



Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board held on April 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Spanish Springs Library.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION QUORUM

Present: Vice Chair Bradley Young, Members Jason Evans, Brandon Partain, Renate York

Absent: Chair Bonnie Billings, Member Shannon Martell

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

A commenter felt that Pyramid Way was a failure, particularly in an area that bottlenecks due to a bike lane that was given priority over a third vehicle lane. She expressed concern about the timing of the lights on the road. She wanted to know whether the water park by the library would be open this summer. She expressed frustration about having to inhale smoke caused by burning done by her neighbor and the nasty reception her neighbor received from the fire department when she went to them for help. She requested an item on a future agenda for a presentation by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF February 4, 2026

Member Evans moved to approve the February 4, 2026, Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board minutes as written. Brandon Partain seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved on a 4-0 vote with Members Billings and Martell absent.

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Vice Chair Young expressed gratitude to County staff for preparing thorough agenda packets for the meeting.

5. REPORT ON REQUESTS FOR SERVICE FROM PREVIOUS CAB MEETINGS

Vice Chair Young reviewed the two requests that had been made through the input portal that were included in the agenda packet for this item, as well as the resolutions to those requests. He encouraged people to submit their own suggestions using the QR code provided.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Battalion Chief James Solaro reviewed the agenda packet materials provided for this item, including statistics related to February's incident totals. He explained that fire responses include vehicle and structure fires, while suppression responses can include things like arcing power lines and train derailments. He anticipated that open burning would continue through the month of April as long as conditions were appropriate and the proper permits were acquired. Vice Chair Young expressed appreciation for the data they prepared as it would be easy to forward directly to homeowners.

Responding to questions from the public, Chief Solaro said the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) has one ambulance that responds to calls in Spanish Springs's limited response area. If a second incident were to occur, the City of Sparks or the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) would respond. For incidents outside the response area, he continued, the department would send a fire engine and REMSA would send an ambulance. No incidents would result in ambulances from both the TMFPD and REMSA.

Regarding a new fire station, Chief Solaro indicated that property was purchased a few years ago, but there are no plans to move there at this time. TMFPD Fire Chief Richard Edwards explained that the long-term plan for the District is to have a fire station at that location, but no new fire houses will be built until the budget is stabilized. He added that a fire station in Washoe Valley is ahead of this project, and even then, the TMFPD is hoping for donors to help with that project. Station 35, at I-80 and Waltham Way, is under construction and should be completed in May or June, to be staffed in July. Considerable funds were provided by tech companies for the construction of that station, he noted.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office

Lt. George Gomez with the Sheriff's Office (WCSO) provided the quarterly crime and statistics update for February. He stated one of the goals of the WCSO is to increase DUI arrests by 10 percent each year. This year has seen a 19 percent increase over last year's. He explained the scheduling of the dedicated enforcement teams, which supplement the patrol deputies on the road. He noted destruction of property offenses were down, though they have proactive enforcement units out during spring break. He advised people to be aware of fraud calls, noting that people should know if they have existing warrants for their arrest.

Lt. Gomez pointed out the WCSO responded to 498 dispatch calls last quarter, and there were almost 1,700 self-initiated activities. He spoke about the drone-as-first-responder program launched in partnership with the TMFPD, which provides real-time, on-scene information about incidents. He expected a similar program to begin with drones on the top of Pinecrest Academy next week. After that takes place, about 95 percent of Spanish Springs will be covered by drones.

One member of the public expressed frustration about safety concerns surrounding e-bikes, asking for increased enforcement. Lt. Gomez indicated the WCSO recently put out social media campaign about e-bikes. He recognized the danger they pose. Regarding aggressive driving, he said it was not considered a major crime for statistical purposes, but the office keeps track of all crimes. He said he would provide those statistics at the next meeting.

A question was raised about people shooting guns by the Eagle Canyon ballparks. Lt. Gomez

responded that any shooting needs to take place at least 5,000 feet away, and that area is a known problem area for shooting. The WCSO partners with the Bureau of Land Management to use drones to identify perpetrators and ultimately cite them.

