



e-News Brief
An update of current RTC issues

RTC e-News Brief for December 17, 2009. This e-newsletter was created to keep you informed about key activities and issues pertaining to *Your RTC*. I encourage you to share this information with your board members, citizen advisory groups, colleagues, employees and others who may find this information useful. If you would like additional information about a topic in this update, or other RTC projects and programs, please let me know.

Visit www.rtcwashoe.com to access *Archived Editions* of RTC's **e-News Brief** and to view upcoming **[RTC Board, Advisory Committee meetings and events](#)** and the most recent edition of the **["The Road Ahead"](#)** newsletter.



Subscribe to  at www.rtcwashoe.com to receive e-mail updates about RTC projects and programs.

RTC staff is available to present RTC transportation related topic(s) to your organization, company employees, and business and citizen groups. Contact Michael Moreno, RTC Speakers Bureau @ mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com to schedule a presentation.

On behalf of the RTC agency staff, I want to wish everyone a "Merry Christmas!" In observance of the holiday, RTC offices will be closed on Friday, December 25. For holiday transit service schedules, visit www.rtcwashoe.com or call (775) 348-RIDE.

Lee G. Gibson, AICP, Executive Director
Regional Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 30002, Reno, NV 89520
Ph: 775.348.0400 Fax: 775.324.3503
E-mail: lgibson@rtcwashoe.com
www.rtcwashoe.com

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Take A Safe Ride Home on New Year's Eve

This year's New Year's Eve FREE Safe Ride Home program will begin free transit service at 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve and operates until 4 a.m., New Year's Day. The hours of operation for the program this year are being extended an additional two hours. The annual NYE Safe Ride Home program, in its 25th year, is fully sponsored by several community partners.

The major sponsors for this year's program include the Northern NV DUI Task Force, Saint Mary's, Reno Radio Reps, KOLO 8 and the Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Other sponsors include AAA, City of Reno, and Morrey Distributing, REMSA, Reno Firefighters Local 731, RSCVA, Washoe County Sheriff's Department and our newest sponsor Wood Rodgers, a local engineering firm. With the generous support of all these sponsors, RTC is able to fund the total cost of operations, advertising, marketing materials and media that is needed for the free transit service.

Our appreciation to these sponsors for their support of this program to provide our community with an alternative and safe transportation option when planning their New Year's Eve celebration activities.

The free NYE service will be available on RTC RIDE, RTC RAPID, RTC RAPID CONNECT and RTC SIERRA SPIRIT. Route and schedule information is available at www.rtcwashoe.com or by calling RTC Passenger Services at 348-RIDE.

Make it a safe New Year's Eve and ride transit!

Reno City Council Presentation

On Wednesday, December 16th, I gave a brief presentation to the Reno City Council on RTC matters of special interest to the City of Reno. Topics included upcoming efforts in planning, RTC-5 project delivery, public transportation, and the development of Federal priorities for the upcoming Federal Fiscal Year.

Highlights included noting that the Meadowood Interchange, a long standing priority and ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) priority, is now ready for construction and the federal funds have been obligated. The RTC is also moving forward efforts to evaluate the merits of transit investments beyond the RAPID service including the street car concept. I will be working to make similar presentations to the Sparks City Council and Washoe County Board of Commission.

Outreach for Street & Highway Projects

The RTC's on-going commitment for public outreach is underway for the following engineering projects:

- Geiger Grade at Veterans Parkway Road Project
- RTC RAPID Year 2 Stations Project
- Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection Environmental Impact Statement Study (EIS)
- Vista Widening Project (Sound Walls)

Outreach activities are being conducted at various citizen and neighborhood advisory boards (CABs & NABs) within the project boundaries, as well as to other citizen and community groups, where appropriate. These activities serve to bring awareness to the public about the projects, but more importantly, to solicit public input for their design.

The RTC began its public outreach for the Geiger Grade and RTC RAPID Stations projects in November 2009. Geiger Grade at Veterans is currently in the design phase and is slated to be advertised in spring 2010 for construction next year. The RTC RAPID Stations project is also in the design phase and is scheduled to advertise in July 2010, for construction this summer and to be completed in time for the opening of RTC 4TH STREET STATION.

The public outreach for the Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection EIS project resumed in November. Information to the public includes updated information regarding the on-going evaluation and screening of alternatives in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as part of the environmental impact study.

As you are aware, the Vista Widening Project began construction this summer. The RTC will initiate public meetings in January 2010, to inform the public about the RTC Sound Wall Policy and solicit comments regarding the applicability of sound walls as it pertains to the policy.

For more information about these projects or to attend future meetings, contact these RTC project managers:

Geiger Grade at Veterans Parkway: Blaine Petersen, e-mail bpetersen@rtcwashoe.com, or by phone (775) 335-1871

RTC RAPID Year 2 Stations Project: Howard Riedl, e-mail hriedl@rtcwashoe.com, or by phone (775) 335-1872

Pyramid Hwy/US 395 Connection: Doug Maloy, e-mail dmaloy@rtcwashoe.com, or by phone (775) 335-1865

Vista Widening Project: Doug Maloy (see above contact info)

Camp Christmas Update

This year's donations at Camp Christmas came in at 423 items. New, unwrapped toys and gift items for seniors were donated from the public at Meadowood Mall and accepted by radio personalities from Alice 106.9 and The Salvation Army volunteers during the 53+ hours the camp was open.

The donations will be distributed in time for Christmas by The Salvation Army to children and seniors who are less fortunate in our community. The event received extensive media coverage throughout the Thanksgiving Day weekend.

RTC's partners for this event will be recognized by the RTC Board of Commissioners at their December 18, board meeting.

“The Road Ahead with RTC” on KOLO-TV

“The Road Ahead with RTC” airs on Tuesdays at 6:20 a.m. during “Daybreak.” This weekly news segment features experts discussing a wide range of transportation issues. Following each broadcast, webcasts of each interview will be available on kolotv.com for at least one month. To view interviews, click on this link: <http://www.kolotv.com/rtc>.

Scheduled interviews:

- December 8: Food for Fare
- December 15: Take RTC RAPID to the Mall
- December 22: RTC: A Community Partner Throughout the Year
- December 29: 2009 New Year’s Eve Safe RIDE Home

This is Your RTC.