



Draft Study Feedback Report

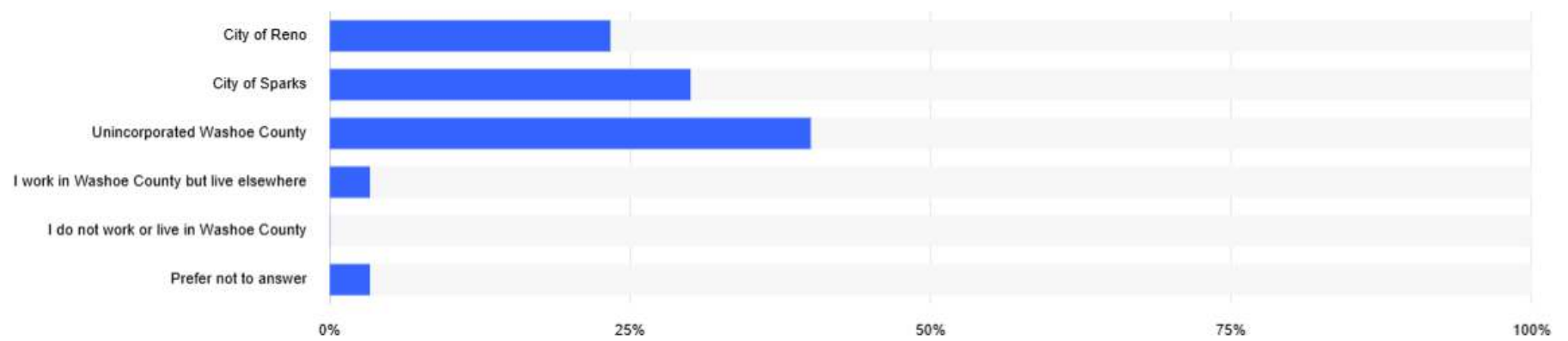
The Draft Regional Fire and EMS Study Report Feedback Survey was available for public input beginning October 1, 2026. As of October 14, the survey recorded 116 starts, with 29 participants providing at least one response and 10 completing the survey in its entirety.

Although the number of completed surveys was limited, the survey generated 182 data points across questions addressing geographic representation, individual report sections, and overall feedback. Because participants could provide input on specific sections without completing the entire survey, responses from partially completed surveys are also included in the results.

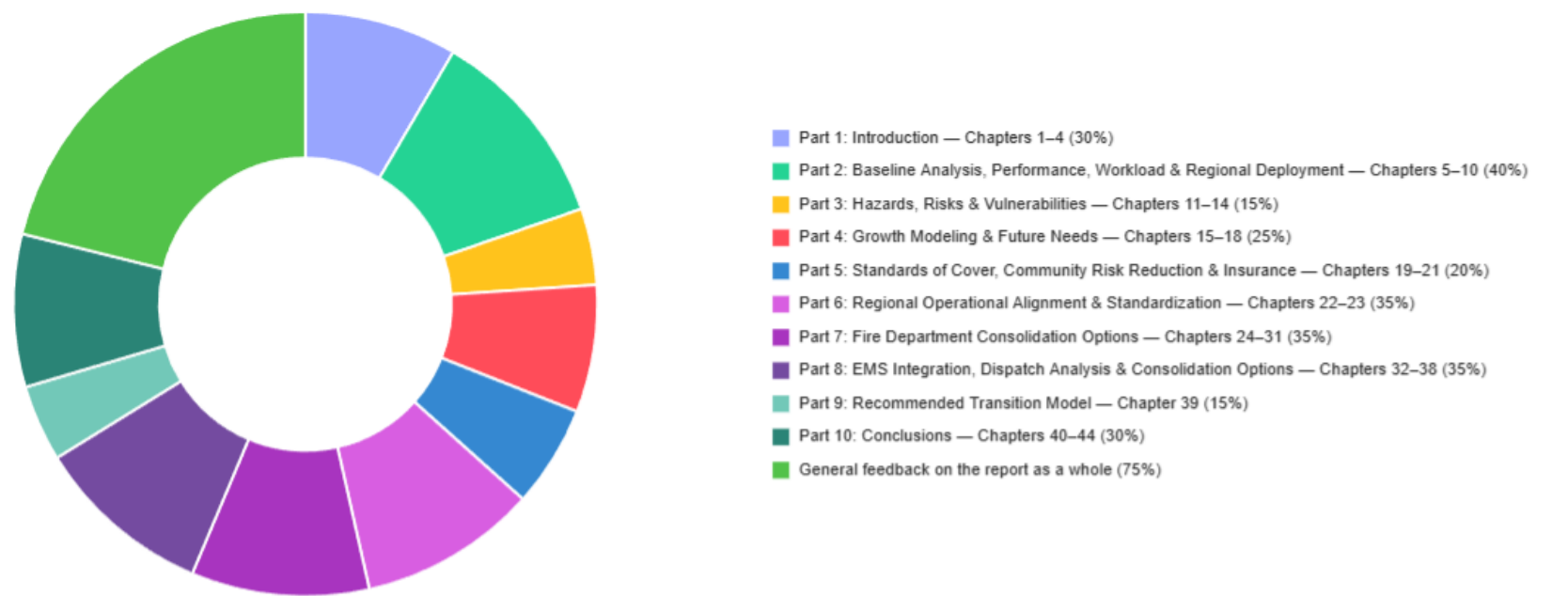
Written responses are presented as submitted, without substantive edits. Statements, factual assertions, and opinions expressed by respondents have not been independently verified.

