



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

RTC e-News Brief for November 25, 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 other RTC projects and programs, please let me know.

Visit [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com) to access *Archived Editions* of RTC's **e-News Brief** and to view upcoming **[RTC Board, Advisory Committee meetings and events](#)** and the most recent edition of the **["The Road Ahead"](#)** newsletter.



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

On behalf of the RTC agency staff, I want to wish everyone a "Happy Thanksgiving" holiday. In observance of the holiday, RTC offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27. For holiday transit service schedules, visit [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com) or call (775) 348-RIDE.

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**In this issue:**

**Virginia Streetcar Project Update**  
**Pyramid/McCarran Intersection Improvement EIS Update**  
**SouthEast Connector Project Update**  
**RTC Holiday Events Coming Up in December**  
**RTC Public Outreach Report, October 2009**  
**RTC Media Report, October 2009**  
**"The Road Ahead with RTC" on KOLO-TV**

## **Virginia Streetcar Project Update**

At the November 12 joint meeting between the RTC and the Regional Planning Governing boards, the RTC Board approved for staff to include the Virginia Street transit project in the list of federal priorities and begin exploring federal authorization funding opportunities in the new federal transportation bill. This includes completing the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Small Starts application and working with the City of Reno and other local governments to study development of this project to support transit services within the Virginia Street Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Corridor and, in the future, the other TOD corridors in the region.

To begin this work, the RTC has received approval from the FTA to revise a current grant for BRT planning to support planning for the Virginia Street street car project. The funding available to conduct this revised scope of work is \$400,000. The approved revision allows RTC to update previous planning work performed on the corridor (originally approved by the RTC Board on December 21, 2007) for the purposes of considering future transit options, including streetcars, in the corridor. RTC will use these funds to plan and consider alternatives for a mass transit solution on South Virginia Street that helps the City of Reno attain its goals for development in this regionally important corridor and allow RTC to advance BRT to the next priority corridor - 4<sup>th</sup> Street/Prater Way.

The RTC and the City of Reno are working jointly to look at funding options for the street car project. The FTA Small Starts program is a nationally competitive funding process. The FTA requires applicants to complete an Alternatives Analysis, obtain National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance and prepare preliminary engineering to be able to compete for Small Starts funding and obtain a construction grant. Funding to implement the Virginia Streetcar project would include a combination of FTA Small Starts capital funding and a dedicated local funding source. The RTC and the City of Reno will work to explore and identify opportunities to establish such a local funding mechanism. Every effort will be made by RTC and the City of Reno to develop a preferred alternative that is affordable and cost effective. Current conceptual plans indicate that the system can be built within existing right of way. This helps reduce cost and streamline environmental approvals.

## **Pyramid/McCarran Intersection Improvement EIS Update**

RTC Project Manager Scott Gibson provided an update to the RTC Board on the status of the Pyramid/McCarran Environmental Impact Statement Study (EIS) at their board meeting held on November 20.

With approval of RTC-5, the Pyramid/McCarran EIS is one of the priority projects that could be accelerated in Washoe County. Out of 66 intersections in the region, this intersection is the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst for congestion and has had 361 crashes during the years 2006 through 2008.

Since introduction of the Pyramid/McCarran EIS in May 2006, the RTC has conducted and presented information at twelve public meetings. Additionally, project managers have met

one-on-one with residents interested in the EIS on various occasions during 2008 and 2009. In 2010, the RTC will continue its outreach for the EIS to the community through public meetings, as well as meeting individually with residents seeking to learn more about the Pyramid/McCarran EIS.

To date, the project team (which includes local engineering consultant firm, Parsons) has analyzed 16 alternatives of which three remain for further analysis, as well as a 'no action' option. Staff reviewed the three alternatives with the Board along with the benefits and potential impacts at the intersection and surrounding neighborhoods. Staff advised the RTC Board the existing right-of way (ROW) corridors are very restrictive and staff will bring information pertaining to the ROW alignment at a future date. All three alternatives have similar footprints for the improvements. This EIS remains in development and further direction will be sought from the RTC Board.

The RTC Board took no action at this board meeting other than to acknowledge receipt of the report. Information about the Pyramid Corridor is available at [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com) under [HOT TOPICS](#). The information presented at the board meeting will be updated on our website by December 11.

To learn more about this project, contact RTC Lead Project Manager Bill Vann at e-mail [bvann@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:bvann@rtcwashoe.com) or by phone at (775) 335-1877 or RTC Project Manager Scott Gibson at e-mail [sgibson@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:sgibson@rtcwashoe.com) or by phone at (775) 335-1874.

