



e-News Brief
An update of current RTC issues

RTC e-News Brief for May 13, 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**, view upcoming **RTC Board, Advisory Committee Meetings and Events** and the most recent edition of the **"The Road Ahead"** newsletter.



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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2nd Community Meeting Set for Pyramid/McCarran Intersection Improvement EIS

The RTC will host the second open house event in a series of bi-monthly community meetings for the Pyramid/McCarran Intersection Improvement EIS on May 26. The event will be held at The Nugget in Sparks in the Bonanza meeting rooms from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. RTC staff will provide the public with information pertaining to questions/concerns expressed at the March 24 open house. This information will be supplemented with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document which will serve to clarify some of the misinformation about the EIS. The FAQ's will be posted on our website by the meeting date. A public comment period will also be part of the community meeting program.

Additionally, representatives from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) will present information about the Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition process and compliance with the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Nevada legislation passed under NRS.342).

In the interim, the RTC is working with a group comprised of representatives from the Catholic Diocese of Reno, parishioners from Immaculate Conception Church and Village Green residents to better understand the challenges and concerns from all parties and discuss ideas, project design and solutions that will benefit these communities and the region as a whole.

To receive up-to-date information about this project and future meetings, subscribe to MyRTC at www.rtcwashoe.com when viewing this topic.

To learn more about the EIS, share your ideas and suggestions or ask questions, contact RTC Project Manager Scott Gibson at sgibson@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1874 or Bill Vann at bvann@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1877.

RTC Board Awards Paratransit Contract to First Transit, Inc.

At the special board meeting held on April 30, the RTC Board awarded a \$30.4 million contract to First Transit, Inc. to operate the community's paratransit service, RTC ACCESS. First Transit, which also operates RTC RIDE, will manage RTC ACCESS for five years, with an option to continue another two. The new contract becomes effective on July 1, 2010.

RTC ACCESS is the paratransit service for people with disabilities who cannot ride RTC RIDE independently some or all of the time. The service provides door-to-door, prescheduled transportation for people who meet the eligibility criteria of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These passengers rely on RTC ACCESS for independence and mobility for transportation to medical appointments, employment, grocery shopping and social activities, among other needs.

RTC ACCESS provides 238,000 rides per year at a cost of approximately \$5 million.

Thousands Served with Free Transit Service on St. Patrick's Day

The 2010 St. Patrick's Day Safe RIDE program provided free rides on RTC transit services, with extended service on RTC SIERRA SPIRIT from 6 p.m. to midnight. The free service was made possible with the generous support of our continuing sponsors, with the addition of a new sponsor this year. Our community sponsors include the Northern Nevada DUI Task Force, media sponsors Reno Radio Representatives and KOLO 8 TV, Ceol IRISH PUB, and our newest partner, the Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

In previous years, the St. Patrick's Day Safe RIDE program offered a limited number of free bus passes to ride transit during the holiday. This year, the sponsored free bus service made the program available to more people offering a reliable transit alternative for a safe celebration to help keep our streets safe. The result was 4,645 rides! In comparison to 2008, the use of the St. Patrick's Day passes peaked at 822 free rides taken.

In addition to our financial contributors, promotional sponsors included more than 70 bars, pubs, restaurants and casinos throughout the community promoting the program to their patrons. Promotion of the 2010 St. Patrick's Day Safe RIDE program consisted of considerable media advertising on television, radio, newsprint and web ads, as well as brochures, posters and 10,000-message specific drink coasters distributed throughout the community at various pubs, bars, restaurants and casino/hotel properties.

Without the sponsorship support from our community partners, and the goodwill of local businesses promoting responsible drinking, programs like these would not be viable, improving and sustaining the region's quality of life for safer streets and highways.

The RTC Board of Commission and staff gave recognition to the program sponsors at their meeting held on April 16.

Make A Difference and Participate in Bike to Work Week

Riding your bike is not only good for your health but good for the environment with less cars on the road emitting fuel emissions. Bike to Work Week (BTWW) is scheduled for May 15-21, through a coalition of community partners including the RTC.

This year's program will again feature a friendly Commuter Challenge competition between area businesses to encourage employees to participate and awards going to workplaces with the highest percentage of employee participation.

Visit www.bikenevada.org to register and learn more about BTWW and a chance to win \$500 towards a new bike or bicycle gear. Registered riders can also receive a free cup of coffee at one of the [participating commuter coffee shops](#). Everyone who commits to riding their bike at least once during BTWW will receive a gift certificate for 10% off commuter merchandise at participating bike shops listed on the website.

As a community service, the RTC offers a free, web-based bike buddy/carpool ride match service through [RTC SMART TRIPS](#) (click on the hyperlink for details).

For additional information about RTC SMART TRIPS and BTWW, contact RTC Trip Reduction Specialist Carol Perry at rtcsmarthtrips@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1920.

RTC Senior Adventures Fair

Each year, more than 2.5 million rides are taken on RTC RIDE by seniors and people with disabilities, approximately 33% of all system rides. As part of the May 2010 activities scheduled for Older Americans Month, the RTC is hosting the 2nd annual Senior Adventures Fair on May 25, at RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA from 9 a.m. to noon.

Everyone is invited to attend the FREE fair which will feature information and exhibits from many local organizations serving the needs of seniors in our community. Other activities include the Wheelchair Workshop offered by Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living and RTC RIDE staff; how to read and use RTC RIDE routes, maps and schedules, and learn about RTC's accessibility and safety features on our transit buses. Visitors to the fair will have a chance to enter a raffle for items donated by local businesses.

Please note, RTC CENTENNIAL Plaza does not have parking on site. If arriving by car, please use the Victorian Square public parking area.

RTC 4TH STREET STATION Commemorative Pavers on Sale

Celebrate someone special with a Commemorative Paver that will be installed at the new RTC 4TH STREET STATION transit center. Purchased pavers can be engraved with a personal message or logo to honor someone special, a family member or a business and installed at the new facility which will open by fall 2010.

There are two size options available for purchase: 4" x 8" at \$50 for an individual, family name or non-profit organization; 8" x 8" at \$200 for business entities or organizations (logo option available on this size only), as well as to individuals who want more lines of text. All proceeds will be used to purchase the paver, engraving, installation and maintenance of the pavers over a five year period following installation.

To order, download an application at www.rtcwashoe.com under HOT TOPICS, click on [RTC 4TH STREET STATION Commemorative Pavers](#), or pick up an application form at any RTC office or transit center. Purchase applications will be accepted until May 31, 2010, at 4 p.m. at RTC Marketing Department, 1105 Terminal Way, Suite 316, Reno, NV 89502.

"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) for at least one month. To view interviews, click on this link: <http://www.kolotv.com/rtc>.

Scheduled interviews:

- May 4: SouthEast Connector Update
- May 11: Bike to Work Week
- May 18: Complete Streets: Motorists, Pedestrians and Bicyclists
- May 25: 2nd Annual RTC Senior Adventures Fair

This is Your RTC.