



## PUTTING FUNDING TO WORK

Since the legislature overrode the governor's veto in June, RTC-5 is becoming a reality. We have been working hard to implement the ballot measure approved by voters in November. Passage of Senate Bill 201 means the provisions of RTC-5 will begin in January 2010 with the indexing of fuel taxes to better keep pace with inflation. The cost to the public will be about two or three cents more in fuel taxes starting in January.

Our work program for this construction season is bigger than ever with the inclusion of projects made possible by RTC-5. People are going back to work. We have already heard from laborers to design teams who depend on jobs that RTC-5 will fund. To leverage the income, we sold bonds. Now RTC-5 is on pace to pump an extra \$80 million per year into the street and highway projects planned for the region in each of the next three years. We are committed to keeping you informed about the progress we make.

At the same time, we are making the most of federal stimulus money, a smaller but important pool of funds that will help us get some building projects done and free up money that may be used to improve and retain transit service in the short term. We continue to look for long-term solutions that will pay for a dynamic transit system, a vital part of our region's future.

*- Derek Morse, P.E.  
Interim Executive Director*



## FUEL TAXES IMPROVE VISTA BOULEVARD

Plans for widening Vista Boulevard between N. Los Altos and Wingfield parkways include adding two new travel lanes, turn lanes and bike lanes. The \$15 million fuel tax project will add a pedestrian path, landscaping and intersection improvements and will reconstruct existing travel lanes. Construction is expected to begin in September and finish by fall 2010.

More information is available from RTC Project Manager Doug Maloy at 775-335-1865, [dmaloy@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dmaloy@rtcwashoe.com). Sign up for free e-mail updates using MyRTC at [rtcwashoe.com](http://rtcwashoe.com).

## RTC BRICK PAVERS LET PUBLIC INSCRIBE MESSAGES

Whatever the message, carve it in stone with commemorative pavers at RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA in Sparks. Celebrating the one-year anniversary of the new transit center, RTC is offering engraved paving bricks for sale.

Pavers have room for three lines and a combination of 10 letters and spaces per line. The cost to individuals is \$50 per paver and \$150 per business or organization. Pavers will be available until Sept. 4 so new orders can be in place for the transit center's anniversary in October.

Pavers can be placed to honor friends, family, achievements and more. Businesses, teams, service clubs, organizations and individuals are welcome to participate. Applications are available at all RTC offices and transit centers and at [rtcwashoe.com](http://rtcwashoe.com) under Hot Topics. Forms must be returned with check or money order by 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4. Contact Deborah Hollis, RTC Marketing Department, 1105 Terminal Way, Suite 316, Reno, Nevada 89502, (775) 332-2147 or e-mail [dhollis@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dhollis@rtcwashoe.com).



## BUS RAPID TRANSIT IS COMING THIS WAY

RTC RAPID is the name for a sleek new type of transit service for Virginia Street between RTC CITICENTER and Meadowood Transfer Station. A limited-stop service, it relies on technology to move more quickly than regular bus service, a lot like rail.

The RTC began planning for bus rapid transit in 2001 with an analysis of the needs of the Virginia Street Corridor. By 2007, the RTC board decided to move ahead with what has become RTC RAPID, a three-year demonstration project funded by federal grant. In the first year of implementation, the service would operate daily every 10 minutes or so using eight 40-foot RTC buses. New, 60-foot accordion style buses are ordered and expected in service in 2010. RTC RAPID could cut as much as 10 minutes off the 4 1/2 mile trip from downtown Reno to Meadowood Mall.

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Go to [rtcwashoe.com](http://rtcwashoe.com) for updates on all RTC businesses and this season's street and highway projects

## FINDING FUNDING FOR ROADS MOVES INTO HIGH GEAR

RTC-5 is about to translate into new revenue for roadwork and jobs.

Voters approved RTC-5 and the legislature passed SB201 to allow a slight increase in Washoe County fuel taxes, but not before January 2010. To get projects out this construction season and for years to come, RTC is using bonding as a tool.

With the added fuel tax revenue stream, the agency will be raising about \$88 million through a bond offering issued by the county on behalf of the Regional Transportation Commission. RTC plans to do that for each of the next three years to fund about \$250 million in planned road projects in addition to the regular program it offers each year.

Bonds were offered for sale beginning June 17. The RTC received six bids. Morgan Stanley was the low bidder at 5.19 percent. If people are interested they should contact their broker to see what is available.

Bonds are often sold in larger increments and purchased by large financial organizations. Next year, a local angle will be introduced that will further support the local money under local control intent of RTC-5.

“We expect it may be possible to purchase these bonds in increments of \$1,000 and that could mean local and smaller investors,” said RTC Interim Executive Director Derek Morse. The micro-bonding is a process that could help to directly stimulate jobs in construction and related fields. “In theory, the interest would go back into the local economy too,” he said.

Among the projects planned for this summer using bond proceeds are Vista Boulevard widening, the Meadowood Interchange, the I-580 widening near Moana Lane and work on Robb Drive. Just this year there will be more than 40 projects advertised throughout the region to repair roads or add capacity where there is congestion.

