



e-News Brief
An update of current RTC issues

RTC e-News Brief for February 26, 2010.

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.

Visit www.rtcwashoe.com to access *Archived Editions* of RTC's **e-News Brief** and view upcoming **[RTC Board, Advisory Committee Meetings and Events](#)**.

**The Winter 2010 edition of *"The Road Ahead"* newsletter is available online.



Subscribe to  at www.rtcwashoe.com to receive up-to-date information via e-mail or text messages about RTC projects, programs and *"The Road Ahead"* newsletter as it is posted on our website.

To schedule a presentation about RTC projects and programs to your organization, employees, business and citizen groups, please contact Michael Moreno, RTC Community Relations Officer @ mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com.

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RTC Presents Agency Update at DIRECTIONS 2010

Business and community leaders gathered on February 10, for DIRECTIONS 2010, the annual economic conference to gain insights about the region's economic challenges and opportunities. Through our partnership with the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, I had the opportunity to provide an update about the agency's work on behalf of the community. My presentation entitled, "Changing Times, Opportune Times" provided information about the RTC's accomplishments during the past 18 months and our goals for the future to maintain and sustain our transportation infrastructure.

We have many needs in terms of roads, highways, transit and long-term planning, but our resources for each is limited. With the downturn in the economy and the impact it has had on employment and the construction market here locally, the RTC has maximized the funding opportunities to develop the infrastructure needed to build and improve our roads, enhance our transit services and create jobs. We have to look at the best ways to get people around and how we can maximize our efforts and those of the other agencies. In these changing times, the RTC has found opportunities to increase funding, deliver more projects and put more people back to work, even earlier than we expected in some cases.

With the aid of RTC-5 since it was implemented, a community investment of more than \$114 million for roads was made possible during this past construction season and in early 2010. Two major projects in partnership with NDOT will begin construction in the coming months. These projects include the Northbound U.S. 395 Widening Project from Moana Lane to the Spaghetti Bowl (with an RTC-5 contribution of \$20 million) and the Meadowood Interchange Improvement Project (with an RTC-5 contribution of \$26 million). Together, these investments have served to support and create more than 3,200 jobs* right here in Washoe County. We hope to sustain these successes in the next three years with RTC-5.

Other funding mechanisms and opportunities for community investment in our transportation infrastructure the RTC is utilizing today include American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) stimulus funds, the leveraging of federal dollars with local funds, and a favorable bid climate for road projects which was evidenced, for example, with the \$9 million savings in construction costs for the Northbound U.S. 395 project.

Some of the future road projects I highlighted include the SouthEast Connector, the Pyramid Corridor Projects and the Moana Lane Widening Project, which under the direction of the RTC Board are being evaluated for the best course to move these projects forward.

Investing in public transit was also a key message I expressed at DIRECTIONS 2010. Public transit creates sustainability and livability, as well as opportunities for redevelopment. It also serves to boost our economy and support job creation. As you are aware, in October 2009, the RTC implemented RTC RAPID a premium transit service. As a result, ridership on this route is up 10% compared to last year. Future investments are underway for the RTC RAPID service and station enhancements which will serve to improve the transit experience for riders. Additionally, the procurement of eight new diesel electric hybrid articulated buses which will be used for the premium service are scheduled to be placed in operation in summer 2010.

With the recently constructed RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA, the current construction of RTC 4TH STREET STATION, and the introduction of RTC RAPID, the RTC is laying the foundation to promote development and create jobs in the Truckee Meadows. Another opportunity we are exploring, in partnership with the City of Reno, is the Streetcar Project on Virginia Street. This project is in the initial phase of study but is envisioned to support a vibrant corridor where people can work, live and recreate. Development of this high priority transit project is essential for the region's busiest corridor and enhances our opportunities to create transit oriented development throughout the Truckee Meadows.

The work we have accomplished is a result of the partnerships we continue to foster. Partnerships with the construction and development community, NDOT, RSCVA, and UNR, among others, as well as with local and federal governments. As we move forward, our mission is the enhancement of these private and public sector partnerships and with the community as a whole. Together, we are investing today to build our future for a resilient and prosperous economy.

To view all the presentations presented at DIRECTIONS 2010, visit www.directionsnv.com and click on the SPEAKERS tab.

*Source: George Mason University/Economics Professor Stephen Fuller and Associated General Contractors of America (28.5 jobs created per million dollar investment).

Vista Boulevard Widening Project: Community Meeting Addresses RTC Sound Wall Policy

The RTC hosted an open house community meeting on February 17, to discuss the RTC Sound Wall Policy with residents who reside within the boundaries of the Vista Boulevard Widening Project. A presentation to address options being considered for noise abatement was presented to residents outlining the RTC Sound Wall policy along with the federal and state regulations and policies we must follow and the noise studies that were conducted.

The RTC held public meetings before the widening project began and learned there are some special considerations as far as noise go. RTC took this opportunity to go back to the public to receive input about mitigating noise in the area now.

Decisions on work to mitigate noise will be up to the RTC Board. Public comments received from this meeting will be shared with the Sparks City Council late March, followed by a presentation to the RTC Board at the April 16, board meeting.

To learn more about this aspect of the project, contact RTC Project Manager Garth Oksol at goksol@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 332-2137.

To receive up-to-date information about this project subscribe to MyRTC at www.rtcwashoe.com under [Streets & Highways/Road Projects](#).

