



e-News Board Update

RTC Commissioners,

Your Aug. 5, 2011, RTC update includes the RTC Community Working Group, welcome news on South McCarran Boulevard, keeping the lid on RTC costs, RTC INTERCITY'S new trip and Safe Kids Washoe County's experience with bikes on buses. Please call me with any questions you may have.

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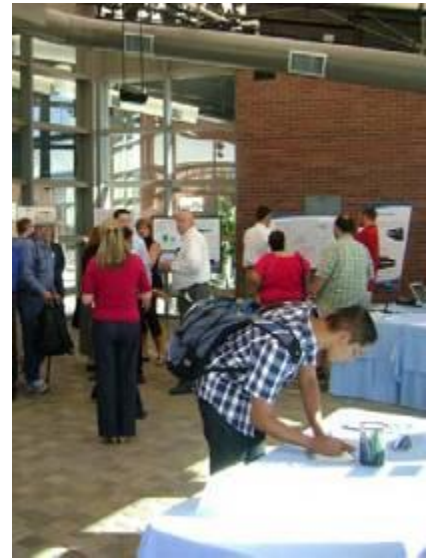
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COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP TO INFORM REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The RTC appointed seventeen local residents to the Community Working Group (CWG), which will help guide development of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). RTC's board approved the approach for appointing members to the community working group in April and called for volunteers in May. The group brings people representing diverse geographic and multimodal interests from across the region. Members include Randy Bowling, Kenny Brown, Mark Casey, John Dyer, Angela Fuss, James Kazera, Derek Kirkland, Annalisa Lawson, Gwendolyn Lomas, Lee Murray, Jr., Elton Rossi, Eric Sheetz, Andrew Simpson, Andy TenBrink, Jean-Paul Torres, Palkin Zed, and alternates Mike Lawson and Kevin Verre.



A wide range of opportunities will be provided for public input into the 2035 RTP development process. A series of public planning workshops will be held in fall 2011 to identify issues and goals for the regional transportation system. More workshops will be held in 2012 to identify and prioritize long-range transportation solutions. A public involvement website will provide an additional opportunity to submit ideas and comments. A separate Agency Working Group will be made up of technical staff representatives from appropriate local, state and federal government agencies.



QUICK ACTION OPENS ACCESS TO SOUTH MCCARRAN BUSINESSES SEVERAL DAYS EARLY

To minimize the impact to businesses during construction, I am pleased to announce that RTC staff moved quickly to open additional lanes five days ahead of schedule on South McCarran near the Meadowood Mall and Smithridge shopping centers. We continue to work on the first phase of a \$12 million project to reconstruct and widen the route north to Mira Loma Drive. The added lanes give much needed capacity in advance of Hot August Nights. RTC recognizes the importance of access to local businesses and worked with our contractor Granite Construction to speed things up.

Two westbound lanes opened from Neil Road to Virginia Street with no traffic delay. As a result of these efforts, the outside lane that serves right turns to Smithridge Lane and to Virginia Street is a welcome relief to motorists and businesses. Left-turn pockets at the intersections are open. Crews most recently paved northbound from Virginia Street to Longley Lane. Work continues through 2012.



Even before the South McCarran Boulevard construction began, Project Manager Brenda Lee met with the public to make sure plans took into consideration the community's needs.



KEEPING THE LID ON COSTS



RTC Commissioners Bob Larkin, left and Ron Smith, right, earlier this year welcomed two ceremonial checks that represent more than \$800,000 in utility savings and rebates following energy improvements made to RTC facilities that were among the RTC cost-saving efforts.

The RTC continues to make improvements in increasing efficiency and reducing overhead. The RTC has gone from 104.5 full-time equivalent staff in 2008 to currently 71. Since 2008, the agency has saved more than \$8 million due to the agency cost-saving initiatives implemented. The agency is also projected to save an estimated \$1-2 million annually due to the implementation of the turnkey model on RIDE, under the contract just started with MV Transportation.

RTC ADDS NEW INTERCITY MORNING TRIP

With high gas prices, RTC's INTERCITY service continues to face standing room only runs to Carson City. To address this situation, the RTC added a third round trip to the morning schedule. The additional bus now departs the RTC 4TH STREET STATION in Reno at 6:17 a.m. along with the current departures at 5:47 a.m. and 6:47 a.m., for three round trips in the morning, Monday through Friday.

"Carson City is pleased to continue our relationship with the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County and that the demand justifies the additional service," said Patrick Pittenger, transportation manager for Carson City. RTC INTERCITY is provided by Carson City RTC and the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County. Please call RTC Passenger Services at (775) 348-RIDE, or visit www.rtcwashoe.com for route and schedule information.



SAFE KIDS WASHOE COUNTY'S WALK 'N ROLL GETS KIDS, BIKES AND BUSES TOGETHER

Combining bus and bike trips can give kids great adventure in summer months. The RTC's Carol Perry joined the Safe Kids Washoe County Bike Camp to show participants how to safely place their bike in a bike rack, share tips on how to get the most out of transit service and why transit is a great choice for the environment. Students attend the week-long camp held in several sessions throughout summer for children ages 10-13 and can earn a free bicycle by completing the program funded by a grant from the Nevada Department of Public Safety's Office of Traffic Safety.

Read more at: [Sparks Tribune - Earning Their Wheels](#)



At left: Students in the Safe Kids Washoe County bike camp answer questions to earn prizes from RTC Trip Reduction Specialist Carol Perry at RTC 4TH STREET STATION. **Below:** The group poses to mark the occasion after learning how to get bikes on buses.