Bonding information is available at [rtcwashoe.com](http://rtcwashoe.com) under RTC-5 or by calling 348-0400.



Sierra Nevada Construction's Eric Ballin is back in the driver's seat with projects stimulated by RTC-5.

## BUS RAPID TRANSIT IS COMING THIS WAY

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Also in the first year, many stops are upgraded to make the service stand out as uniquely appealing. Between the RTC RAPID stops, a booster service known as RTC RAPID CONNECT will link the remaining bus stops formerly served by Route 1.

More early upgrades use technology to speed the service. Later, RTC RAPID will have the ability to bypass congestion on Virginia Street to save time. Upgrades to stations would then add and improve station and service features. Eventually RTC RAPID would include platforms level with the bus, similar to rail stations. Closed circuit television and off-vehicle ticket vending machines for easy boarding are planned.

No existing projects will be delayed by operation of RTC RAPID. Instead, federal funding of the new line will help preserve other routes threatened with elimination. The RTC continues to look for innovative ways to preserve and enhance transit service in the Truckee Meadows.



## PROGRAM HELPS SENIORS FIND PLENTY OF WAYS TO GET OUT AND ABOUT

RTC Senior Adventures began in 2008 with the goal of increasing senior ridership on RTC RIDE through grassroots outreach. RTC's marketing staff schedules presentations at senior centers and senior living communities. They present information and answer questions about public transportation. When there is interest among those attending, outings can be scheduled to take the group on the bus to a designated location—a field trip. During the trip, guests learn how to read bus schedules and maps, use the farebox, signal for stops and more.

More and more seniors use public transit than ever before. On RTC RIDE, seniors and people with disabilities make up 31% of all passenger trips. During periods of rising gas prices and economic difficulty, riders are discovering that using public transit in the Truckee Meadows offers real savings and convenience. On RTC RIDE, seniors age 60 and above receive a reduced fare.

Follow this path to the program brochure posted online at [rtcwashoe.com](http://rtcwashoe.com) [Public Transportation > How to Ride Guide > Information for student and senior](#).



## HEARING YOUR VOICE

The RTC welcomes public participation as an important part of serving the transportation community. The RTC Board approved appointments to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee for terms through June 2012. Thank you to representatives Dakota Casserly, community at large; Mike McCaw, RTC ACCESS; Geoff Kettling, RTC RIDE; Roberta Planeta, RTC RIDE; and alternates through June 2010 Shaun Gray, RTC RIDE; and Art Gutmann, RTC ACCESS.

RTC also has a Citizens Advisory Committee for those interested in regional transportation. Named to the serve on the committee were Joanne Bond, Naveen Yelamanchili, Bob Schrimpf, Lisa Dunagan, Laura Langner and Scott Carey and as alternate, Jerry Purdy. For more information on the committees go to [rtcwashoe.com](http://rtcwashoe.com).

## RTC FAIR FOCUSES ON FUN, SENIORS, TRANSIT

Choosing transit is easier than ever for seniors who joined Regional Transportation Commission staff for the free Senior Adventures Transit Fair in May at RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA. Within minutes they found RTC RIDE safe and easy to use.

Seniors learned helpful tips on how to travel safely all around town. Guests got help with finding where RTC RIDE routes will take them, learned to read bus maps and schedules, toured the new transit center and got free RTC RIDE senior ID cards.

Others received free giveaways, viewed accessibility and safety features of RTC RIDE buses and participated in the Wheelchair Workshop offered by Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living and RTC RIDE staff. Local media covered the event to spread the word that transit means independence, whether seniors ride occasionally or all the time.

Each year, more than 2 million trips are taken on RTC RIDE by seniors and people with disabilities.

The RTC teamed up with Washoe County, the cities of Reno and Sparks, AARP, Senior Spectrum, Washoe County Library, Veterans Administration and the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living to coordinate the fair.



*RTC's first Senior Adventures Transit Fair gave guests a chance at one-on-one assistance with their bus needs.*





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## RTC ENGINEER HONORED



*Garth Oksol, left, tours the SouthEast Connector Corridor with Nevada history buff John Tyson, right, and community guests.*

RTC project manager Garth Oksol was named Young Engineer of the Year by the Truckee Meadows Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Oksol's main project, the RTC's SouthEast Connector road from Sparks to Veteran's Parkway, was recognized as Transportation Project of the Year by the group.

The ASCE cited Oksol's ability to earn the community's trust and respect following years of debate on the project. He worked to help differing populations better understand the project, encouraging an open dialogue, they said.

The ASCE Young Engineer Award is given to civil engineers under age 35 who show outstanding achievement. Oksol has been a leader in mentoring other young engineers and encouraging their interaction with others in the field. He meets regularly with his project stakeholders on developing issues related to the SouthEast Connector. He volunteers his professional expertise on community service projects for youth and is also involved with the Future City Competition for seventh and eighth-grade students.

Oksol is a 1998 graduate of North Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He joined the RTC in November 2002. He is a director at large for the American Society of Civil Engineers Truckee Meadows Branch and past chairman for the Northern Nevada Chapter of American Public Works Association.

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