



**e-News Brief**  
*An update of current RTC issues*

RTC e-News Brief for March 27, 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 another topic of interest, please let me know.

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

Derek Morse, P.E. RTC Interim Executive Director  
Regional Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 30002, Reno, NV 89520  
PH: 775.348.0400 Fax: 775.324-3503  
Email: [dmorse@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dmorse@rtcwashoe.com)  
[www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com)

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**RTC-5 Becomes Nevada Senate Bill SB201**

SB 201 was introduced in the Senate on March 11, 2009, with primary sponsorship from Senators Amodei, Washington and Townsend and Assembly members Buckley, Smith and Atkinson. Additional sponsors of the bill include Senators Horsford, McGinness, Nolan, Raggio and Schneider and Assembly members Anderson, Bobzien, Gansert, Leslie, Ocegüera and Parnell. We appreciate the leadership from these lawmakers who recognize how important this measure is to the region.

SB201 authorizes certain counties (currently Washoe County only) to impose additional taxes on fuels for motor vehicles. This bill carries out Washoe County Ballot Question RTC-5, which was approved by the voters in the November 2008 general election. This enabling legislation will authorize the Washoe County Board of Commission to impose additional county taxes on motor vehicle fuel based upon increases in the Producer Price Index for Highway and Street Construction (PPI). The revenue generated from PPI indexing would be used to fund road projects only in Washoe County. Additionally, with passage of SB201 and implementation by the Washoe County Board of Commission, this would allow for bonding of \$80 million in just the first year for about \$250 million over three years that will be invested in new construction, rehabilitation projects and repair work. This provides the benefit of creating thousands of well-paying construction jobs and creates an economic stimulus for our local economy.

SB201 was referred to the Senate Committee on Taxation to be discussed at their meeting held on March 26, 2009. It is anticipated that the bill will then be referred to the Assembly Committee on Taxation. I will update you on the progress of SB201 in my next eNews update. To read the bill text as introduced, click on [SB201](#).

### **RTC Awards Construction Contract for RTC 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET STATION**

On March 17, 2009, the RTC awarded the construction contract to a local business, West Coast Contractors of Nevada, Inc. Shortly after opening bids, the RTC received two protests from United Construction and The PENTA Building Group, Inc. Our Compliance and Procurement Specialist, the Engineering Department, and the Chief Legal Counsel denied the protests after careful review and consideration. A Notice of Intent to Award was then issued in accordance with the RTC's protest procedures which started a 10-day clock for any protests of the award. No further protests were received and no appeals were made to the RTC's denial of the two initial protests.

Fortunately, bids for RTC 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET STATION came in much lower than the estimated projected cost. The low bid from West Coast Contractors came in at approximately \$12.9 million (for the low bid plus the selected alternates). Because this project comes online at a time when we are cutting service, it is important to note that 95% of the costs to build the new transit center are being funded through federal dollars. The use of federal funds cannot be used for existing transit operations. Stopping the project would, unfortunately, provide no relief from the service cuts necessary due to the decline in local sales taxes dedicated to transit. Additionally, about \$3.7 million of federal stimulus funds will also be allocated to this project. This is a critical project for the RTC, the downtown Reno community, and the region as a whole, and will provide much needed jobs in our community during the course of construction.

A groundbreaking event is being planned for April 2009; details will be announced very soon. Construction of RTC 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET STATION is expected to take about 15 months with an expected opening date in late fall 2010. West Coast Contractors of Nevada, Inc. was also the construction contractor for RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA which was completed last fall. Congratulations to West Coast Contractors.

### **Federal Stimulus Funds Allocated to Local Projects**

There has been much discussion about how federal stimulus funds for transportation will be applied in Nevada. Transportation stimulus funds must be obligated by 9/30/2010 and be "shovel ready." For Washoe County, about \$27 million has been allocated for the I580/Meadowood Interchange project, a project that is just about "shovel-ready" which is a specific requirement of the law.

Planning and design of the I580/Meadowood Interchange project has been in progress for about 10 years and is a significant congestion relief project for the region. This project will offer much needed jobs in our community. With that stated, the I580 project is the right project to obligate funds that meet the prescribed time frame, otherwise, should transportation stimulus funds not be obligated by SEPT 2010, we run the risk of having the funds lapse which means they could be taken away or re-obligated elsewhere. Similarly, RTC 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET STATION, as mentioned above, is ready to go. The bottom line of the stimulus funding is to get people back to work. These projects will do that.

Should you have any questions about the allocation of stimulus funds, please contact me.

