

Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness

Senate of the Associated Students 88th Session
Agenda for Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 12:00pm
Zoom Meeting: Email Joshua Luers at senatorluers@asun.unr.edu

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER*

Call Meeting to Order must be listed by Secretaries.

2. ROLL CALL*

Roll Call must be listed by Secretaries.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT*

Items heard under public comment may be for items either on or off the agenda. Action may not be taken on items raised under public comment. The Chair may elect to take public comment on action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

4. MINUTES

There are no minutes to be heard at this time.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business to be discussed at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of a Vice Chair

The Committee will nominate and elect a Vice-Chair for the Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness.

b. Committee Goals

The Committee will set future goals for the Committee to work on throughout the year.

c. Liaison Positions

The Committee will discuss liaison positions per the Statutes of the Associated Students.



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If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Senator Joshua Luers at senatorluers@asun.unr.edu

d. S.R. 88 – A Resolution in Support of Implementing Bicycle Paths in Washoe County

The committee will discuss and consider favorably recommending the legislation.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT*

Items heard under public comment may be for items either on or off the agenda. Action may not be taken on items raised under public comment. The Chair may elect to take public comment on action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

8. ADJURNMENT

9. NOTES.

Unless otherwise marked by an asterisk, all items are action items upon which the Senate may take action. ASUN supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the Speaker of the ASUN at (775) 784-6589 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.



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[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

88th SESSION

2020-2021

S. R. 88-

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
IMPLEMENTING PROTECTED
BICYCLE PATHS IN WASHOE COUNTY**

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

APRIL 14TH, 2020

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR LUERS AND SENATOR TORRES TO THE
COMMITTEE ON SAFETY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND WELLNESS

A Resolution in Support of Implementing Protected Bicycle Paths in Washoe County

1 *Whereas*, the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Nevada (RTC) serves to
2 “...provide leadership, vision, public policy development, and quality transportation systems through a
3 commitment to excellence and pursuit of goals and objectives that meet the community’s present and future
4 needs,”¹;

5 *Whereas*, the RTC designs a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every ten years;

6 *Whereas*, the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan builds upon the 2040 RTP, and will address, “...the
7 safety, mobility, connectivity and traffic-operating issues that are resulting from increased population and
8 employment growth in the region,”²;

9 *Whereas*, the RTC is seeking input from Washoe County in order to, “...inspire, innovate and
10 implement an integrated, efficient regional transportation system in our community,”;

11 *Whereas*, researchers at the University of New Mexico and the University of Colorado Denver
12 discovered that cities that had protected and separated bike lanes had 44 percent fewer deaths than the
13 average city³;

14 *Whereas*, 2019 was one of the deadliest years for pedestrians in Washoe County, with rates up 100%
15 from 2018⁴;

16 *Whereas*, the Reno-Sparks pedestrian fatality rate in 2019 was nearly twice the national average and 12
17 percent higher than Nevada’s statewide average⁵;

¹ <https://www.rtcwashoe.com/about/>

² <https://www.rtcwashoe.com/mpo-projects/rtp/>

³ <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/05/29/protect-yourself-separated-bike-lanes-means-safer-streets-study-says/>

⁴ <https://mynews4.com/news/local/pedestrian-fatalities-on-the-rise-in-washoe-county-have-doubled-in-last-year>

⁵ <https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2020/02/04/reno-sparks-pedestrian-fatality-rate-wcsd-students-hit-nevada-public-safety/4599682002/>

1 *Whereas*, protected bicycle paths would reduce pedestrian risk and improve safety for Washoe County
2 citizens;

3 *Whereas*, the University of Portland found that cities that implemented protected bicycle paths and/or
4 lanes saw a ridership increase from as little as 20 percent to as large as 170 percent⁶;

5 *Whereas*, in 2014, the Reno Gazette Journal found that, “About 3.5 percent of Reno's workers walk to
6 work while about 1 percent ride their bicycles to work, according to a recent U.S. Census Bureau report,”⁷;

7 *Whereas*, the implementation of bicycle lanes and protected paths are less expensive than road
8 projects and construction, with a 2014 analysis of the cost comparison going as follows a the San Francisco
9 budget study: “1 mile of basic protected bikeway was \$445,000 compared to 1 mile of Central Subway:
10 \$1,000,000,000, 1 mile of Doyle Drive: \$571,066,667 or 1 curb extension: \$78,000,”⁸;

11 *Whereas*, legislation from the 87th Session of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada,
12 Reno, titled, “A Resolution Advocating for the Installation of Street Lights on Evans Street and Enterprise
13 Road”, written by Senator Murphy and Senator Doyle, highlights student and civilian safety as a priority
14 issue⁹;

15 *Whereas*, the University aims to, “Create alternative transportation options for students to and from
16 campus,” in ASUN No Walls: 2025¹⁰;

⁶ <https://trec.pdx.edu/research/project/583>

⁷ <https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2014/05/18/reno-average-biking-walking-work-still-improving/9248179/>

⁸ <https://www.treehugger.com/bikes/1-mile-protected-bike-lane-100x-cheaper-1-mile-roadway-chart.html>

⁹ http://de5u0yfu98nbk.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/19165024/9_25_2019-Senate.pdf

¹⁰ <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/nevadaasun/2015/01/No-Walls-2025->

1 *Whereas*, the University of Nevada, Reno should support measures that increase alternative
2 transportation options that incentivize students;

3 *Whereas*, other universities have supported similar pedestrian safety measures, such as Clemson
4 University, which earned its silver status in the League of American Bicyclists in their list of Bicycle Friendly
5 Universities for expanding bicycle lanes on campus¹¹;

6 *Whereas*, the University aims to, “Strengthen the social, economic, and environmental well-being of
7 people by engaging Nevada citizens, communities, and governments,” in the University’s Strategic Plan¹²;

8 *Whereas*, the University of Nevada, Reno should support measures that promote the environmental
9 well-being of both students and citizens of surrounding areas;

10 *Whereas*, the City of Reno has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that references protected
11 bicycle paths as “Cycle Tracks”, prioritizes safety in the Plan’s RTP Guiding Principles, and explicitly
12 states the need for, “Physically separated bicycle lanes or wide curb lanes along arterials and collectors with
13 unobstructed sidewalks,” on page twenty-two of this master plan under the “COMMUTER AND
14 STUDENT DESTINATIONS AND NEEDS” subsection¹³;

15 *Whereas*, the City of Reno Master Plan states that, “Reno should implement an attractive and safe
16 bicycle system by expanding and improving the bikeway network and ensuring that new development
17 provides attractive and functional facilities at commercial and public destinations,”¹⁴;

18 *Whereas*, for the strategic plans of the University of Nevada, Reno and the City of Reno to come to
19 fruition, it is important that measures are taken to protect pedestrian safety;

¹¹ <https://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-moves-up-in-the-ranks-of-bicycle-friendly-universities/>

¹² <https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2014/strategic-plan>

¹³ http://rtcwashoe.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2017_BPMP.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.reno.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=22364>

1 *Be it resolved that*, the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada support a
2 proposition of implementing protected bicycle paths in the Regional Transportation Plan 2050;

3 *Be it further resolved that*, a copy of this resolution be sent to RTC Interim Executive Director Amy
4 Cummings and RTC Interim Director of Planning Dan Doenges;