



## **e-News Brief**

*An update of current RTC issues*

RTC e-News Brief for July 2, 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](http://www.rtcwashoe.com) to access *Archived Editions* of RTC's **e-News Brief** and view upcoming **RTC Board, Advisory Committee Meetings and Events**.

\*\*Click on this link to read the **Spring/Summer 2010 edition of "The Road Ahead"** newsletter.



Subscribe to  at [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://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](mailto:mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com).

In observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, RTC administrative offices will be closed on Monday, July 5. RTC Passenger Services will be open on Sunday, July 4 and closed on Monday, July 5.

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## **Local Streets Receive “Road Diet”**

As part of the Complete Streets concept to incorporate improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as improved safety for all modes of travel throughout the region, the RTC is using a traffic management tool referred to as a road diet. The road diet reduces the number of lanes from four to two with a center turn lane, bike lanes and parking lanes. Recently Victorian Avenue and Mayberry Drive were reconfigured using this traffic technique.

Currently, we are in the process of installing these improvements on sections of California, Arlington and Holcomb avenues and Mill Street. Additionally, an innovative treatment called a shared use lane is identified with a new type of pavement marking that directs bicycles and vehicles in the same lane. The new share lane markings are known as “sharrows.” Green pavement will be used to emphasize the bikeway portion, an arrow and bicycle symbol also appears on the pavement.

Road diets provide many benefits, some of which include reduced vehicle speeds and crash potential, improved sight distance, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and more on-street parking. As we continue with the slurry seal maintenance of local streets throughout the region, the prospect of adding these improvements in other areas is possible. The RTC will conduct its public outreach to educate the public at neighborhood/citizen advisory board meetings during the coming months.

Here’s a link to the brochure that includes details about: [Road Diets, Sharrows, and Shared Lanes](#).

For more information about road diets and shared lanes, contact RTC Project Manager Scott Gibson at [sgibson@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:sgibson@rtcwashoe.com) or by phone at (775) 335-1874.

## **RTC Assists Local Jurisdictions and TMRPA on Shared Services and Governance Efforts**

In an effort to provide input and assistance to the local jurisdictions and TMRPA regarding the discussions on shared services and governance, I have begun attending meetings and working with staffs of the Regional Planning Governing Board (RPGB) and the Shared Services Elected Officials Committee (SSEOC). Both of these entities include representatives from the cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County and the Washoe County School District.

At the June 10 RPGB meeting, the board discussed governance models and funding alternatives for the program of regional planning. A majority of the discussion focused on funding sources such as contributions on assessed valuation and population; grants and other funding sources; funding of other regional entities, including RTC, WCSD and EDawn. The RPGB gave direction to staff to convene a meeting amongst finance staff of the local jurisdictions to further discuss these options. RTC has offered their participation at this meeting to TMRPA staff.

At the June 21 SSEOC meeting, the committee received a staff update on the status of the report required by the State Legislature as a result of the passage of AB494. This bill requires Clark and Washoe county governments to submit a report to the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the Nevada legislature concerning the consolidation or reorganization of certain functions performed by these local governments. Specifically, with respect to the functions of public safety, public works, and general government performed by these entities. The report is due to the Legislative Counsel Bureau by September 2010.

Peripherally, this may have an impact on the RTC as an “affected entity” although there is no legal definition of this term identified in the legislation. RTC will work with the committee’s staff team to assist them with information for reporting purposes pertinent to the RTC and attend future SSEOC meetings.

I will update you on future developments as information becomes available.

### **Northern Nevada Transportation Collaborative Plans 2010 Sustainability Summit**

Working in partnership with NDOT, UNR, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, and the Federal Highway Administration, and transportation professionals, the RTC has established a regional transportation working group. The Northern Nevada Transportation Collaborative (NNTC) was created to address regional transportation issues for livability and sustainability. Involvement in the NNTC will be open to interested individuals, engineering and planning firms, and governmental entities.

As Northern Nevada faces the challenges of diversifying its economy and exploring additional regional investments such as geothermal and other renewable energy resources, the NNTC seeks to find transportation solutions that will contribute to economic prosperity and livability. To accomplish this, the collaborative will host the 2010 Sustainability Summit aimed at promoting a dialogue between private and public sector stakeholders.

The purposes of the 2010 Sustainability Summit are twofold. First, the summit is to serve as a technical platform for transportation infrastructure professionals to engage in an exchange of ideas regarding the condition, direction and options available to continue moving our region forward in a sustainable manner. The second purpose is to establish a process and begin a reasoned dialogue on transportation, livability, and economic prosperity to benefit the region. Using resources from the private sector, public agencies, the general public, elected/government officials, and the University of Nevada Reno, the 2010 Sustainability Summit (through the Northern Nevada Transportation Collaborative) can broaden the foundation for enhanced planning, design, and integration of sustainable transportation.

The summit is scheduled for December 13-14 at UNR. Updates on the development of the summit program will be provided to you in the coming months.

## **RTC Hosts Summer Bike Camp**

In partnership with Safe Kids Washoe County, the RTC is participating in the Safe Kids Ready to Walk and Roll Summer Camp aimed at encouraging Sun Valley neighborhood youth to become independent travelers. The six one-week camps will teach kids, between the ages of 10-13 years old, how to safely reach the many recreational, educational and future work destinations available in their community establishing a safe and positive biking culture in Washoe County. Campers are provided with a mountain-style bike, helmet, lock and repair kit. Through active participation and attendance the kids can earn these items to keep.

RTC Trip Reduction Specialist Carol Perry and RTC Community Relations Officer Michael Moreno are working together to coordinate and present the Bikes on Buses option to the campers as one of their camp activities. The kids begin their trek from base camp at the Sun Valley Community Center to RTC CITICENTER where they learn about the RTC, the advantages of using alternative modes of transportation and how riding bikes and buses, as well as walking benefits their health and improves the air quality in the Truckee Meadows. The activity also includes a “hands on” exercise on how to safely load and unload a bike on the bus and wraps up with a ride on RTC SIERRA SPIRIT to the UNR Knowledge Center.

The summer camp program started in mid-June and will continue through the end of August. Approximately 70 youth will participate in the program.

### **“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:

- June 22: Local Streets Get a Road Diet & Bicycle Features
- June 29: RTC ACCESS Gets New Provider
- July 6: Take Transit to Artown

**This is Your RTC.**