### **Update on RTC CITICENTER Gas Leak**

As previously reported, there was a gas line leak resulting in the closure of the north building at RTC CITICENTER last month. Bids for replacement of the gas line have been received and reviewed. Gill Construction is the low bidder for the project with an amount of \$33,003. Lumos Engineering was hired for the gas line inspection and soil compaction testing. A pre-construction meeting occurred on March 16, 2009. The work should be completed at the end of March/early April.

### **RTC Sponsors Employee Health Fair**

The annual Health Fair for RTC, RIDE and ACCESS employees was conducted on-site by Renown Health on Thursday, March 5, 2009. This employer-sponsored event included a number of screenings and services, such as blood pressure, blood chemistry panel, lung function test, body fat analysis, vision screening, dietary display, health risk appraisal, hearing screening; and for the males, PSA blood test and for the females, bone scan. There were a total of 82 participants who attended this year's event. This annual event, as well as other

employer-sponsored programs, is demonstration of RTC's ongoing commitment to the wellness of its employees.

### **RTC Outreach Report, February 2009**

Included in this update is the February 2009 RTC Outreach Report.

### **RTC Media Report, February 2009**

Included in this update is the February 2009 RTC Outreach Report.

### **“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:

- March 24: RTC 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET STATION Contract Awarded
- March 31: Status of SB201 (RTC-5)
- April 7: RTC 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET STATION Groundbreaking

**This is your RTC.**

## RTC OUTREACH SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FEBRUARY 2009

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>RTC STAFF</u>
2/3/2009	RTC SIERRA SPIRIT Funding	City of Reno Redevelopment Citizens Advisory Board	David Jickling
2/3/2009	RTC SIERRA SPIRIT Funding and Transit Service Cuts	City of Reno Ward 1 NAB	David Jickling
2/5/2009	Transit Service Reduction Proposals	Community Open House @ RTC CITICENTER	Public Transportation
2/5/2009	Transit Service Reduction Proposals	Community Open House @ RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA	Public Transportation
2/10/2009	RTC-5 Legislation	Nevada Senate Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation	Derek Morse Angela White
2/11/2009	RTC SIERRA SPIRIT Funding	Reno Redevelopment Agency Board	David Jickling Roger Hanson
2/13/2009	RTC-5 Legislation	Nevada Legislative Breakfast	Derek Morse Angela White
2/14/2009	RTC Transit Services	REMSA Health Fair @ Scheels	Sue Sherman
2/18/2009	Transit Field Trip to RTC CITICENTER and Facility Operations	Brown Elementary School 3rd Grade Class	Marvel Reed Bob Turley
2/18/2009	SouthEast Connector Project	International Right-of-Way Association	Garth Oksol Michael Moreno
2/27/2009	RTC Tour: Engineering/RTC RIDE Dispatch Operations and Maintenance/RTC CITICENTER	Big Brothers Big Sisters: Big for A Day	Derek Morse Garth Oksol Paulette Van Dyke Manny Sandoval Mario Trinidad Michael Moreno

## RTC Media Report for February 2009

### Press Releases

- 2/2 "RTC's Derek Morse Will Outline RTC-5's Creation of 3,000 Jobs at Directions 2009 Friday"
- 2/2 "RTC's Henrikson Is Nationally Recognized With the First Standards-Based Grants Credential"
- 2/3 "Transit Passes Now Available Online at rtcwashoe.com"
- 2/10 "RTC Transit on Regular Weekday Schedule for Holiday"
- 2/19 "RTC SIERRA SPIRIT Extended to 10 pm for Friday's Game"
- 2/23 "RTC's Oksol Earns Award as Top Engineer"
- 2/26 "RTC Transit Service Changes Take Effect March 1"
- 2/26 "RTC SIERRA SPIRIT Service Extended To Midnight for WAC Tournament"

### Media Interviews/Contacts

- 2/3 RGJ Salary Survey
- 2/4 RLife RTC-5
- 2/5 KRNV Traffic Signals
- 2/5 KKOH Online Passes
- 2/6 KOLO RTC-5 Directions 2009
- 2/6 KRNV RTC-5
- 2/6 KTVN RTC-5
- 2/6 RGJ Michele Dennis Profile
- 2/9 RGJ APTA Contact Info
- 2/10 RGJ Salary Follow Up Questions
- 2/10 RGJ Meadowood Interchange
- 2/11 KRNV RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 KRNV RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 KOLO RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 KTVN RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 Sparks Tribune RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 RGJ RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 Capitol Public Radio RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 KOLO RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 KOLO RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 KTVN Remote on RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/12 KRNV Web Channel RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/13 KRNV RTC ACCESS Fees
- 2/13 RGJ Salaries
- 2/16 RGJ Stimulus
- 2/16 RGJ Employee Opinion Survey
- 2/16 RGJ Greg's email
- 2/17 RGJ Salary Bands
- 2/18 RGJ \$ Moved to Transit
- 2/18 RGJ Blog Info
- 2/20 RGJ Cell Phone and Car Allowances

