



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

RTC e-News Brief for October 23, 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.



Subscribe to  at [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com) to receive e-mail updates about RTC projects and programs.

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.

Lee G. Gibson, AICP, Executive Director  
Regional Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 30002, Reno, NV 89520  
Ph: 775.348.0400 Fax: 775.324.3503  
E-mail: [lgibson@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:lgibson@rtcwashoe.com)  
[www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com)

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## **Update on the Pyramid/McCarran Intersection Improvement Project**

On October 12, 2009, the Sparks City Council unanimously approved a resolution in support of accelerating congestion relief improvements at the Pyramid Highway/McCarran Boulevard intersection. This project is currently funded with federal dollars and in order to accelerate it, it will need to be de-federalized and funded with local funds which is now possible with the voter-approved RTC-5 funding mechanism.

This intersection is one of the most congested and dangerous intersections in the Truckee Meadows. With additional revenues that will be generated with the implementation of RTC-5, this project is a high priority for our community given the heavy congestion occurring today and the expectation for it to worsen in the coming years.

The resolution urges the RTC and NDOT to accelerate the improvements planned at this intersection which if implemented, could be completed approximately four years earlier at a savings to the public of \$13 to \$29 million.

At the October 23, 2009, RTC Board meeting, commissioners took action and voted to de-federalize and accelerate the project but requested staff update the Board at the November 2009, meeting with a schedule of activities that will occur to develop and possibly construct the project, should the board move in that direction.

Sufficient funding, estimated at \$2.1 million, is available now to begin design activities, including completing environmental studies and repayment of \$1.5 million in federal money expended to date with the action taken by the RTC Board in December 2009, which authorized \$4 million from RTC-5 bonding for this project in calendar year 2010 and an additional \$16 million in calendar year 2011. The RTC Board will review the timeline and the funding needs at their next meeting and give direction to staff.

For more information about the project, contact RTC Project Manager Bill Vann at e-mail [bvann@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:bvann@rtcwashoe.com) or by phone at (775) 335-1877 or subscribe to MyRTC to receive e-mail updates about this topic.

## **Community Welcomes RTC RAPID**

The introduction of the RTC's newest transit service in the region's busiest corridor, RTC RAPID, was celebrated by riders during the first two weeks of service. Preliminary ridership numbers show an increase in ridership on the RAPID system. For weekdays, ridership is about 5-6% higher than what we were averaging in September. On the first Saturday of service, ridership was up 12.6% compared to an average Saturday in September. For the first two Sundays of service, compared to Sundays in September, ridership was up 17.5% the first week and 19.4% the second. We introduced the new service on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Riders have embraced the new concept offering faster transit service to travel to and from downtown Reno to Meadowood Mall along Virginia Street which shortens their commute time to reach their destinations along the route. There are 14 RTC RAPID Stations, which include RTC CITICENTER and RTC Meadowood Transfer Station, along the route (seven each southbound and northbound) thereby reducing the number of stops and providing faster service.

Riders that want to utilize the RAPID route but may have mobility issues or are a distance away from a RAPID Station can ride RTC RAPID CONNECT to a nearby station. There are several RTC RAPID CONNECT bus stops along the RAPID route riders can use to reach a RAPID Station.

The RTC is proud to be able to implement a new, innovative service that will increase transit ridership and reduce green house fuel emissions to create a more sustainable quality of life for us in the Truckee Meadows.

For more information about RTC RAPID and RTC RAPID CONNECT visit [www.rtcwashoe.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.com) or call RTC Passenger Services at 348-RIDE.

### **Bike to Work Committee Partnership**

At the October RTC Board meeting, the RTC received accolades from Bike to Work Committee chair Erin Dixon for our partnership with the group to organize this year's "Bike to Work Day" on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The annual event earned a Truckee Meadows Tomorrow 2009 Silver Star Award presented at the biennial event "Accentuate the Positive" held on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Dixon thanked the RTC for their support to promote an alternative mode of transportation across the region that benefits all of us with improved health and exercise; money savings and slowing the effects of global warming by not driving a car. Public Transportation's Carol Perry coordinated our participation with the committee and other community partners.

The RTC offers a [Bike Buddy ride match service](http://www.rtcwashoe.greenride.com) through our website at [www.rtcwashoe.greenride.com](http://www.rtcwashoe.greenride.com). Additional information is also available to join a car or van pool.

To learn more about RTC SMART TRIPS, contact Carol Perry at e-mail [cperry@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:cperry@rtcwashoe.com) or by phone at (775) 335-1920.

### **"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:

- October 13: Children's Cabinet Executive Director, Mike Pomi
- October 20: City of Reno's "Trunk or Treat" Program
- October 27: RTC 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET STATION

**This is Your RTC.**