scenes look of how the County runs. If you are interested in running for any of the boards, it will be a great introduction. She encouraged public members to apply by the deadline of February 23. The academy will start on March 11 and go through October.

There were no requests for public comment. Susan Ambrose closed the public comment period.

### 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2021 (For Possible Action) – Hugh Ezell moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 10, 2021. Marshall Todd seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### 8. SENIOR CITIZEN SUPPORT FROM WASHOE COUNTY – Abby Willrich, Human Services Coordinator, Washoe County [Non-Action Item]

Abby Willrich provided an overview of the Human Services, Senior Services programs including Meals-on-Wheels Programs; Medicare Counseling programming; Daybreak program for those with dementia; Case management program; homemaker program to help keep people independent; library at the Lazy 5 location. Friendly calls for those who are isolated to help formulate relationships. General resources are also available.

Pam Roberts said she was recently appointed to the senior advisory board. She said there are many programs, including internet and technology help for seniors. It's a good place to get more information. She encouraged the public to reach out to Pam if they have concerns, and she can see if she can help.

A public member stated he doesn't go online for this information. He paid more in property taxes than paid for the house. He said it's irritating that he pays for more. He said there was an increase in social security. He said he is doing fine by himself. He doesn't want to live in a welfare state. The County gets the rest of the welfare money, plus some. He said he would like the people in the County to bite the bullet.

### 5. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – General Community Update [Non-Action Item]

### 6. ADVANCE WARNING SYSTEM – Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) Project Manager, Sam Ahiamadi, P.E., will share information about the Advance Signal Warning System on Pyramid Highway as part of the Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan [Non-Action Item]

Sam Ahiamadi, Project Manager with NDOT, introduced Meg Ragonese and Paul from NDOT. He provided an overview of the Advanced Signal Warning (AWS) System. He said in 2019, NDOT hired a consultant to help develop guidelines regarding ASWS. He stated that the guidelines were applied to the entire state to conform with State and National guidelines. He stated all the Signals were evaluated. He said their evaluation discovered that the signals were wrongly placed. He said they will be modified or removed. He stated that the driver should pay attention to the road and signals, not the advance signal warning systems. They are useful for some places but lead to crashes.

He said there were three types: Simplest – static system (signal ahead); Passive – continuously flashing, and Active – active when signal changes. Signals may be modified if we deem it necessary.

He said there are nine AWS that will be modified on Pyramid Highway, north bound and south bound which include:

- Calle De La Plata
- Lazy 5
- Sparks
- Golden View
- Los Altos
- Disc (northbound remains/modified)
- Mt. Rose (Thomas Creek, Wedge, Old 395)

He explained the project timeline. He said in March, you will begin to see changes along the highway. He said we would start with signs informing you of the change traffic pattern for two weeks. Then they will change to continuous flashing for a month. He stated during that time there will be studies conducted. He said we are working with UNR to complete the studies. He said we want to use engineering to enhance safety. He said we have already executed these changes in southern Nevada. He said we are pleased with the changes – there have been zero crashes; no problems. It's meant to enhance safety. He said the changes will be completed by June and will conduct 1-year study through the state then a 3-year study.

Public comment:

Larry Chesney, Regional Planning Commission/Planning Commission member, stated Meg provided a presentation in 2019 about the active systems on highway 445. He said those who don't drive this road have unilaterally changed our driving. It's going to be confusing for a lot of people. There will be 9,000 new residents using the road in the next five years. He said he hopes NDOT considers the new round trips on highway 445. NDOT representative said we conduct a transportation demand model and assessment. We understand traffic and the impacts of the roads. He said that is why we need to implement the safest measures for our roads.

Kathryn Snedigar asked why they aren't staying within the national manual. She said the continuous flashing lights are not in compliance with the national manual. She said there are a lot of heavy trucks and trailers that need a lot of time to stop. She asked how is this going to be safer. She stated we would run it over three months before we make changes. She said that continuous flashing lights notified those driving for a while that they were approaching a signal.

Jay Paulen, NDOT, thanked them for bringing up the growth. He said we are landlocking everyone to this road. We are doing the best we can with this road. He said he wishes we had collector roads. We are trying to meet industry standards. We had done a 10-year impact study. Sam does all the traffic modeling. He said we are trying to fix mistakes of the past. He said we are correcting poor behavior and practices in the past.