Participants were asked to identify where they live or work and select the sections of the draft study on which they wished to provide feedback.

Which area do you live or work in?



Which section(s) of the Draft Study Report would you like to provide feedback on?



Part 1: Introduction (Chapters 1-4) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - There are no evident cost savings, there are no additional services. Any additional services will be a huge expense to residents. This kind of "feedback" 'is unreasonable to assume that the public will read, digest and have history on the plan. It sounds great, until you realize that it omits any tangible benefit to residents without an incredible increase in cost, and you have to wonder if the whole thing is to divert current costs back to poorly managed general funds and justify spending that never should've been needed. It's a sly, way to say "well, we provided the option for public feedback".

RESPONSE 2 - Table 2-1 should have included the report from Washoe County and Reno on AB419 submitted on August 31, 2010, for the 76th Legislature. This report clearly outlines the difficulty in achieving various things associated with consolidation as clearly defined on Pg. 8. What are current departments staffing that are financed by SAFER or ARPA funds, and can the agencies afford those personnel when funding ends? 2.2.8 "if conditions and political support allowed it." - This has always been the major problem in the region: the failure of elected officials to enact their will. They only move in the direction that labor groups allow them. Political cowardice, which we'll witness again. 2.7 states again, "the central challenge is implementation." - Quit paying for studies and enact your political will as you were elected to do. Quit relying on labor groups to make your decisions; they only serve themselves. 3.5 Openness to Coordination and Consolidation. - Using the AB419 document noted above, COOPERATION amongst agencies is the easiest thing to achieve and significantly easier than Consolidation. The Commission and Councils should enforce their political will, forcing all forms of COOPERATION noted in this study long before considering Consolidation, which is a long and very costly process. 4.23.1 - How much of the staffing is provided through SAFER, ARPA, or other grant funding, and can the agencies absorb these costs when they end?

Part 2: Baseline Analysis, Performance, Workload & Regional Deployment (Chapters 5-10) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - I have concerns about how the reopening of Station 6 has been presented as a benefit of sharing a Fire Chief with Reno. Station 6 didn't reopen because of cost savings or additional staffing. An engine was taken out of service at Station 1, resources were shifted around, and the ambulance at Station 5 was taken out of service. The timing of these changes makes it appear that the shared Fire Chief arrangement somehow made reopening Station 6 possible, when really it was just a redistribution of resources we already had. As a Sparks resident, I'd like to know whether the study takes these changes into account. Did we actually improve our overall fire and EMS coverage, or did we just move resources from one part of the city to another? I think that's an important distinction, especially if the reopening of Station 6 is being used as an example of the benefits of regional consolidation.

RESPONSE 2 - 5.15.3 - The study does not address how prone the City of Reno is to a major wildfire due its proximity to the WUI of the Sierra, age of homes in this area and across much of the city, and the very real probability of a large ember cast across this area that will create devastation similar to or greater than the Palisades Fire in LA in 2025. The only thing that can prevent this future eventuality is through enforced regulations on existing buildings requiring home hardening and retrofitting. 7.4 - It is madness that the data collected corresponds to only 7% of all data collected. This is a major failure of management and demonstrates that they generally ignore national standards unless it suits their cause, and they are only concerned with trying to prove their value, not actual results of service. 7.6 - EMS dominates overall service delivery. If metadata analysis were performed, it would be even higher than 81% when you eliminate false calls, the calls that they don't actually make it to, and the ever-popular good-intent calls. The goal should involve public education aimed at reducing system usage for minor EMS-related issues as well as good-intent calls. What are any departments doing to educate the public and reduce good-intent calls that make up a higher percentage of calls than actual fires?

