



West Truckee Meadows/Verdi Township Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Truckee Meadows/Verdi Township Citizen Advisory Board held on September 18, 2023, at 5:30 P.M.
Verdi Community Library & Nature Study, 270 Bridge St, Verdi, NV 89439

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** Denise Kolton, Barbara Fenne(absent), Carly Borchard (online), Alice (Tina) House, Elton “Mac” Rossi (absent), Cameron Kramlich, Judi Rought (absent)
A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The Citizen Advisory Board will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the CAB as a whole.

Resident – Verdi roads are not safe. There is no safe access for pedestrians or bicycles. There is a huge increase in traffic numbers. Asks NDOT to make the roads in the areas safer for all residents.

4. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES** – General community updates from public safety representatives; including but not limited to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, and others as such [Non-Action Item]

Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue

Call numbers were at about 46 a month. In June we were at 27 calls. We still average 46-50 calls a month. Average of 3 motor vehicle accidents per month. No big fires so far. Cooler weather does not mean much in our region. There is still a risk of fire. In the fall there is a curbside chipping program. The intent is for the elderly, disabled, low-income, or otherwise unable to dispose of your vegetation to use the program. Autumn green waste days are coming up. There are more days than ever. Nov 5th on Mayberry Park. There are many other sites available on our site.

Washoe County Sheriff’s Department

A video presentation was shown about the catalytic converter theft prevention program. Visit www.washoesherriff.com for more information.

The Crime Prevention Program was discussed. The speaker highlighted the importance of raising awareness about the program and encouraging people to report incidents. The speaker mentioned that the program has been in operation for almost two years and has seen a significant reduction in reported thefts.

The speaker emphasized the need to share information about the program and provide support to victims of theft.

5. **WASHOE COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY** – A presentation by County Sustainability Manager Brian Beffort about the County’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and improve quality of life for everyone in the County. [Non-Action Item]

Brian Beffort discussed the concept of sustainability, including material management, and emphasized the need for community conversations and involvement. There is a presentation available. The speaker mentioned their department's budget of \$18,000.

The discussion includes details about obtaining trees through grants and the involvement of an urban forester named Matt Basile. The speaker talks about sustainability, net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and the county's strategic priorities. The speaker mentions the green recovery plan and the successful grant application for \$100,000.

Brian Beffort mentions other areas of focus for energy efficiency, such as air conditioners, windows, and vehicles. The speaker highlights the benefits of LED light bulbs, mentioning their energy efficiency and longer lifespan. He states that he is not there to debate climate change but to save the county money.

The speaker discusses the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the importance of changing the way cities are designed and transportation is done. The speaker discusses the impact of climate change on Reno, the need to plant more trees, and the focus on lower-income underserved communities. Trees will be planted to help combat climate change. The adoption of the Green Recovery Plan by the county to address challenges like pandemics, storms, and power outages. Brian mentions the efforts to expand community gardens and work with local nonprofits. The speaker highlights the wastage of water in growing alfalfa and the need to rethink water usage.

There are federal incentives for energy-efficient appliances and the benefits of using induction stoves. Brian Beffort discussed the government-funded program for free light bulbs and the importance of investing in a cleaner future.

NV Energy's LED replacement program can help people replace their lightbulbs.

6. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NDOT) – Senior Project Manager Chris Kuhn to provide information on an upcoming bridge replacement project in the Verdia area. [Non-Action Item]

Chris Kuhn with NDOT - Upcoming projects by Nevada Department of Transportation

The speaker provided details about the upcoming bridge replacement projects, including the number of structures to be replaced and the timeline for design and construction. There are two separate projects replacing 15 structures. The projects are specifically focused on structure replacement, as allocated funds from the Infrastructure Act are utilized for that purpose. Participants raised concerns about the safety of cyclists and the design of the interchange.

Tina House - Concerns were raised about the potential bottleneck at the roundabout near the Garson Road Bridge and the impact on emergency evacuation in case of a wildfire. Are there any plans to widen the road?

Answer - Basically, it's a removal and replacement project. They will do a full traffic analysis. They have identified that a three-lane structure will be sufficient. They are evaluating to make sure that the road can handle the traffic.