### **SouthEast Connector Project Update**

RTC Project Manager Garth Oksol provided an update to the RTC Board on the status of the SouthEast Connector (SEC) Project at their board meeting held on November 20.

To initiate the next phase of the SEC, RTC staff recommended to the RTC Board to resume public outreach and begin permitting with various agencies, specifically the United States Army Corp of Engineers, and commence preliminary design activities of the SEC with Stantec Consulting.

The information presented primarily addressed mitigation proposals and restoration projects within the project boundaries. As a result of some preliminary analysis during the past year, the project team has discussed potential changes to the SEC. Those potential changes are as follows:

- The elimination of the Huffaker Dam from the Truckee River Flood Project Locally Preferred Plan
- The advancement of the Southeast McCarran Capacity Project
- Utilizing retaining walls or steeper side slopes to minimize effects to wetlands and other Waters of the United States

These changes would mitigate the impact on, and avoid additional wetlands that are currently affected by the approved alignment (RTC Board action on November 21, 2008). Additionally, with the advancement of the Southeast McCarran Boulevard project, the SEC project team has reviewed our traffic forecasts and capacity needs to ensure both projects

are coordinating efforts to consider project timing and impacts to each other. Additionally, at this phase of the project it is an opportune time to partner with various agencies and groups to accomplish similar goals to achieve the proposed mitigation plan contained in the SEC Plan Line Study.

Funding to begin permitting and preliminary design is in the amount of \$3.6 million, funds that would be available from RTC-5.

Discussion on this next phase of the SEC Project will continue at the RTC Board retreat in January.

Information about the SouthEast Connector is available at [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com) under the [Streets & Highways](#) section of our website. The information presented at the board meeting will be updated on our website by December 11.

To learn more about this project, contact RTC Project Manager Garth Oksol at e-mail [goksol@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:goksol@rtcwashoe.com) or by phone at (775) 332-2137.

### **RTC Holiday Events Coming Up in December**

The following holiday activities will occur as follows:

- Dec. 5            City of Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade: RTC's Historic Bus 109 is a parade entry with students from Lincoln Park Elementary School. Parade starts at 1 p.m. at Victorian Square.
- "Celebration of Angels" art exhibit at RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The artwork was created by Lincoln Park Elementary School students.
- Dec. 10-11      "Food for Fare" on all RTC transit services. Non-perishable food items will be accepted in place of fares to benefit the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Donations will also be accepted by bus drivers at all RTC bus stops and RAPID stations from people who do not use public transit services.

### **RTC Public Outreach Report, October 2009**

Included in this update is the October 2009 RTC Public Outreach Report.

### **RTC Media Report, October 2009**

Included in this update is the October 2009 RTC Media 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:

- November 17: RTC's Snow Navigation Action Plan (SNAP)
- November 24: Camp Christmas and the RTC Toyland Express
- December 1: "Celebration of Angels" Artwork at RTC CENTENNIAL PLAZA
- December 8: Food for Fare

**This is Your RTC.**

**RTC OUTREACH SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OCTOBER 2009**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>RTC STAFF</u>
10/2-9/2009	RTC RAPID/RAPID CONNECT Information Station	RTC CITICENTER	Public Trans. Staff
10/12/2009	RTC RAPID Launch Events	RTC Meadowood Transfer Station RTC CITICENTER	Marketing Staff
10/13-14/09	Discover Your Future Career Fair for Washoe County Transition Age Youth w/ Disabilities held at UNR	Washoe County School District & Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living	Lea Rogers Sue Sherman Paul Earnshaw Butch Dickman Shirley Bessey Lee White Elizabeth White Jacqueline Lynumn
10/15/2009	Transit Field Trip to RTC CITICENTER and Facility Operations	Miguel Sepulveda Elementary School 3rd Grade Studens	Brenda Hill Tim Goble
10/15/2009	Virginia Street Corridor Transit	The Davidson Academy Robotics Team	Roger Hanson Jack Lorbeer
10/21/2009	Transit Field Trip to RTC CITICENTER and Facility Operations	Kidzone Pleasant Valley School	Lavina Talanoa Deborah Drayton
10/23/2009	North Valleys Road Projects	City of Reno Ward 4 North Valleys	Garth Oksol
10/27/2009	RTC RIDE Senior Presentation & Wheelchair Workshop	Residents of The Villas Senior Independent Living Community	Sue Sherman