Part 3: Analysis of Hazards, Risks, and Vulnerabilities (Chapters 11-14) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - There is no mention of drones for early detection and prevention. Drones are being widely used today in many areas. Equipped with wildfire cameras, remote sensors, thermal equipment and ai-assisted smoke detection, drones could have spotted and eliminated fires such as the recent Hawk and Bug fires. The cost of the drones could be covered by detecting and preventing even one such fire. I feel it is negligent on the part of the County to not consider drone use as an option.

RESPONSE 2 - B

Part 4: Growth Modeling and Future Needs (Chapters 15-18) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - Projected growth & demand with resource investments per capita by existing house owners vs renters

RESPONSE 2 - See earlier feedback on the use of drones.

RESPONSE 3 - Please include my feedback in any public facing document. Let's focus on the big picture. The safety and well being of Nevada residents must be the priority. It makes zero sense to continue pursuing growth and chasing tourism when the existing infrastructure, roads, emergency response and first responders are already straining to manage today's existing needs. I encourage you to read my reporting and research for the Nevada Current.

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RESPONSE 4 - B

Part 5: Standards of Cover, Community Risk Reduction, and Insurance (Chapters 19-21) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - B

RESPONSE 2 - 21.4.2 - Are either of the cities concerned about how consolidation would affect their current ISO Ratings? 21.7.1 - A major point of concern is that while performing good services, TMFPD's Wildland/Fuels Division is almost entirely funded through grants and outside contracts with NV Energy. What plan is in place to retain this Division when funding ends? 21.7.4 - Reno only recently adopted the WUI code, so the only protection benefits from this code to be reaped will be in new development from adoption forward. This leaves the existing city with a significant inventory, basically the entire city, with deficient buildings subject to ember cast from the nearby Sierra. Without enacting a stringent retrofitting ordinance for roof and siding renovations as well as mandatory home-hardening processes like screening of vents, the city remains subject to the very real probability of suffering a Palisades Fire of its own.

Part 6: Regional Operational Alignment and Standardization (Chapters 22-23) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - What's it going to cost tax payers who own homes vs renters

RESPONSE 2 - I think some important history is missing from the discussion about regional dispatch issues. Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County previously operated on a shared CAD system, and Truckee Meadows Fire was dispatched by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. A few years ago, Truckee Meadows made the decision to move its fire dispatching to REMSA, separating it from the system the government agencies were already sharing. Since then, the different dispatch systems have repeatedly been identified as a regional communication problem. But I think it's important to acknowledge how we got here. The agencies weren't always operating this way. Reno and Sparks continue to share a CAD system, and REMSA has its own dispatch operation. REMSA is also a private ambulance provider, not a primary 911 answering point. I support improving communication and coordination between agencies, but I'd like to see the study address why the previous arrangements changed and what can be done to improve the existing systems before recommending another regional dispatch structure. We shouldn't overlook the decisions that contributed to the problems we're now being asked to spend money to fix.

RESPONSE 3 - B

RESPONSE 4 - 22.1 - Elimination of multiple PSAP's should be a Commission and Council priority along with consolidation of Fire/EMS dispatch. This has been explained to the elected officials ad nauseam. 22.3.3 - The cost of all 4-person crews has been explained to all elected officials numerous times. Sparks can't afford it, TMFPD can't afford it, and Reno can't really afford it, as evidenced by their city budget deficit. They are just propping it up at the expense of other city departments. Dispatch is the Universal Choke Point - "consistently identified dispatch as the most urgent operational barrier and the highest near-term priority across the three fire agencies and REMSA Health." Hexagon has literally been "coming soon" for years, but still isn't here and online, just bought and paid for. Elected officials need to pay particular attention to many of these quotes from the report. They've been told this on numerous occasions yet it has not influenced or required a different outcome, making them all ineffective in their elected positions. 22.7 - Conclusion - "The highest-value path is to formalize regional operational coordination, publish enforceable unified-operations minimum standards, address longstanding differences in governance and administrative practices, align training and credentialing using FEMA NIMS/NQS principles, and evaluate phased staffing and deployment alternatives against SOC outcomes and fiscal constraints." Highlighted for the elected officials.

