REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Metropolitan Planning Organization

Board Update e-News

RTC Commissioners,

Below, you will find your June 2014 RTC Board Update e-News. This electronic newsletter will be distributed monthly the week following your Board meeting. Please contact Michael Moreno or me with any questions you may have. Michael can be reached at (775) 335-1869 or email at mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com.

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RTC'S INAUGURAL STUFF-A-BUS FOR SENIORS EVENT

Stuff-A-Bus for Seniors partner-agency volunteers hold up sleeved blankets donated by the Reno Aces Baseball Club.

Generous individuals in the community helped stuff one of RTC's new electric buses with needed items for seniors. At the Reno Aces ballpark on Friday, May 30th, people helped fill all the seats on the bus with new, essential items. Organized by Reno City Council member and RTC Commissioner Neoma Jardon, the event was a partnership of the Reno Aces Baseball Club, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, Washoe County and the RTC, which took place during Older Americans Month.

Thanks to the Reno Aces, those who donated to the drive received a "buy one ticket, get one free" deal for a future Aces game. Among the items collected were: 16 bags of hygiene products, 15 circulation fans, 19 bags of clothing and more than 30 Aces sleeved blankets. Gift cards, transit passes and more than $500 in cash donations were also accepted. Donations collected benefit our seniors through Washoe County Senior Services.

4TH STREET/PRATER WAY RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT

Tour participants get ready to board RTC's retro-style bus at RTC 4TH STREET STATION for the historic 4th Street bus tour on June 14th.

Following a comprehensive study which involved a great deal of public participation, the RTC is moving forward with the 4th Street/Prater Way RAPID Transit Project. The project will extend RAPID and use traffic signal prioritization to efficiently move travelers along this vital east-west thoroughfare. Four new electric buses are envisioned for the service, with a new charging station at RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA in Sparks.

One of the goals of the project is to connect people living in the corridor with economic opportunities. The project will help connect people to an estimated 38,800 jobs in the Virginia Street corridor, which is currently served by RTC RAPID.

Members of the community also told RTC improving safety in the area is a priority. RTC is planning wider sidewalks and bike lanes to safely accommodate all modes of transportation. Traffic signal coordination will help with the flow of vehicles. TIGER federal grant funding is being sought for the project, and the RTC is starting final engineering. Learn more at: http://www.4thPrater.com.

While the project addresses the contemporary transportation and economic challenges of the 4th Street/Prater Way Corridor, it also preserves and honors the past. Once part of the famed Lincoln Highway, 4th Street's neon-adorned motels were an early draw for visitors. Working in collaboration with the University of Nevada, Reno and Nevada Humanities, RTC is sharing the corridor's rich heritage. A digital, multi-media experience allows people to take a glimpse into the past â€" accessible at: http://www.RenoHistorical.org.

During the recent Positively 4th Street event, the public had the opportunity to check out historical locations along the corridor on either a free walking or biking tour or on a bus tour. The RTC partnered with Reno Historical, Historic Reno Preservation Society and Reno Bike Project to put on the tours.

KEYSTONE CORRIDOR STUDY OPEN HOUSE

Members of the public select their preferred design alternative for the Keystone Avenue Corridor at the McKinley Arts & Culture Center.

Members of the public were invited to discuss future possibilities for the Keystone Avenue Corridor, which is under study by the RTC, at a May 22nd open house. Information on the study's goals was presented, along with specific design alternatives for aspects of the project. In addition to having the opportunity to interact with RTC staff, members of the public submitted written comments and selected their design preferences. This was the third event in which the public was able to comment on the study, with future meetings being planned. Written comments are also still being accepted. Based on public input, the preferred alternatives will be carried into the draft report for the study.

The corridor study examines Keystone Avenue from California Avenue to McCarran Boulevard, and Booth Street from Riverside Drive to California Avenue. Limits also include: California Avenue from Cherry Lane to Newlands Circle, and Foster Drive from Booth Street to Keystone Avenue. The study includes the intersection of Keystone and California, and members of the public considered five design alternatives for the location. Possible improvements in the corridor include: the addition of bike lanes to Keystone Avenue or Vine Street through complete street improvements, reconstruction of the Keystone bridge over the Truckee River, and installation of a roundabout at the intersection with California Avenue.

Visit http://www.rtcwashoe.com and click on Hot Topics to view details about the study. Anyone who has a comment or questions may contact Amy Cummings, RTC planning director, at: acummings@rtcwashoe.com or (775) 348-0480.

9TH ANNUAL DUMP THE PUMP DAY

The Nevada Department of Transportation helped RTC spread the word about free transit using highway marquees.

On June 19th, RTC offered free rides on all of its transit services as part of the national movement, Dump the Pump. Local businesses teamed up with RTC to offer discounts to those who rode. On Dump the Pump day, RTC experienced its eighth highest ridership day in history! There were 31,630 rides, which is 6,025 more than the average weekday ridership for June. Our thanks to the Washoe County Health District for their partnership to promote the event and help bring awareness about the benefits alternative modes of transportation provide to our region's air quality.

SUN VALLEY BOULEVARD CORRIDOR STUDY DESIGN CHARETTE

Neighbors discuss their ideas for Sun Valley during an interactive workshop at Hobey's Casino on June 23rd.

Residents of the Sun Valley community shared their ideas to improve the Sun Valley Boulevard Corridor during a design charrette on June 23rd. The charrette kicked off a week of planning activities that included a workshop in which people had the opportunity to work with their neighbors to identify multi-modal transportation issues. Attendees gathered in small groups to come up with solutions.

Their ideas were then incorporated into design alternatives, and presented at a community open house on June 26th. During the open house, members of the community were then able to select their preferred alternative to advance the analysis of potential improvements along the corridor. Suggested improvements include sidewalk construction, crosswalk upgrades, bike lanes, intersection and drainage improvements and enhanced ADA accessibility. The study area is Sun Valley Boulevard from Scottsdale Road to Highland Ranch Parkway, and between Chocolate Drive and Yukon Drive.

To view the alternatives, and learn about the study, visit: http://www.sunvalleyblvd.com. Comments may be submitted to Roger Hanson, RTC project manager, at: rhanson@rtcwashoe.com or (775) 335-1901.

THE ROAD AHEAD WITH RTC ADDS NEW TIME SLOT

Beginning in July, "The Road Ahead with RTC" on KOLO TV will air three times a week during KOLO TV newscasts. Catch up on the latest transportation topics on Tuesdays during Good Morning Reno at 6 a.m., new on Wednesdays during the 5:30 p.m. news and Thursdays on the midday news at 11 a.m. A new topic airs weekly. If you miss a show, view the segments on our website, at http://www.kolotv.com/rtc, or on our Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/RTCWashoe.

INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

RTC will mark Independence Day on July 4th - however, people will still be able to take RTC to relax at Lake Tahoe on this holiday. The new weekend and holiday service from Meadowood Mall and the Summit Mall to Sand Harbor State Park will be in operation. Other routes will be on a Sunday schedule. Administrative offices and passenger services will be closed on Independence Day. Route and schedule information is available by calling (775) 348-RIDE or going to: http://www.rtcwashoe.com.

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