



Timing is right to Build RTC 4TH STREET STATION

People ask why we are building a transit station when routes are being cut and fares are increasing. Simply put, the federal capital funds being used to build the transit stations cannot be used to operate buses. This is not the Regional Transportation Commission's decision, it is federal law.

Transit service, which served more than 9 million passenger trips last year, is primarily funded by a 5/16 % sales tax in Washoe County. That tax has been down each month compared to the previous year since April 2006 and is now nearly 25 percent less than it was just three years ago. Passenger fares cover less than 30 percent of the cost of providing a trip. So even though ridership last year increased to record levels, passenger fares are not sufficient to cover the cost.

Cutting bus service is something we do as a last resort. In these tough times there isn't enough money coming in to avoid some cutbacks. With hope, this will turn around when the economy recovers.

Building RTC 4TH STREET STATION is the right thing to do for many good and timely reasons. In the planning stages for nearly a decade, the RTC Board approved the station's development on a 2.5 acre site between Lake Street, Evans Avenue, 4th Street, and Plaza Street in 2002. Paid for with 95% federal dollars from Washington, D.C., it is a critical project for our community and for downtown Reno. We will break ground soon on the project just awarded to West Coast Contractors of Nevada.

The community will get a much needed facility replacing RTC CITICENTER, a worn and tired facility that doesn't have sufficient room to accommodate current service much less the community's future needs.

In these tough economic times, contractors submitted bids nearly \$8 million less than we projected it would cost to build 4TH STREET STATION.

Construction of 4TH STREET STATION will bring nearly \$13 million into this community very quickly adding good jobs right away and improving business activity all over. I don't have to tell anyone how important those jobs are right now. Local companies will work to build it and other businesses, big and small, that those companies use will benefit. Those are dollars reinvested here.

The community's new transit stations are paid for with Federal Transit Administration funds--that 95% I mentioned that comes from Washington— which can ONLY be used for capital purposes such as building new facilities or buying new buses.

Using this money for RTC 4TH STREET STATION is a good investment that will help us serve the community as it rebounds to recovery. Although service is being reduced in the near-term, RTC fully expects these new facilities to serve an expanded transit system in the future.