7. RTC & NDOT PRESENT: WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

Kevin Verre, Chief of Multimodal Program Development with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides entitled A Statewide Transportation System; Regional Transportation Planning Process; and How to Provide Feedback. He stated NDOT was a partner with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), whose 20-year Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was created in collaboration with NDOT. All projects of regional significance as well as federal projects exist within NDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Paul Nelson, Government Affairs Officer with the RTC, conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Metropolitan Planning Organization; Project Process; FY26 Budget (Revenues); FY26 Budget (Expenses); Impact (2024); Fuel Revenue Indexing; Annual Fuel Tax; Paying for Growth – RRIF; Public Transportation; Future Riders; Planning Neighborhood Network Plans; Treatment Types – Neighborhood Byway; 2026 Street & Highway Projects – Sparks Boulevard Capacity Improvement; Eagle Canyon Safety and Operations; Sparks Boulevard/Ion Drive Traffic Signal; La Posada Drive Corrective Maintenance; Pyramid Hwy Operations Improvements; Highland Ranch Parkway Capacity; Pyramid Highway – Preliminary; Northeast Connector; Commuter Rail Study; and 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Nelson explained that the RTC is the area's metropolitan planning organization. He indicated that fuels tax revenue is used to fund public transportation. Even though fuel usage is going down, he continued, miles traveled are increasing, and this is due to an increase in hybrid and electric vehicles (EVs). He said Nevada was one of only 10 states that did not charge a separate fee when those types of vehicles were registered. The number of EVs in Washoe County has increased from 1,500 in 2020 to more than 8,000 in 2024. A study was conducted to determine voters' opinions about a possible EV fee to fund roads, and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is contemplating adding that as a ballot question.

Mr. Nelson stated that pollution was reduced and more than 20 driving million miles were saved through the RTC VANPOOL program. He discussed the amenities offered through the Mobility Center. He noted that there has been a decrease in absenteeism since the Youth Ride Free program was implemented. Many of those rides take students from their schools to their places of work. He remarked that changes to the first two planning neighborhoods in central Reno and Central Sparks will be implemented this year, and the next two neighborhoods in Sun Valley/ Panther Valley and Hidden Valley will be studied next. He anticipated that Spanish Springs would be considered in two years. The budget for the neighborhood program is \$5 million.

Mr. Nelson expected that the Sparks Boulevard Capacity Improvement project will be completed by summer of 2027. The Eagle Canyon Safety project will begin this summer. He mentioned that the reason for only adding a southbound lane on Pyramid Way is because many of the trucks coming from the gravel pit travel southbound. He explained that the cost to construct an overpass at Highland Ranch Parkway and Sparks Boulevard was too high, so more planning will need to take place. The Northeast Connector project is listed in the RTP,

he noted, but it is very early in the process. He estimated that about 4,500 people will use that connector, making a significant difference during rush hour traffic.

Mr. Nelson said the commuter rail project, should it move forward, could reduce traffic when the I-80 widening project begins. Freight improvements would also be considered as part of the project, which could cost between \$800 million and \$1.2 billion and would almost certainly require federal funding.

One member of the public expressed frustration that the RTC's projects have not improved the congestion on Pyramid Way. Mr. Nelson said that was the purpose of the long-term plan, including a project to widen Pyramid to six lanes. However, money was at a premium. More local fuel tax revenue is generated in the north, and he assured the public that the local share stays on the north side. The revenue is less than \$300 million, and that needs to be allocated to all high-priority areas. Pyramid Way is an expensive project.

Another member of the public thought Pyramid Way improvement projects would be cheaper if they took place in areas without development, which he believed were also some of the biggest problem areas. The speaker expressed concern about VANPOOL drivers using those vans on weekends without anyone else in the vehicles. Mr. Nelson said drivers are required to keep logs, and 80 percent of their miles need to be used for carpooling.

Responding to additional queries, Mr. Nelson explained that he often hears concerns that regional road impact fees (RRIF) are not collected until after development, but most of the time there are other projects that need immediate funding. All RRIF revenues from the north go into a pool from which all projects in the north are funded. He explained that Vista Boulevard is an arterial road designed to handle a lot of traffic. He recognized that many people use Vista as a detour route during crashes. However, should the connector utilize Vista, he did not expect to see significant truck traffic on the road.