## RTC Media Report for October 2009

### Press Releases

- 10/01 More RTC paving on Summit Ridge Drive Friday, Oct. 2
- 10/05 RTC to Launch New Rapid Transit Service Oct. 12
- 10/07 Sky Mountain Circle Closure for Thursday
- 10/14 RTC Route 4 to Billingshurst Free Saturday Oct. 17 for Flu Shots
- 10/19 Paving Work to Close El Rancho Wednesday Oct. 21
- 10/22 Military Road Closed for Two Weeks Starting Oct. 23
- 10/23 Road closures on Meredith and Franklin Ways thru Nov. 10
- 10/26 Roadwork Closes Parts of Echo Avenue
- 10/30 Regular Schedule for Nevada Day

### Media Interviews/Contacts

- 10/1 RGJ, Interview Lee Gibson
- 10/5 Northern Nevada Business Weekly, RTC RAPID Technology
- 10/5 RGJ, Vista progress start date
- 10/5 RGJ, RTC CENTENNIAL anniversary
- 10/7 Sparks Tribune, Pedestrian Safety efforts
- 10/7 RGJ, Fire on bus
- 10/8 National Journal, Hybrid bus \$3 million grant
- 10/9 RGJ, RTC RAPID
- 10/9 RGJ, RTC RAPID correction
- 10/9 STAN'S Reno Blog, RTC logo
- 10/11 KOLO, RTC RAPID event
- 10/12 KOLO, RTC RAPID event
- 10/12 KTVN, RTC RAPID event
- 10/12 KRNV, RTC RAPID event
- 10/12 UNIVISION, RTC RAPID event
- 10/12 RGJ, RTC RAPID event
- 10/12 KTVN, RTC RAPID Ride Along from Meadowood
- 10/12 KRNV, RTC RAPID Ride Along from RTC CITICENTER
- 10/12 KTVN, RTC RAPID Live remote at Meadowood
- 10/12 RGJ, Pyramid/McCarran intersection
- 10/12 Sparks Tribune, Pyramid/McCarran intersection
- 10/13 KRNV, Street and Highway TRIP report
- 10/13 KTVN, Mall cops
- 10/14 KTVN, Pyramid/McCarran intersection
- 10/14 KBZZ, Lee Gibson interview request
- 10/14 KTVN, Pyramid/McCarran intersection
- 10/14 KTVN, Maps
- 10/15 KRNV, Stimulus and 4SS
- 10/15 KRNV, DVDs of RTC RAPID coverage
- 10/16 RGJ, Pyramid/McCarran intersection
- 10/20 KLCA FM, RTC RAPID live remote ride along
- 10/21 RGJ, Pyramid/McCarran intersection
- 10/22 KLCA, Matley construction project
- 10/22 KLCA, Armand the RTC RAPID bus driver

10/22 RGJ, Statistics on Pyramid  
 10/22 RGJ, Fact check with Bob Russell on Pyramid  
 10/23 RGJ, Citifare reference  
 10/23 KTVN, RTC RAPID ride along  
 10/23 KRNV, Pyramid/McCarran intersection board meeting discussion  
 10/23 Sparks Tribune, Pyramid/McCarran intersection board meeting discussion  
 10/23 KOLO, Pyramid/McCarran intersection board meeting discussion  
 10/23 KRNV, follow up questions from board meeting  
 10/26 UNIVISION, Pyramid/McCarran intersection  
 10/28 KRNV, Vista sewer project restrictions

