



e-News Brief
An update of current RTC issues

RTC e-News Brief for January 29, 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 Solicits Public Input for Moana Lane Widening Project

In keeping with our commitment for public participation with the citizens of Washoe County, on January 14, the RTC hosted an open house community meeting to introduce the preliminary design concepts for the Moana Lane Widening Project, an RTC-5 accelerated project.

The project proposes widening of Moana Lane from Virginia Street to the Interstate-580 (U.S. 395) ramps from four lanes to six lanes. In 2003, a corridor study completed by Stantec, a local engineering and design firm, confirmed the need for the widening, as well as major improvements to the Moana/Virginia and Moana/Kietzke intersections. The purpose of this project is to reduce existing congestion, increase safety, and provide future capacity for this important commuter and resort corridor. The project's design is currently 30% complete.

This project is one of many road projects identified in the education outreach conducted for RTC-5 as a priority accelerated project. The RTC Board approved project development funding for this high priority project in January 2009. Funding for this project is made possible through the Regional Road Impact Fees (RRIF) program and RTC-5 funding. The estimated project cost, in 2009 dollars, is \$23 million.

The RTC encourages local property and business owners to provide input for the project's design assisting the agency and its consultant during the design phase. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2011, with a completion date in summer 2012. Future public meetings will be scheduled as the design phase moves forward.

To learn more about this project, contact RTC Project Manager David Logan at dlogan@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 332-9509.

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

NDOT & RTC Partner on Two Regional Road Projects

The Nevada Department of Transportation, in partnership with the RTC, will begin construction in 2010 on two major road projects which are the Northbound U.S. 395 Improvement Project (from Moana Lane to Interstate-80) and the Meadowood Interchange Improvement Project. The improvements slated for these regional roads will provide motorists congestion relief and improve safety. These projects are partially funded with RTC-5 revenues.

The Northbound U.S. 395 Improvement Project was recently awarded by NDOT to local contractor Granite Construction Company. The project includes widening the existing freeway in the northbound direction (only) to accommodate auxiliary lanes to improve freeway ramp movements between Moana Lane and I-80. Additional improvements include: modifying interchange ramps; installing new retaining walls; widening bridge structures crossing over surface streets, the Truckee River, and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks; as well as landscaping and aesthetics.

The community investment for this project is \$31.5 million (RTC-5 contribution at \$20 million). Initial project costs were previously estimated at \$70 and \$85 million, but bids for this project were submitted much lower than original construction cost estimates. Construction is scheduled to begin February 22, and will take two years to complete. Approximately 900 local jobs* will be created. To learn more about this project visit NDOT's website at www.nevadadot.com click on Major Road Projects.

The Meadowood Interchange Project, a cooperative effort between NDOT and RTC, advertised for bids on January 21. Bids will be opened on March 4. This project will add another estimated \$42 to \$45 million in construction work (RTC-5 contribution at \$26 million) and also create additional jobs for northern Nevadans. Construction is expected to begin in May 2010, and take approximately two years to complete. More information will be communicated to you when this project comes online.

These new projects and the addition of the estimated \$73.5+ million investment will likely create approximately 2,094 jobs* in Washoe County. RTC-5 is working for our community.

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

RTC Receives Allocation of Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds for Roads

CFO Tom Taelour is in the process of preparing the second bond sale for RTC-5 funding. This next bond sale for roads, totaling approximately \$90 million, will have three components of bonds: Tax Exempt, Build America Bonds (includes a 35% federal interest subsidy), and Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds (RZED).

The RZED bonds in the amount of \$10 million were provided to the RTC from the Washoe County allocation. The interest for these taxable bonds is subsidized by the federal government at 45%. Since the interest on these bonds is taxable, the interest rates are higher than tax-exempt bonds, but with the high percentage of federal interest subsidy, the net cost to the RTC will be lower than tax-exempt bonds and they will provide an efficient cost of borrowing.

The bonds are scheduled to close on March 17, 2010, pending Washoe County Commission approval. For more information about the upcoming bond sale, contact Tom Taelour at ttaelour@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1832.

RTC at DIRECTIONS 2010: Changing Times, Opportune Times

At this year's regional economic forum, I am scheduled to present an update to the community about our accomplishments during the last year. The economic forum provides RTC an opportunity to showcase the work we do on behalf of the citizens of Washoe County and how we're doing our part to strengthen our local economy.

I will share with the audience our successes as they relate to RTC-5, upcoming projects, and goals and objectives for the future. RTC will also participate as an exhibitor at the event.

In a related note, I also had the opportunity to address the WIN membership at their January 29, meeting providing them with a 'preview' of my DIRECTIONS 2010 presentation.

DIRECTIONS 2010 are presented by the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce. To learn more and register to attend, visit www.directionsNV.com.