Mr. Nelson said he believed RRIF fees were calculated per unit regardless of the size of the property. A member of the public opined that they should be imposed on a sliding scale. Mr. Nelson noted that the fees are constantly being reconsidered, and the RTC is engaged in a process through which RRIF fees will be increased in general. The BCC is ultimately the entity that approves RRIF fees. He stated that Tahoe Reno Industrial Center businesses are starting to vary their work schedules so not all employees need to commute at the same time. The RTC has also engaged those businesses and Storey County about entering into a public-private partnership to share some of the costs associated with these projects.

Another commenter said that most cyclists do not use bike lanes on Pyramid Way due to safety concerns. He thought the pavement condition index posted online shows many more roads in poor condition than the one shown during the presentation. Mr. Nelson acknowledged that there were many roads due for a rebuild, and the RTC is in the process of applying for federal grants to help address those. Many developers use cheap paving materials for roads, but the RTC uses better quality materials when fixing them. He confirmed that the cut-through route connecting Vista Boulevard and La Posada Drive is no longer being considered.

In response to additional questions, Mr. Nelson indicated he could not address a question about a portion of Calle de Plata where a southbound lane is being added. A speaker expressed frustration about the lack of a shopping center in Spanish Springs. Mr. Nelson opined that commercial areas tended to follow residential areas.

Member Partain inquired about the median cost of all projects. Mr. Nelson replied that the Arlington Bridge project cost \$35 million, the Keystone Bridge was \$75 million, Oddie Boulevard cost \$50 million, and Sun Valley Boulevard will cost \$86 million. There were many variables that impacted the total cost of projects, and the cost of both materials and labor are rising. Vice Chair Young asked whether a traffic light is still planned for the intersection of Pyramid Way and Horizon View Avenue. Mr. Nelson said he would research that and get back to the Board.

Mr. Nelson confirmed that a cut-through by the ballparks will be two lanes. Traffic volumes do not warrant four lanes, and that would be much more expensive as well. A question was posed regarding planning drainage to anticipate larger roads than those that currently exist. Mr. Nelson replied that the Vista Boulevard project has considered development through 2040, but the current plan is for a two-lane road. A public commenter expressed frustration that the Cities of Reno and Sparks and the County allow developers to use substandard materials.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the plan to add a traffic light on Highland Ranch Boulevard, with one commenter expressing concern over residents being unable to get out of the Five Ridges development. Mr. Nelson discussed the focus being given to traffic light synchronization, adding that Sparks Intelligence Corridors already allow lights to be changed based on cell phone data. He expected something similar to be implemented in the City of Reno.

8. BOARD AND COMMISSION OPENINGS

Vice Chair Young reviewed the two board openings that were described in the materials provided for this item.

9. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Candee Ramos, Media and Communications Program Manager, showed where on the County's website interested parties could find information about volunteer positions on boards and committees. She displayed the Neighborhood Development Hub and explained where to find upcoming planning projects. She encouraged people interested in learning more about meetings to sign up to receive notifications about citizen involvement.

10. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no response to the call for public comment.

11. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

There were no CAB member announcements or requests.

12. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/ UPDATES

Commissioner Clara Andriola noted that when she began on the Board of County Commissioners, the boundary lines for citizen advisory boards (CABs) did not align with the people applying to be on the CAB boards. That is being corrected, she said, and updates to CAB bylaws will be available sometime in April for members of the public to provide feedback.

Copies of the draft will be sent to everyone who was noticed, and it will be shared at a future CAB meeting. She expected that a portal would also be set up to gather input.

Commissioner Andriola lauded Battalion Chief James Solaro for presenting the fire district's statistics and safety tips in a simple format for people to review. She was glad to see the police department's efforts to do the same.

Commissioner Andriola brought up the equine code and urged people interested in possible changes related to horses to sign up online for notifications. She stated the County's equine code has not been reconsidered in more than 20 years. She recognized that government processes can be slow, but it is critical to get feedback from the community. She noted that the previous code is a one-size-fits-all model, but a large boarding stable in Washoe Valley has different needs than a barn with two horses. She mentioned that there is a QR code people can use to provide input, and people can email or speak to her with their suggestions.

Vice Chair Young added that topics for upcoming CAB meetings are available online, and members of the public can convey questions they have for presenters using the QR code. That code will be added to future agendas. Candee Ramos, Media and Communications Program Manager, said she was unsure what topics were planned for the next Spanish Springs CAB meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Partain moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Evans seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.