Tina House – What happens in the event of an emergency evacuation? Concerns were raised about the old wooden bridge at Lower Belli, which was promised as a secondary escape route for emergencies but has not been opened. It may need to be rebuilt.

Answer – The Garson Road Bridge replacement project is currently in the preliminary design and traffic analysis phase. It is being evaluated to ensure adequate capacity for northbound and southbound movements. I would be happy to pass along the project team's information to you.

Citizen - Concerns were raised about the difficulty of following the presentation without clear descriptors for the bridges. There was a request for an outreach plan beyond the meeting.

Answer - NDOT has an outreach plan that includes public information meetings, mailers to people near the projects, and project websites.

Citizen - Participants expressed concerns about the Garson Overpass not accommodating pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The Verdi Rose overpass is highly used by vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The need to engage the community in the planning process is emphasized.

Answer - The Garson Overpass will incorporate pedestrian facilities. Hopefully, that will address any concerns there.

- 7. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB** – Staff to display the online [HUB](#) for review by the CAB members and/or attendees to determine if there are new or existing projects for discussion. Specific questions and feedback will be brought back to the appropriate staff for announcement at the next CAB meeting. [Non-Action Item]

Alexandra Wilson – The Neighborhood Development Hub provides information about developments in unincorporated Washoe County. The hub allows residents to view upcoming projects, attend meetings, and provide feedback. The hub ensures accountability for developers and builders. Alexandra explained how to navigate the Neighborhood Development Hub. Participants expressed interest in attending meetings outside their area. The hub is useful for planners in their staff reports.

Citizen - The participant mentioned that the Zoom meeting link was not functional, and they had trouble accessing meeting notes and maps.

Answer from another citizen – It worked for me without registration.

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

Participants mention the availability of sign-ups for neighborhood meetings and explain that not every development triggers a process. Participants discuss the limitations of ArcGIS and mention that Reno has its own separate system.

Participants make announcements about a pasta feed and at the Verdi VFW, encouraging attendance.

- 9. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The public is encouraged to submit a “Request to Speak” form to the Board chair. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole.

There was no public comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Summary

During the Verdi Roads Safety meeting, concerns were raised about the safety of Verdi roads, specifically the Garson interchange and the Agent Garson Overpass. The lack of safe access for pedestrians and bicycles, increased traffic numbers, and the negative impact of the City of Reno's traffic improvements on the Verdi community were highlighted. The presence of permit loads that cannot fit under the old bridges on I-80 was also mentioned. Residents were informed about the curbside shipping program and the need to fill out an application on the website. A video presentation was shown about the catalytic converter theft prevention program, which has seen a significant reduction in reported thefts. The Washoe County Sustainability Manager introduced himself and discussed the concept of sustainability, community involvement, and the department's budget. The Green Recovery Plan, including a successful grant application for \$100,000, federal funds, obtaining trees through grants, and achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, was discussed. Energy efficiency, including the cost and benefits of switching to LED light bulbs, raising funds for the project, and focusing on other areas such as air conditioners, windows, and vehicles, was highlighted. The adoption of the Green Recovery Plan to address challenges like pandemics, storms, and power outages, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expanding community gardens, rethinking water usage, planting more trees, and focusing on lower-income underserved communities was mentioned. Current projects, federal incentives for energy-efficient appliances, and upcoming projects by the Nevada Department of Transportation, including bridge replacements, were discussed. Concerns were raised about the safety of cyclists, the design of the interchange, potential bottlenecks, and the old wooden bridge at Lower Belli. Participants expressed concerns about the difficulty of following the presentation without clear descriptors for the bridges and requested an outreach plan beyond the meeting. The Neighborhood Development Hub, which provides information about developments in unincorporated Washoe County, was introduced, and participants expressed interest in attending meetings outside their area. Concerns were raised about the non-functional Zoom meeting link and difficulties accessing meeting notes and maps. The availability of meeting information on the hub website, sign-ups for neighborhood meetings, and limitations of ArcGIS were discussed. Participants made announcements about a crowd feed and a pasta feed at the Verdi VFW to encourage attendance.