2/20 RGJ Michele's Profile  
 2/25 KTVN RTC ACCESS  
 2/25 RGJ RTC RTC INTERCITY and RTC SIERRA SPIRIT Changes  
 2/26 KRNK Meadowood Interchange  
 2/26 KTVN RTC ACCESS ride along  
 2/27 RGJ Pyramid Connection Public Mtg.  
 2/27 RLife Photos for Story

**Media Articles: Web/Print**

2/1 RGJ, "Retiring RTC chief saw huge growth"  
 2/1 RGJ, "Directions 2009 to tackle most pressing issues for Nevada"  
 2/1 Las Vegas-Review Journal, "EDITORIAL: Exactly where have you been? States preparing to track your vehicle location"  
 2/3 Nevada Sagebrush, "RTC Cuts change routes"  
 2/4 RGJ, "Roadway Projects Promise More Jobs"  
 2/4 RGJ.com "Townsend predicts quick approval of money for Washoe RTC"  
 2/6 RGJ, "Legislature, governor should OK Washoe gas tax measure"  
 2/6 KTVN, "Directions 2009: Navigating Through an Uncertain Economy"  
 2/7 RGJ, "Business leaders' outlook for Reno-Tahoe: not great"  
 2/6 KKOH, Online Pass Store  
 2/10 RGJ "RTC to consider major service cuts and fare increases"  
 2/10 RGJ "Shovel-ready' projects take funding priority"  
 2/10 KRNK "Traffic signal synchronization from red to green"  
 2/11 RGJ "Washoe endorses building new interchange for Meadowood Mall"  
 2/12 KTVN, "RTC Considering Fewer Routes, Higher Fares"  
 2/12 Sparks Tribune, "Reno, RTC to take up transit service cuts"  
 2/12 KRNK, "Reno's transportation commission increases rates, cuts services"  
 2/12 RGJ.com "RTC approves big increase to van service fares"  
 2/12 KRNK, "Reno's transportation commission increases rates, cuts services"  
 2/12 Reno News & Review, "Carson City has a role in keeping state legislators in touch with the economic downturn"  
 2/12 Sparks Tribune "RTC board approves two rate hikes for Access buses"  
 2/13 RGJ, "Potentially stranded RTC riders protest"  
 2/13 KOLO, "Cutbacks Leave Tough Choices for Disabled"  
 2/13 Las Vegas Sun, "Reno-area transit officials cut services"  
 2/16 RGJ, "Changing RTC fares, service transfers burden to least able" (Editorial)  
 2/17 RGJ, "Nevada awaits piece of \$787 billion pie"  
 2/18 RGJ, "Only a few state transportation priorities to get stimulus money"  
 2/18 KTVN, "New Stimulus Law to Help Local Road Projects"  
 2/18 RGJ.com "Bigger increases in RTC salary ranges go to higher paid employees"  
 2/10 RGJ.com "Sierra Spirit extends service for UNR game"  
 2/23 RGJ, "UNR student gets close look at legislative process with school zone bill"  
 2/21 RGJ, "RTC engineer wears many hats for road projects"  
 2/21 RGJ, "General summary: Critics question pay amid service cuts; Analysis shows compensation in line with similar government positions."  
 2/21 RGJ, "About the Regional Transportation Commission"  
 2/21 RGJ, "Will the federal stimulus help Nevada?"  
 2/22 RGJ, "Accountability is one key to ending public skepticism"  
 2/26 Las Vegas Sun, "Leaked project list shorts Southern Nevada"

2/26 KRVN, "Preliminary list shows biggest Nevada county wouldn't get most stimulus dollars"  
2/26 KRNV, Bob Russell Interview regarding Meadowood Interchange and the Stimulus  
FEB 2009 Family Pulse, "Ask the Expert"

#### **"The Road Ahead" Interviews on KOLO-TV**

- *February 3: RTC-5 Approval Would Create Jobs*  
Felicia Archer shared the economic good news. Legislative approval of RTC-5 would allow RTC to create 3,000 jobs and better roads.
- *February 10: What RTC-5 Means to the Construction Industry*  
John Madole, executive director of the Nevada Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, commented on the upcoming construction season and what legislative approval of RTC-5 would mean to AGC members.
- *February 17: RTC Reduces Expenses to Preserve Services As Much As Possible*  
Tom Taelour detailed the measures RTC has taken to keep pace with these trying economic times.
- *February 24: Economic Stimulus for Road Projects*  
Bob Russell reviewed how the federal stimulus plan and legislative approval of RTC-5 will pump money, jobs and new roads into our region.