



e-News Brief
An update of current RTC issues

RTC e-News Brief for October 9, 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 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 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 to schedule a presentation.

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My Commitment to the Community

As I begin my tenure at the RTC, I am looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities ahead. I am especially excited about opportunities to create and maintain sustainable transportation systems that will improve the quality, promote environmental quality, and help reduce the economic costs of services while promoting economic prosperity.

One of my primary goals will be to advance job creation through the enhanced street and highway program made possible by the voter enacted motor vehicle fuel tax increase. We must work during these economically challenging times to help create jobs by moving highway projects expeditiously through the engineering and construction process.

We must all move forward to address future transit service enhancements. Projects such as RAPID are critical to offering our customers a realistic alternative to automobile travel while reducing the greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing opportunities to create transit oriented development throughout our region.

The work the agency has achieved during the last thirty plus years is a tribute to the vision, guidance and leadership of our current and former boards; the outstanding efforts of our staff, and their commitment to the citizens of Washoe County, as well as the public for their widespread and continuing support of the projects and programs we administer on their behalf.

We have many challenges before us. Together, we can achieve the community's goals and objectives to quality transportation systems. With community support, **Your RTC** is committed to a sustainable future.

I encourage you to contact me or our staff if we can answer your questions. I look forward to working with you!

RTC Launches “The Start of Something Big”

The RTC is celebrating “Something Big”! On October 11, 2009, the RTC will introduce a brand new, premium service to the community, RTC RAPID and RTC RAPID CONNECT. On October 12, 2009, the RTC will host two public events at different locations to inaugurate the new services and celebrate the RTC’s 30th Anniversary.

The first event will be held at 11 a.m. at the Meadowood Mall parking lot adjacent to the RTC Meadowood Transfer Station located in the south parking lot off Meadowood Mall Circle. Local dignitaries and special guests will join the RTC to usher in the new service and mark the agency’s thirty years of service to the citizens of Washoe County. There’s still time to join us for the celebration, RSVP to Michael Moreno at mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1869.

Later in the day, the celebration moves to RTC CITICENTER. Beginning at 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., RTC staff will greet RTC riders with complimentary refreshments and souvenir canvas bags which will contain information about RTC RAPID/RTC RAPID CONNECT and a commemorative RTC RAPID button.

The events and giveaways are made possible through the generous financial support of our sponsors: First Transit, Sierra Freightliner, New Flyer of America, Club Cal-Neva and the Atlantis.

RTC Begins Construction of Vista Boulevard Widening Project

On Monday, October 5, the RTC began construction to widen Vista Boulevard. This long anticipated project, designed by the local firm of PBS&J Design Consultants and will be constructed by Q&D Construction, represents an \$8.6 million investment in the community through our Regional Road Impact Fees (RRIF) program and local fuel taxes, augmented by the new RTC-5 funds.

Regarding the City of Sparks' sewer interceptor project, which preceded the RTC's start of construction, this work is in the final stages of completion and is expected to continue until mid-October. For questions regarding the sewer project schedule and traffic control, contact Andy Hummel at the City of Sparks Public Works Department at (775) 353-2375.

Weekly updates of the construction progress will be available in the [weekly street project status report](#) available at www.rtcwashoe.com under the Streets & Highways tab or subscribe to MyRTC to receive e-mail updates about this topic.

For more information about the project, contact RTC Project Manager Doug Maloy at e-mail dmaloy@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at (775) 335-1865.

RTC Partners with City of Reno for Virginia Streetcar Project

The RTC Board recently made the development of the Virginia Street Corridor its number one transit priority.

The RTC staff has been working with the City of Reno Community Development Department to help create a new transportation system, the Virginia Streetcar Project, which supports a vibrant corridor where people can work, live and recreate. The RTC and its partners are reviewing a number of implementation and funding options to help make the Streetcar vision happen.

In the coming months, RTC and its partners will work to formulate a funding plan, seek federal funding opportunities, and look towards innovative delivery options.

Take RTC RIDE Route 4 to Free Public Flu Shot Clinic

In response to the RTC Board request to research the possibility of free influenza shots to the public, the RTC HR staff contacted the Washoe County District Health Department. The Health Department states that it is not equipped at this time to provide free flu shot clinics given their current budget constraints and staffing levels. The Health Department suggested we contact Renown Health with this request.

Renown Health, along with area hospitals, local Rotary Clubs and the Washoe County Health Department have partnered together to provide one free flu shot clinic this season to ease the impact of budget limitations affecting them all. The free flu shot clinic will be held on October 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Billingshurst Middle School located at 6685 Chesterfield Lane in Reno. The public is advised supply of the vaccine, however, is limited.

To reach the middle school, the public can take RTC RIDE Route 4. To schedule your trip, visit www.google.com/transit on our website or contact RTC Passenger Services at (775) 348-RIDE.

For your information, as part of the RTC Wellness Program for employees, the RTC will be offering free flu shots later this month to RTC, RTC RIDE and RTC ACCESS employees.

Transit Operating Statistics, July 2009

There were 8.30 million transit system rides over the last twelve months. This is 8.7% lower than the previous twelve months.

On May 3, 2009, service hours were reduced by approximately 9%. Span of service and/or frequency were reduced for most all routes.

In July 2009, there were 644,871 rides, 19% lower than last year. Average daily ridership at 20,681 was 20% lower than July 2008. Service hours were down 17% from last year; productivity was down 2.4% compared with last year.

Adult ridership was down 22%, as well as youth ridership at 25%. Senior & disabled ridership was down 5.1%. Senior & disabled ridership now makes up over a third of all ridership, the highest rate ever.

On March 1, 2009, four roundtrips were eliminated on RTC INTERCITY (41% of service hours). RTC INTERCITY ridership at 3,219 fell 41% compared with the same period last year. Productivity at 12.8 passengers per service hour is down 3.2%, compared with July 2008.

On March 1, 2009, service hours on RTC SIERRA SPIRIT were cut by a third (one bus). RTC SIERRA SPIRIT ridership was 27,250, down 39% compared with last year.

Productivity at 36.6 passengers per service hour was up 6.3% compared with July 2008.

“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:

- September 29: Celebrating 30 Years of Regional Transportation
- October 6: RTC RAPID and RTC RAPID CONNECT
- October 13: Children’s Cabinet Executive Director, Mike Pomi
- October 20: City of Reno’s “Trunk or Treat” Program

This is Your RTC.