

(1) INTRO SLIDE

Hello everyone and welcome back to the third Public Information Meeting for the NEPA/Design phase of the Arlington Avenue Bridges Project. I am Judy Tortelli, Project Manager for the RTC. You are watching a pre-recorded presentation that will run until June 30th 2023. This third Public Information Meeting does not have an in-person event. At the end of this Public Information Meeting is a link to provide your questions and comments.

Due to the amount of information I want to share with you, the material is broken-up into five mini-presentations. This provides you the flexibility to choose which topics you want to learn more about.

This mini-presentation summarizes the requirements and results of environmental studies.

(2) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review

RTC was awarded a federal grant to help fund this project. Federal funding requires that we comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, referred to as NEPA. The Federal Highway Administration is the lead federal agency providing oversight on this process. RTC has been coordinating with the Nevada Department of transportation, FHWA, and other state and federal agencies to complete the required environmental studies and identify permit requirements associated with construction.

The result of this collaborative process is a set of project commitments on how RTC will 1) minimize and avoid impacts to sensitive resources, and 2) how RTC will mitigate unavoidable impacts. These commitments are being compiled and incorporated into the design plans and specifications for construction.

The environmental studies are nearing completion, and we expect to complete the NEPA review from FHWA this summer.

(3) Environmental Studies

These are the studies we've conducted to support FHWA's NEPA review. The long-term impacts of the project are primarily beneficial or result in no change. The project will improve multi-modal transportation by providing wider sidewalks, buffering bike lanes from traffic, and improving transit stops. The new bridges and streetscape improvements will enhance the aesthetics of the area. The project is not expected to have any long-term water quality impacts and no hazardous materials concerns were identified.

The project does have some short-term impacts during construction. Let's talk about those in a bit more detail.

(4) Traffic and Multi-Modal Travel

During the two-year construction period, Arlington Avenue will be closed. This map shows the alternate routes that can be used during construction. We've estimated the time delay that travelers can expect during construction.

Cyclists can expect the least impact, with only one to two minutes of delay to detour around the Arlington Avenue closure using Sierra Street.

For pedestrians, walking east to cross the river at Sierra Street instead of Arlington, results in five to six minutes of travel delay.

Delays for motorists has the biggest variability. Depending on the direction of travel and which route the driver is using, motorists can expect between one and six minutes of travel delay.

(5) Parks & Recreation Resources

There will also be some disruption for recreation in the project area during construction. Most of the park and recreation resources in the project area will remain open, with the exception of Wingfield Park, which will be closed during construction for public safety. The Truckee River Walk will remain open with detours in place to route users around bridge construction zones at W 1st Street and Island Avenue.

Recreation access to the river itself will be maintained during most of the construction duration; however, there will be some restrictions to maintain public safety. Between July 1st and November 30th, the contractor will install barrier in the river to divert flows to one channel or the other. This is needed to create a dry work zone for bridge construction. During those times, recreation river use will be restricted to one channel. If you're interested in hearing more about how the project will affect the Whitewater Park, there is a separate mini-presentation on that topic.

(6) Threatened and Endangered Species

We have also coordinated with the US fish and wildlife service on potential impacts to threatened and endangered species. There are two protected fish species with potential to use the Truckee River in the project area – Cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Installation of barriers in the river to divert water away from bridge construction, has the potential to affect these species. To minimize this potential, the diversions are only in place when the typical spawning period for these species is over and water flows are at a minimum.

The consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service resulted in a finding that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely effect either species.

(7) Historic Resources

RTC has been coordinating with the Nevada Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to comply with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The intent is to identify and consider project effects on significant cultural resources, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects.

There are several buildings in the surrounding area that are either listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Nevada Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration are preparing final submissions and will be seeking concurrence on determinations of eligibility and findings of effect from the State Historic Preservation Officer. The Federal Highway Administration and the Nevada Department of Transportation commenced Section 106 Native American Consultation with project notification and continue to consult as the project progresses.

(8) Permitting

One of the final steps in the environmental process before construction can start is for RTC to get authorization from state and federal agencies who have jurisdiction in the project area. We are currently working on getting a Section 401 water quality certification from the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, and two permit authorizations from the US Army Corps of Engineers including a Section 404 nation-wide permit for impacts to the river and a Section 408 encroachment permit for alterations to a civil works project. Once the contractor is on board, they will need to obtain additional permits from the City and State Agencies.

(9) Questions and Comments

Here is the link to the survey where you can

- Submit questions or comments
- Stay informed by joining the email list
- And tell us what construction information updates you'd like to receive

The survey will be open until June 30, 2023. Once it's closed, the team will compile the questions and comments received, and responses will be posted on the website in August 2023.

You can also check out the project website anytime to get the latest information: [www. ArlingtonBridges.com](http://www.ArlingtonBridges.com)

(10) THANK YOU

Thank you for your participation and please complete the survey to provide your input by June 30th.