



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

RTC e-News Brief for March 13, 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.

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**RTC Board Approves Fare Increases/Additional Transit Cuts**

At a public hearing on February 12, the RTC Board approved a significant service reduction to RTC RIDE and fare increase on RTC ACCESS. The RTC RIDE service reduction will take effect May 3, 2009, and affects 16 of RTC RIDE's 25 routes. Most routes will see a reduction in frequency during the middle of the day and span of service on the weekends. Two routes, 14A serving the airport, and 19 serving Wells Avenue were recommended for complete elimination.

However, public testimony resulted in the Board directing staff to develop a new route combining the strongest segments of Routes 14A and 19.

The vast majority of public testimony at the public hearing was in response to the recommended fare increase on RTC ACCESS. To reduce demand and save approximately \$1.0 million in annual operating costs, staff recommended fares be increased from \$1.75 in the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) service area, and \$3.50 beyond the ADA service area, to \$4.00 and \$8.00, respectively. After hearing nearly two hours of public testimony, the Board adopted a two-step adjustment with fares increasing to \$2.50/\$5.00 on May 3, and increasing to \$3.00/\$6.00 on August 30. Additional cuts of up to 20% are projected for RTC RIDE service on August 30, 2009.

To minimize the impact in the short term, with the hope the economy turns around, the RTC implemented several rounds of cost cutting measures over the last 24 months including hiring freezes, restricted travel and training, deferred capital investments, and elimination of merit increases, performance bonuses and overtime for staff and management. These measures have cumulatively provided \$5 million to mitigate cuts in transit service against the projected \$1.1 billion shortfall for the public transportation program over the next 30+ years. Even with these cost saving measures, reductions in transit service and fare increases are still necessary at this time.

### **Open House Scheduled for Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection Project**

The RTC, acting on behalf of the Nevada Department of Transportation, and in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration hosted a Public Information Open House to share information on a set of potential solutions for the Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection project. The Community Open House was held on Wednesday, March 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lazy 5 Community Center located at 7100 Pyramid Highway in Sparks. Approximately 100 residents attended the open house.

The project is studying long-term transportation improvements along the Pyramid Highway corridor from Queen Way to Calle de la Plata, and improving east/west connections from the Sparks urban core to US 395. Project representatives were available to discuss the project, the potential alternatives, and answer any questions. The public was encouraged to provide input for the project.

To learn more about the project visit [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com) and click on HOT TOPICS/Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection Project or contact Doug Maloy, RTC Project manager at [dmaloy@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:dmaloy@rtcwashoe.com) or by phone at (775) 335-1865.

## **Update on RTC/TMRPA Merger Discussions**

At a joint meeting on February 12, between the RTC Board of Commissioners and the Regional Planning Governing Board, the members approved a motion to suspend merger talks at this time and requested staff to prepare information for future agenda items to discuss common issues, increased coordination and collaboration, as well as efficiency and cost effectiveness. The members will now meet on a quarterly basis, or as needed. The next joint meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2009, at Reno City Council Chambers at 2:00 p.m.

## **RGJ Articles about RTC Salaries**

On February 22, the Reno Gazette-Journal (RGJ) published an article pertaining to RTC management and staff payroll information. This information was made available as a result of a "public records" request from the RGJ to RTC and other public employers in Washoe County. RTC staff worked closely with the RGJ to provide all information relating to positions and salaries. The article included an interview with an RTC staff member, as well as information about bus driver wages.

An additional article was published on March 11 detailing additional pay cuts of 3.5% by the agency's senior management team. The salary reductions for top administrators is in addition to the 8.3% salary reductions already implemented for all agency staff through elimination of merit increases, cost-of-living adjustments, longevity and performance bonuses that would have been effective in calendar year 2009.

Should you have any questions about the article, please contact me or RTC Marketing Director Angela White at [awhite@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:awhite@rtcwashoe.com) or by phone at (775) 335-1883.

## **Community Partners Sponsor St. Patrick's Day Safe Ride Home**

With the generous support of the Northern Nevada DUI Task Force, Reno Radio Representatives (RRR) and Ceol Irish Pub, free 2-RIDE bus passes will be available to the public through RRR radio stations beginning on March 2-13, while supplies last. On St. Patrick's Day, participating pubs and drinking establishments throughout Reno and Sparks will have a limited supply of passes to distribute to their patrons (for a listing of locations visit [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com)).

The program was developed in 2004 to bring awareness to the public to celebrate responsibly and consider using public transit or other alternatives to travel safely during the Irish holiday. The free bus passes are valid March 17-19.

## **RTC Outreach Report, January 2009**

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

## **RTC Media Report, January 2009**

Included in this update is the January 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](http://www.kolotv.com/rtc) for at least one month. To view interviews, click on this link: <http://www.kolotv.com/rtc>.

Scheduled interviews:

- February 24: Federal Stimulus Package Impacts for the RTC
- March 3: Pyramid Hwy/US 395 Connection Project Open House
- March 10: St. Patrick’s Day Safe Ride Home Program
- March 17: How RTC SMART TRIPS Helps in This Economy

**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 KRNV 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 KRNV "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 KRNV, "Reno's transportation commission increases rates, cuts services"  
 2/12 RGJ.com "RTC approves big increase to van service fares"  
 2/12 KRNV, "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.