### **Media Articles: Web/Print**

10/1 RGJ, "Veteran Washoe transit official to resign"  
 10/1 Las Vegas Review Journal, "FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS: Highway spending updated. Nevada slips another spot to 47th in state rankings"  
 10/3 Northern Nevada Business Weekly, "Stalled construction projects look for government jump start"  
 10/7 Standley White Reno/Tahoe Blog, "RTC RAPID to Start Service Along Virginia Street"  
 10/5 RGJ, "New RTC director: transportation projects key to economic turnaround"  
 10/8 Sparks Tribune, "Walk This Way"  
 10/9 RGJ, "Faster bus service starts Sunday between downtown Reno and Meadowood Mall"  
 10/9 RGJ, "Consultants make plans for East Fourth Street"  
 10/9 RGJ, "Agenda includes update on transportation"  
 10/9 RGJ Government Digest (Paratransit grants)  
 10/10 RGJ, "Vista Boulevard getting wider"  
 10/11 RGJ Editorial: "RTC takes great leap forward with launch of new bus service"  
 10/11 KOLO, "RTC 'Rapid' Cuts Down Commute"  
 10/12 Sparks Tribune, "Road, flood project issues make for busy City Council meeting today"  
 10/12 KTVN, "RTC Offers New ID Cards for Reduced Fares"  
 10/12 Sparks Tribune, "Pyramid Highway-McCarran Boulevard effort gains speed"  
 10/12 KRNV, "Transit authority launches new rapid bus line"  
 10/12 KRNV, RTC RAPID ride along (11pm)  
 10/12 KRNV, "RTC Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"  
 10/12 KTVN, "RTC Debuts 'Rapid' Line"  
 10/12 Northern Nevada Business Weekly, "RTC's 'RAPID' service a step toward rapid transit vision"  
 10/12 RGJ, "Washoe transit officials hope rapid bus system will take people out of their cars"  
 10/12 Univision, "RTC RAPID is quick and efficient"  
 10/13 Associated Press, "Rapid Bus Line Debuts in Reno"  
 10/13 Contra Costa Times, "Rapid bus line debuts in Reno"  
 10/13 Press-Enterprise, "Rapid bus line debuts in Reno"  
 10/13 Mymotherlode.com, "Rapid bus line debuts in Reno"  
 10/13 Mercury News, "Rapid bus line debuts in Reno"  
 10/13 RGJ, "Bus line looking for a few fast riders"  
 10/13 RGJ, "Renown offers flu shots" (RT 7, RTC SS)

10/13 Sparks Tribune, "Sparks council agrees to take feds out of Pyramid/McCarran road project"

10/13 Sparks Tribune, "A Bad Road TRIP"

10/13 RGJ, "Report: Reno-area traffic could be like Vegas in 20 years"

10/13 Stan White's Reno/Tahoe Blog on about.com, "Reno's RTC RAPID Bus Service: Speedy Commuter Bus Service to Downtown Reno"

10/13 SF Examiner, "Rapid bus line debuts in Reno"

10/13 RGJ Editorial: "Editorial: Nevada should let local residents run local governments"

10/14 KTVN, "Easing Gridlock" 5:30p

10/14 KTVN, "Easing Congestion, Pyramid/McCarran" 11p

10/14 KTVN, "Sparks Bypassing Federal Funds to Speed Road Work"

10/15 Reno News & Review, "Reno bus service added"

10/15 KRNV, "Federal Stimulus Funding Creates Construction and Other Jobs in Reno"

10/15 National Journal, "Buses Get Their Own 'Clunkers' Program"

10/16 RGJ, "Victorian gets makeover"

10/16 RGJ, "Government Digest" (CAC meeting)

10/20 KLCA, RTC RAPID live remote/ride along

10/22 RGJ, "Officials reluctant to oust 84-year-old Sparks woman from her home"

10/22 SF Examiner, "Sparks woman could lose her home to eminent domain"

10/23 RGJ, "Reno police cite 10 drivers in crackdown on aggressive drivers near city buses"

10/23 RGJ, "Locals seek to speed up Pyramid-McCarran project"

10/23 KRNV, "Pyramid expansion project makes Sparks residents worry about keeping their homes"

10/23 KTVN, "Police Onboard Bus"

10/23 KOLO, "Project Threatens Historic Home and Grandmother"

10/23 KTVN.com, "Cops Catch Bad Driving by Riding Bus"

10/23 Sparks Tribune, "RTC vote could shave four years, \$29M off Pyramid/McCarran intersection project"

10/26 RGJ, "RTC, parks department hold 'Trunk or Treat'"

10/26 Passenger Transport, "Reno RTC Introduces Region's First BRT Service"

10/26 KRNV, "Road Closures" (Franklin/Meredith)

10/26 RGJ, "Roadwork closes Reno street until Nov. 1"

10/26 RGJ, "RTC, parks department hold 'Trunk or Treat' "

NOV Nevada Magazine, "Don't Miss the Bus"

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

- *October 6: RTC RAPID Launches October 11*  
Reno City Councilman and RTC Chairman Dave Aiazzi announced how everyone can Ride the RAPID.
- *October 13: RTC Transit is a Safe Place for Kids*  
The Children's Cabinet's partnership with RTC makes RTC RIDE buses a safe place for kids in need. Mike Pomi, the new executive director of the Children's Cabinet, discussed how finding a safe haven could save a life.
- *October 20: Trunk or Treat with the RTC*  
Trunk or Treat is a super-sized way to help local kids celebrate Halloween. Felicia Archer shared information about this partnership of community agencies.
- *October 27: RTC 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET STATION Takes Shape*  
Chris Tschirhart, RTC engineer and project manager for the brand new downtown

Reno transit center, detailed the construction project that is taking shape right before our eyes.