Hugh Ezell stated you didn't study it at all, and you don't drive it as we do. Those active systems help notify when the light is going to change. You don't have enough yellow to stop without the flashing warning lights. He asked them not to compare us to other states. We don't need to be told where the light is, but we need to know when the light is changing. He asked if they could increase the yellow light time so we have time at 55 mph with a trailer load time to stop. He said he hates it when he has to make emergency stops. He said people need to get off their phones; the issue is distracted driving.

Kevin Cook said he agrees. He said he pulls a trailer and likes the warning system. He said in LA, you will see crosswalk signals flash to inform people the light will change. These systems are handy to have. He asked if the signals would be taken out immediately or turned off. Mr. Ahiamadi said studies show they are wrongly placed; it will take three months. He said we have learned they are placed in the wrong ways, and we will take them out. He said we are not anticipating putting them back because they are in the wrong place. Mr. Cook said if it becomes a problem, you should be ready to put them back in. Jay Paulen referenced the handout. He said the active systems would flash 24/7 for three months; then beacons would be removed. He said it's evident it's not a popular project. He said we believe it's beneficial to the public. If we find there are crashes due to the removal and should stay that we didn't see during reviews, there could be a situation and a change order to correct it.

Marshall Todd asked if it was possible to extend the time of the yellow light. Mr. Ahiamadi said all of the yellow light timing is based on guidelines. We cannot extend it; it needs to be consistent. Speed is taken into consideration. He said the timing is calculated into the speed. If we create a dilemma, you find a lot of people stopped in the middle.

Hugh Ezell asked if 4-way red timing could be made longer to get through the intersection.

George asked why to spend time and money on removing the lights on McCarren when you are going to widen the road. Why not wait until the road gets widened. They could take them down and out during the 2023 project. Jay Paulen spoke about how that project was funded. He said it's an NDOT bill grant. He said they envisioned with connector; RTC acquired federal funds and agreed with NDOT. There are strings attached. He said they are separate projects. NDOT wouldn't like the change to the scope they funded.

Deborah Shirk asked why they were put in the wrong. Mr. Ahiamadi provided background on the signals. They were kept in place after several projects. She asked how much it would cost. Jay Paulen said the design plans went out to bid, and we received contractor bids – the lowest bidder is \$450K; it will be posted on NDOT website. He said it would cover the entire project.

Mr. Ezell said Los Altos should especially remain in place.

Susan Ambrose said it sounds like there were a lot of studies. She said there is a lot of hauling, including triple trailers with gravel. There is a lot of construction going on. The trucks adjust their approach based on the flashing lights. There are livestock trucks. To compare us to intercity is entirely different to our area. Mr. Ahiamadi stated we studied each intersection. We did not take anything for granted. This is our state, our home. We want zero crashes and fatalities. It's in our best interest to be the safest. Mr. Ezell said you wouldn't get zero crashes because the laws of probability are working against us.

**7. ARPA FUNDING UPDATE – Gabrielle Enfield, Washoe County Community Reinvestment Manager [NonAction Item] – Gabrielle Enfield was not in attendance.**

**8. (moved to item 4) SENIOR CITIZEN SUPPORT FROM WASHOE COUNTY – Abby Willrich, Human Services Coordinator, Washoe County [Non-Action Item]**

**9. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE-** Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman may be available to provide updated information on discussions and actions by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Commissioner Herman can be reached at (775) 501-0002 or via email at [jherman@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jherman@washoecounty.gov)

**10. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members. [Non-Action Item]**

Chair Ambrose announced that TMWA will provide an update on February 26 at the equestrian center; they asked for a neighborhood meeting.

She stated we are waiting for wifi service in March to provide a zoom option for people to participate in CAB meetings.

She shared that the County Library will have a traveling bookmobile to rural communities.

The next meeting is in March (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday).

**11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – Limited to no more than three (3) minutes. Anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda. The public are requested to submit a Request to Speak form to the Board Chairman. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole. [Non-Action Item]**

Kirk Barlow inquired about the TMWA feasibility study. Ms. Ramos said she could provide him with information. Mr. Todd provided a summary of the feasibility study.

Kathreen Snedigar spoke about the TMWA proposal. She spoke about the number of particulates in the water. The wells will get metered. She said she believes it's a bad idea.

There were no further requests for public comment.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

Number of CAB members present: 4

Number of Public Present: 15

Presence of Elected Officials: 0

Number of staff present: 1