Public Meeting Scheduled for Veterans Parkway Extension to Geiger Grade Roundabout Project

The RTC will host an Open House Community Meeting to preview information for the Veterans Parkway Extension to Geiger Grade Roundabout Project on February 11, 2010. The meeting will be held at the South Valleys Library located at 15650 Wedge Parkway in Reno, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The project will extend Veterans Parkway to Geiger Grade Road and install a roundabout at the intersection. Improvements also include widening Veterans Parkway from 2 to 4 lanes from Geiger Grade Road, north to Rio Wrangler Parkway. Currently, there is no connection from Veterans Parkway to Geiger Grade Road. A study was completed in early 2009 that determined a roundabout would be the safest intersection control and would function effectively well into the future.

This project will correct many safety issues in the area, such as cut-through traffic on Curti Ranch Road, as well as an existing curve on Geiger Grade Road which has been the site of several vehicle crashes and one fatality. The project will also provide complete street improvements and improve safety for all users including cyclists and pedestrians.

The funding approved for the project is \$8.2 million using Regional Road Impact Fees (RRIF) and RTC-5 funds. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2010 with completion in fall 2010.

Project updates are available in the [weekly street project status report](http://www.rtcwashoe.com) at www.rtcwashoe.com under the Streets & Highways tab. You can also subscribe to this topic with MyRTC and receive e-mail or text message updates.

For information about the project, contact RTC Project Manager Blaine Petersen at e-mail bpetersen@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1871.

Victorian Avenue Reconstruction Project Phase 2 Update

Phase 2 of the Victorian Avenue reconstruction project started on September 14, 2009. Much of the reconstruction work has been completed.

The remaining work, which consists of sidewalk construction, bike paths, and landscape islands, as well as paving on the north side against an existing curb line, began in mid-November. The work was progressing well until a snow storm and cold weather shut the project down beginning December 7, 2009, until January 5, 2010. Work has resumed with intermittent delays as winter storms have continued.

The original completion date of this project was December 23, 2009. The contractor, Granite Construction, has added more construction crews to finish the project. To allow for continuing winter weather conditions, the estimated time of completion will be the latter part of February 2010.

Update of the construction progress is available in the [weekly street project status report](#) at www.rtcwashoe.com under the Streets & Highways tab. You can also subscribe to this topic with MyRTC and receive e-mail or text message updates about this project.

For more information about this project, contact RTC Project Manager Warren Call at e-mail wcall@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1881.

MyRTC Awareness Promotion Underway

To increase MyRTC registrations among transit riders, a new, targeted promotion was launched on January 21, and will continue through February 24, 2010. MyRTC was introduced to the public in summer 2009 and provides everyone the opportunity to receive e-mail or text message updates about RTC projects and programs of interest to them when they are updated on rtcwashoe.com. Subscription is quick, easy and clearly identifiable on our website with the MyRTC icon, which is illustrated in my opening statement at the top of this e-News communication.

By registering for MyRTC, transit riders are able to receive urgent transit updates via e-mail or text messaging. MyRTC is also an important element of the new Snow Route program. Everyone who registers for this service during the promotion will be entered to win a free 31-Day RTC RIDE transit pass. Five passes will be given away to eligible MyRTC subscribers on or about February 28, 2010.

The MyRTC "Free Pass" promotion is being advertised online, on RTC buses and throughout RTC transit centers.

Community Supports RTC's 25th Annual New Year's Eve Safe RIDE Home Program

This year's New Year's Eve Safe RIDE Home Program generated the highest ridership in the 25-year history of the service. A total of 7,326 free rides were provided between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., a 30% increase compared to last year. Free ride hours were extended two hours later compared to previous years, including extra service hours on 18 RTC RIDE routes including RTC RAPID, RTC RAPID CONNECT and RTC SIERRA SPIRIT.

The total cost of promoting and providing this service was fully underwritten by local sponsors and a grant award. The RTC Board of Commissioners gave recognition to all the sponsors at its January 15, board meeting. The Board expressed their appreciation on behalf of the citizens of Washoe County for their continued partnership to provide a very beneficial service for everyone to help keep our roads safe during the holiday. Local law enforcement agencies informed us there were no fatalities reported for Washoe County this New Year's Eve.

The sponsors for the 2009 New Year's Eve Safe RIDE Home Program are:

Northern NV DUI Task Force
NV Strategic Highway Safety Plan Grant
KOLO 8 TV
Wood Rodgers, Inc.
REMSA
Reno Firefighters Local 731
Association
RSCVA

St. Mary's Regional Medical Center
Reno Radio Representatives
AAA of Nevada
City of Reno
Morrey Distributing Company
Washoe County Honorary Deputy Sheriff's

Our thanks and appreciation to these sponsors for their support!

“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:

- January 26: RTC Board Update with Lee Gibson, RTC Executive Director
- February 2: Northbound U.S. 395 Improvement Project (Moana Lane to I-80)
- February 9: Veterans Parkway Extension to Geiger Grade Roundabout Project

This is Your RTC.