



e-News Board Update

RTC Commissioners,

Your June 10, 2011 RTC update includes the Southeast Connector, FHWA and FTA community listening sessions, plans for Sutro area communities, bridge design for the Truckee River bridge and transit advances. Please call me with any questions you may have.

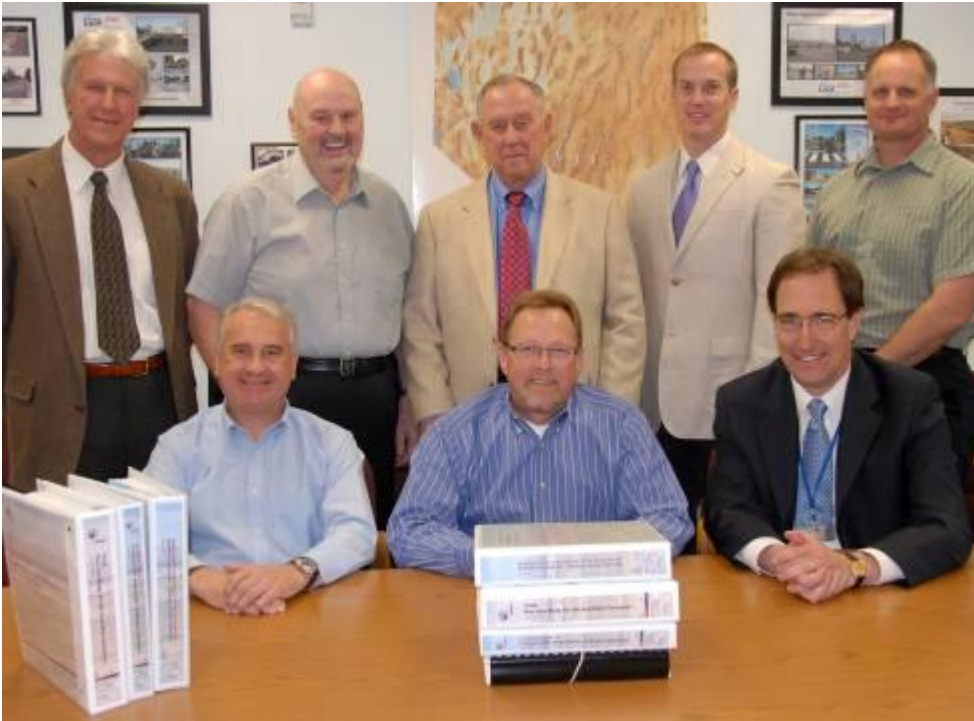
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RTC MOVING FORWARD ON THE SOUTHEAST CONNECTOR



Officials from agencies involved in the Southeast Connector project commemorated the signing of an application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that writes a new chapter in the project's future. The Section 404 Clean Water Permit will allow access to river and creek locations that will move the project forward to the construction phase. The application takes several months for approval and will be reviewed by federal, state and other agencies. Joining in the signing ceremony were, from back left : Jay Aldean, deputy director of the Truckee River Flood Project; Geno Martini, Sparks mayor; Bob Cashell, Reno mayor; Garth Oksol, RTC project manager; Jeff Hale, RTC engineering director. From front left: Bob Larkin, RTC vice chair and Washoe county commissioner; Ron Smith, RTC chair and Sparks city councilman and Lee Gibson, RTC executive director.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING REVIEW

The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration will be conducting the Transportation Management Area Certification Review of the RTC on June 14 and 15, 2011. The review is every four years under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. The purpose of the review is to certify that the metropolitan planning process the RTC is following is in compliance with federal regulations. Any partner agency representatives will be given the opportunity to share their thoughts on the process. The interviews with FHWA and FTA have been scheduled for Tuesday, June 14th beginning at 3:45 P.M. The interviews will be held in the RTC Planning/RTC ACCESS Facility Conference Room at 600 Sutro Street.

FHWA and FTA will also be conducting an open public listening session to solicit the public's views on the performance of the transportation planning process for the Washoe County region, as conducted by the RTC, NDOT and their agency planning partners and units of local government. The public listening session is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the RTC Planning/RTC ACCESS Facility Conference Room at 600 Sutro Street.

NEW PLANS FOR SUTRO AREA COMMUNITIES

RTC submitted a \$1.5 million grant application to improve Sutro Street via the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation, Community and System Preservation program. The application was made possible through the collaboration and support of the City of Reno, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency, Washoe County School District Police Department and the University of Nevada Reno Center for Advanced Transportation Education and Research. The Reno-Sparks Complete Street Project on Sutro Street is expected to improve health and safety, enhance the quality of life for local residents, promote economic prosperity, preserve pavement conditions and promote transportation choices through bus stop and sidewalk improvements.



The project's scope includes resurfacing the roadway, adding bicycle lanes, narrowing or reducing the number of travel lanes, installing and enhancing sidewalks, enhancing transit stops and improving the appearance of the corridor. The work would improve connectivity and walkability in the Oliver-Montello and Carville-Montello neighborhoods. It would also promote economic development in the 4th Street transit oriented development corridor, university district and medical regional centers.



BRIDGE DESIGN FIRM NAMED

The RTC entered into an agreement with engineering firm T.Y. Lin to begin designing the bridge over the Truckee River as part of the Southeast Connector. T.Y. Lin is an internationally renowned bridge design firm whose job will be to develop a sustainable design that reflects the Southeast Connector's important role in both transportation and environmental quality. It is expected that the design will accommodate pedestrian and bicycle needs and enhance pedestrian accessibility to the Truckee River while providing the needed roadway capacity to accommodate regional travel demands.



RTC RIDE MAKES ADVANCES

The RTC RIDE system experienced a 6.5 percent increase in ridership for April compared to last year—a near record level increase. Both cash ridership and adult ridership increased at more than 7 percent indicating that many of the riders in April were first time users. Ridership on RAPID, the RTC's Bus Rapid Transit Service, also increased 17.2 percent compared to last year. The substantial increases show that with high gas prices people are willing try to RTC RIDE. The RTC is moving to improve the

RTC RIDE experience by beginning the construction of the new federally funded RAPID stations along Virginia Street. These new stations will provide a higher quality passenger experience through conveniences such as real time information on bus arrivals, off-vehicle fare collection allowing passengers just to walk right on board, and better pedestrian access to surrounding activities. Construction is expected to begin later this month.