Part 7: Fire Department Consolidation Options (Chapters 24-31) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - I am not in favor of consolidation, which might lead to assuming the financial debt, and liability of another municipality, thus increasing my taxes. I am in favor of Regionalization of services with each city council, or county commissioner having a vote before legal or financial decisions are taken.

RESPONSE 2 - What happens to our taxes if the city gives up responsibility for fire services and those services are transferred to a regional district. Right now, fire department is funded through the city's existing revenues. If Sparks no longer has to operate a fire department, what happens to that money? I understand that Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District residents already pay a dedicated district tax. Would Sparks residents eventually be required to pay that tax as well?

RESPONSE 3 - N

RESPONSE 4 - 24.2 #4 "Incremental Value. A more complex governance structure should be considered only when it provides material service, accountability, financial, workforce, or organizational benefits that cannot be achieved reliably through Regional Alignment. Greater structural integration is not, by itself, evidence of greater value." Highlighted for elected officials. Without additional services being provided, it is worthless to consider consolidation. 25.1 - "County officials have expressly linked the project to unrestricted automatic aid and boundary dropping." Also brought to elected officials in Joint Meeting. 26.1.1 - "The three departments may cooperate through automatic aid, mutual aid, interlocal agreements, specialty teams, shared technology, common operating guidelines, joint training, and other collaborative arrangements without changing their underlying legal status." These must be highlighted as the most cost-effective and easily achieved through mere COOPERATION, as referenced in the AB419 joint letter between Washoe and Reno. 26.1.12 - "Separate governance does not prevent operational cooperation." Highlight for elected officials who only react or respond to labor groups' desires. As elected officials, it is your job to demand cooperation amongst agencies and force it if your employees aren't willing to do what they are told. They are replaceable with people who will. 26.3 - The study recommends adopting this plan throughout. The elected officials can't miss this.

Part 8: EMS Integration Considerations, Dispatch Analysis, and Consolidation Option (Chapters 32-38) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - As a retired firefighter Paramedic from East Fork Fire, I lived through the layoffs in Washoe county but remained employed for one reason. We provided EMS transports. This revenue source allowed East Fork to maintain staffing levels and maintained equipment. A Fire department transporting agency would be a must. Eliminate Remsa. As a tax payer, a fire engine arrives first, provides medical assessments and interventions at no cost. But then a REMSA ambulance transports a treated patient and collects a fee. This is not acceptable. When the fire department treats and transports. They can hire more firefighters and provide not only better medical care but provide all other necessary emergencies not involving law enforcement. It's a waste of resources to have a private entity collect money that can fund the fire department staffing levels.

RESPONSE 2 - I question spending another \$41 million over five years on a regional fire dispatch center. It would still be a secondary PSAP, so calls would still have to be transferred from Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County. Truckee Meadows Fire used to be dispatched by the Sheriff's Office before moving to REMSA, which contributed to the separation we have now. Why can't we improve the systems we already have instead of creating another dispatch center? Reno and Sparks would still have to operate their existing centers anyway.

RESPONSE 3 - Nasty stuff too, doing this during election season. Great distraction.

RESPONSE 4 - 34.1 - "Regional dispatch should support coordinated Fire/EMS service regardless of whether the fire departments remain separate, operate under the recommended near-term Regional Alignment framework, or enter a future consolidated organization." Elected officials, this has now been told to you in two studies you've paid for as well as your Joint Meeting, yet you've taken no action. 36.1 - "The recommended end state is one regional Fire/EMS communications operation providing boundaryless dispatch from a normally staffed primary center, supported by a separate disaster-recovery site for temporary continuity during outages." BOLD, HIGHLIGHT, UNDERLINE for the elected officials who won't read this study. This has also been stated to elected officials in two studies and at the Joint Meeting, yet the fix remains elusive because of their lack of political will.

Part 9: Recommended Transition Model (Chapter 39) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - B

Part 10: Conclusions (Chapters 40-44) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - Moving a fire station to the East Prater corridor in Sparks would improve fire service to a developing urban area, that continues to provide new housing and commercial investment. This is a great idea.