RTC Hosts Community Meetings on RTC RAPID Stations Development Project

The RTC hosted two open-house community meetings this week to introduce and solicit input from the public for the proposed enhancements of the RTC RAPID stations along the Virginia Street Corridor. The open house meetings were held on February 23, at the Meadow Wood/Courtyard Super 8 on South Virginia Street, and on February 24, at the National Automobile Museum in downtown Reno. These meetings provided an opportunity for the public to make comments and ask questions about this and other transit plans on Virginia Street.

The purpose of the RTC RAPID Stations Project will offer new branded bus stations with enhanced features to improve the current RTC RAPID service. The project will provide a faster, more reliable and convenient service, as well as a more pleasant and efficient alternative for travel in the corridor.

The RTC is also seeking public input on an alternative RTC RAPID south-bound route being considered on Center Street. This route alternative would propose to make Center Street a two-way street between South Virginia and Liberty Streets.

Public comments received at these meetings, along with a project update, will be presented by staff to the RTC Board at their March 19 meeting.

To learn more about the project, contact RTC Project Manager Howard Riedl at hriedl@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1872.

To receive up-to-date information about this project subscribe to MyRTC at www.rtcwashoe.com under [Streets & Highways/Road Projects](#).

Community Update Planned for Pyramid/McCarran Intersection Improvement EIS

Beginning in March 2010, the RTC will begin monthly community meetings to update the public about the progress of the Pyramid Way/McCarran Boulevard Intersection Improvement Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Information about the corridor improvements' purpose and need and proposed alternatives will be discussed during these meetings and offer a forum for the public to learn more about the project, ask questions and provide input. RTC staff will be updating the data used for the EIS purpose and need once information is received by our planning department.

RTC staff is in the process of identifying a suitable venue to host these meetings. I will advise you with details about the meetings when it has been finalized.

To learn more about the project, contact RTC Project Managers Bill Vann at bvann@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1877 or Scott Gibson at sgibson@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1874.

To receive information about this project subscribe to MyRTC at www.rtcwashoe.com under [HOT TOPICS/Pyramid Corridor](#).

2010 U.S. Census: Better Roads, Better Public Transportation

Efforts are currently underway to educate and bring awareness to the citizens of Washoe County about the 2010 U.S. Census. The RTC recognizes the importance and the benefits of the census data used to determine our fair share of federal funding our community receives, particularly in the area of funding for roads and public transportation.

More than \$400 billion is allocated to communities across the country based on the information collected by the U.S. Census Bureau. State of Nevada officials have estimated for every Nevadan missed in this year's census, Nevada loses \$917 per person, per year during the next 10 years. Every Nevadan not counted means we lose our fair share of federal funding to other states. In this economy, this is a census we cannot ignore.

Under the governance of the Regional Planning Governing Board, a local complete count committee was established, Washoe Counts 2010. Michael Moreno, RTC Community Relations Officer was appointed chairman of the twenty-member, volunteer committee whose mission is to develop and implement a grassroots community outreach campaign, working with U.S. Census Bureau employees and the Office of Nevada Secretary of State, to educate the public about the census and its importance for Washoe County residents.

One of the main objectives for WC2010 is to reach hard-to-count, hard-to-reach populations throughout Washoe County. A large segment of our transit ridership is considered to be a part of this demographic. In an effort to provide information to our ridership and the community as a whole, RTC's participation in the 2010 U.S. Census includes hosting a "Questionnaire Assistance Center" (QAC) staffed by the U.S. Census Bureau at RTC CITICENTER and RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA. The QAC will be open to the public Monday through Friday beginning March 19 through April 19. Transit advertising strategies include interior and exterior ads which has already begun starting with the advertising of local census jobs. In March, transit advertising continues with a national and statewide awareness campaign through April 15.

To learn more about the 2010 U.S. Census, visit these websites www.2010.census.gov, www.nevadacensus2010.gov and www.washoecounts.us.

Information is also available at Washoe Counts 2010 Complete Count Committee's information line at (775) 583-4708 or e-mail washoecounts2010@gmail.com.

2010 St. Patrick's Day Safe Ride Program

Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day! The RTC and its community partners are doing their part to help make our roads safe during this Irish cultural celebration. Generous sponsorships, including a grant from the Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), will underwrite free service on St. Patrick's Day from 6 p.m. until midnight.

Weekday schedules will be in effect on RTC RIDE, RTC RAPID and RTC RAPID CONNECT. Service will be extended for RTC SIERRA SPIRIT until midnight. More than 28 bars, pubs, restaurants and gaming properties throughout the community are promoting the Safe Ride program.

The program will be advertised online, television and radio, and via print ads in daily and weekly newspapers. Interior and exterior signage will be placed on the buses and at RTC facilities.

In previous years, the Northern Nevada DUI Task Force purchased customized 2-Ride, St. Patrick's Day bus passes which were distributed through RTC Passenger Services, Reno Radio Representatives offices and participating bars.

Sponsors for the 2010 St. Patrick's Day Safe Ride program include, the SHSP grant, the Northern Nevada DUI Task Force, Ceol Irish Pub, and media sponsors Reno Radio Representatives and KOLO TV.

For route and schedule information, visit www.rtcwashoe.com or call RTC Passenger Services at 348-RIDE.

“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:

- February 16: Vista Boulevard Widening Project – Sound Walls
- February 23: RTC RAPID Stations Project
- March 2: e-Bid Exchange Online Procurement
- March 9: RTC SIERRA SPIRIT Service Extension for WAC

This is Your RTC.