RESPONSE 2 - B

RESPONSE 3 - 40.1 - The 2nd and 3rd paragraphs are extremely valuable information that must be BOLDED, HIGHLIGHTED, and UNDERLINED for the elected officials. "The Washoe County fire and EMS system is operationally regional but institutionally divided. They nevertheless serve a connected region, rely on one another at jurisdictional interfaces, share communications infrastructure, and contribute to regional assembly of personnel and equipment for complex incidents and specialty response. The principal opportunity is to align deployment, information, operating policy, readiness, capital planning, and accountability across those boundaries." 40.2 - Must be highlighted and stated that this further demonstrates lack of political will amongst predecessors and current elected officials. 43.1 - "The Study supports proceeding with funded regional operating improvements and the NRS 277.110 Washoe Regional Alignment Plan as the preferred operating framework." BOLD, HIGHLIGHT, and UNDERLINE for the elected officials who will not read this study. 44.5 - "Washoe County should immediately move forward with the Regional Alignment model, implement common regional operating standards, preserve staffed-company capacity, and advance priority capital work through funded owner programs." BOLD, HIGHLIGHT, and UNDERLINE for the elected officials who will not read this study.

Draft Study Report as a Whole (Entire Document) - Feedback

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 1 - Regional coordination of fire services is a win-win for our community. In light of increasing fire hazards related to our dry climate, better use of fire materiel makes sense and benefits everyone.

RESPONSE 2 - Our fire department must be the sole EMS transporting agency in Washoe county.

RESPONSE 3 - In review of the document, I think that what has not been addressed/discussed is the MASSIVE approval by the City of Reno of development that is within the High Urban Wildlife Interface and IN concert with approval of city density housing is a COMPLETE LACK OF FIRE SERVICE. Specifically in Verdi - the City of Reno ELIMINATED a Residential Fire Station because of lack of their ability to fund. This essentially placed the demand on TMFP and County residents. County residents spoke AD NOSIUM at every opportunity about Fire Service and were ignored. A presentation about the pathetic fire service fee of \$1608 per "some of the housing" within Mortensen Garson was ignored. These same houses will pay a nearly \$30,000 fee for TMWA water. I am extraordinarily disappointed that the elected City Council did not support these new residents. As a County resident, I pay a line item for TMFP and if the district needs additional funding, that would be welcome.

RESPONSE 4 - See earlier feedback on the use of drones.

RESPONSE 5 - Please include my feedback in any public facing document. Let's focus on the big picture. The safety and well being of Nevada residents must be the priority. It makes zero sense to continue pursuing growth and chasing tourism when the existing infrastructure, roads, emergency response and first responders are already straining to manage today's existing needs. I encourage you to read my reporting and research for the Nevada Current. Amid elevated disaster risks Tahoe cannot afford tourism business-driven governance
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RESPONSE 6 - For you to ignore a major fire protection service like north tahoe fire protection district in incline village is short sighted and parochial. i'm sure in the event of major fire you will want all fire protection districts to help. to exclude the fire protection in incline village from participating and contributing to the conclusions, could come back and bite you in the ass.

Draft Study Report as a Whole (Entire Document) - Feedback (Cont.)

Unedited responses provided

RESPONSE 8 - As a long-time resident of South Reno with a background in emergency services and a lengthy consulting background, I did not entertain bidding for this study because I know the politics and our network of informants says this is just for show. I live here and enjoy the views and tax haven provided, but the politics are sophomoric at best. Numerous studies have guided politicians past and present, yet they make no moves without the consent of labor groups. It's pathetic! These are all policy decisions that elected officials are elected to address, and yet they don't. Tell your employees what you want to happen, and if it doesn't, replace them. Do YOUR jobs and do what is right for the community and quit catering to interest groups. Neither city has additional taxing ability, and everyone involved knows this, and it has been discussed, yet elected officials continue along the lines of more expensive, complex solutions rather than the easy, no-cost or low-cost solutions they've been presented. Throughout this study, it is clearly stated that Model Two: Washoe Regional Alignment Plan is the best option that should be pursued immediately, along with a centralized Fire/EMS dispatch regardless of separate departments. Don't miss this point, elected officials. This provides the most operational improvement at the least cost to the citizenry and is the right thing to do. Quit wasting the citizens' tax dollars and act! End the political cowardice that runs so deep in Washoe County.