



# **The Future of Transportation in the Truckee Meadows**

# Transportation: *A Key to Quality of Life* *It's THAT Important?*



Gives Us Independence



Preserves Air Quality



Brings Us Together



Recreation



A Prosperous Economy



Good Jobs



# Challenges to Our Quality of Life



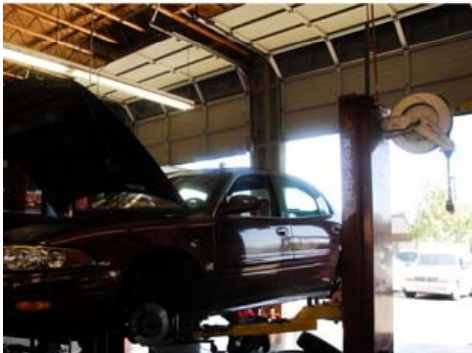
**Traffic Accidents**



**Deteriorating Roads and Bridges**



**Increased Congestion and Delay**



**Rising User Costs**



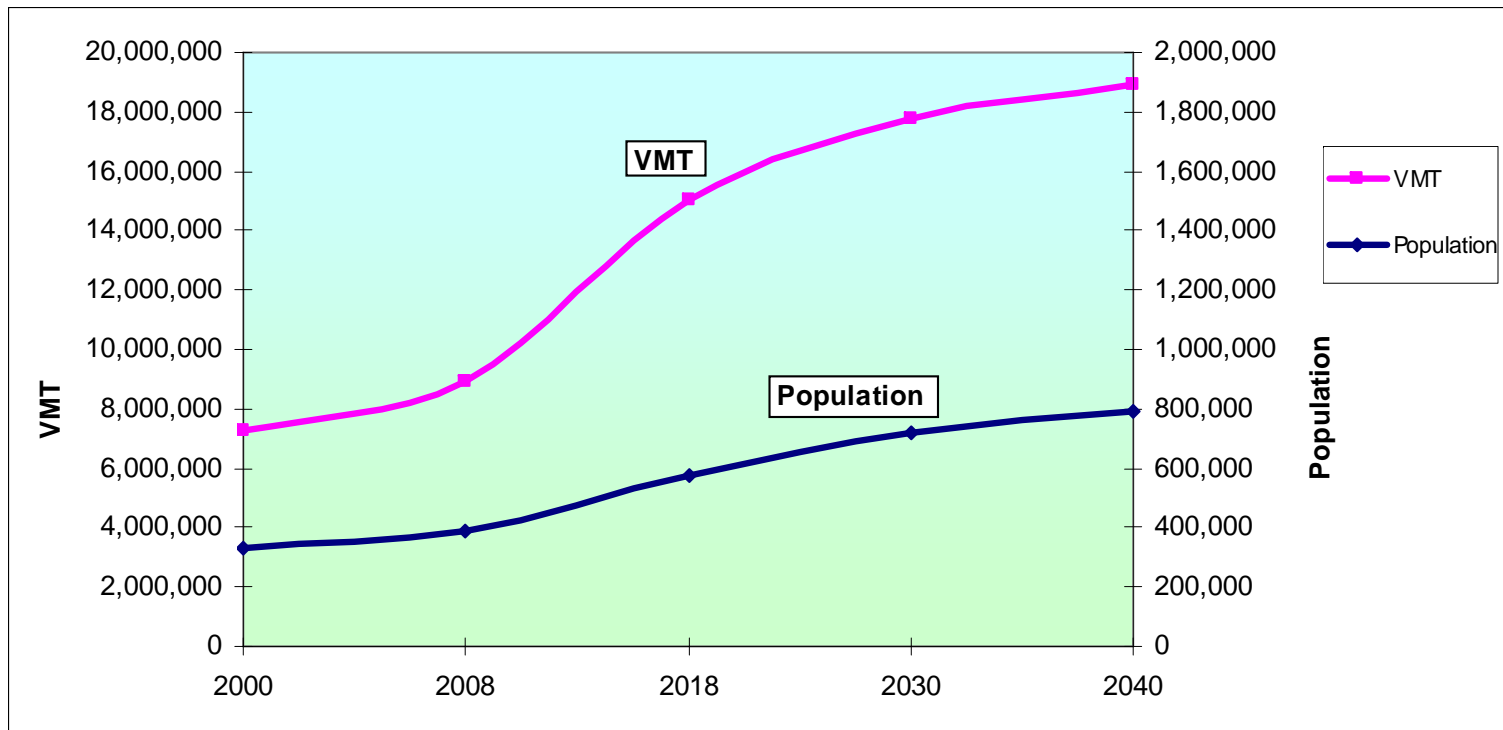
**Global Warming and Pollution**



**Lagging Competitiveness**

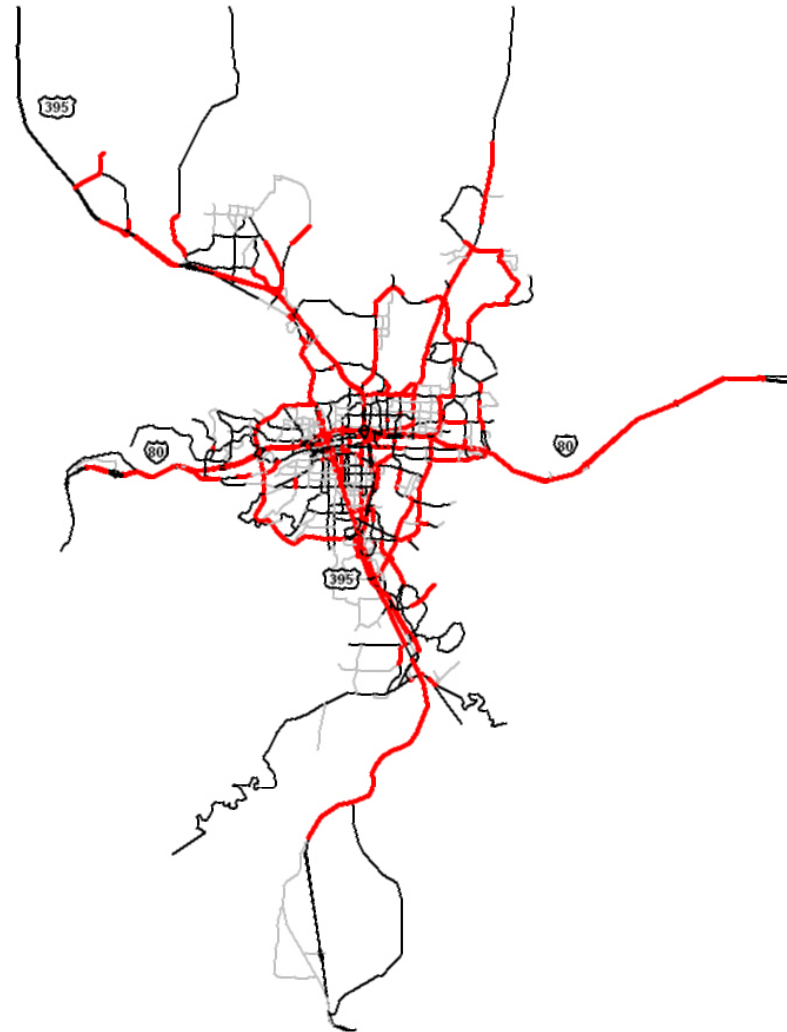
# Status Quo for the Truckee Meadows: Streets and Highways

Travel up 160% 2000 to 2040  
7.3 million to 18.9 million miles per day by 2040



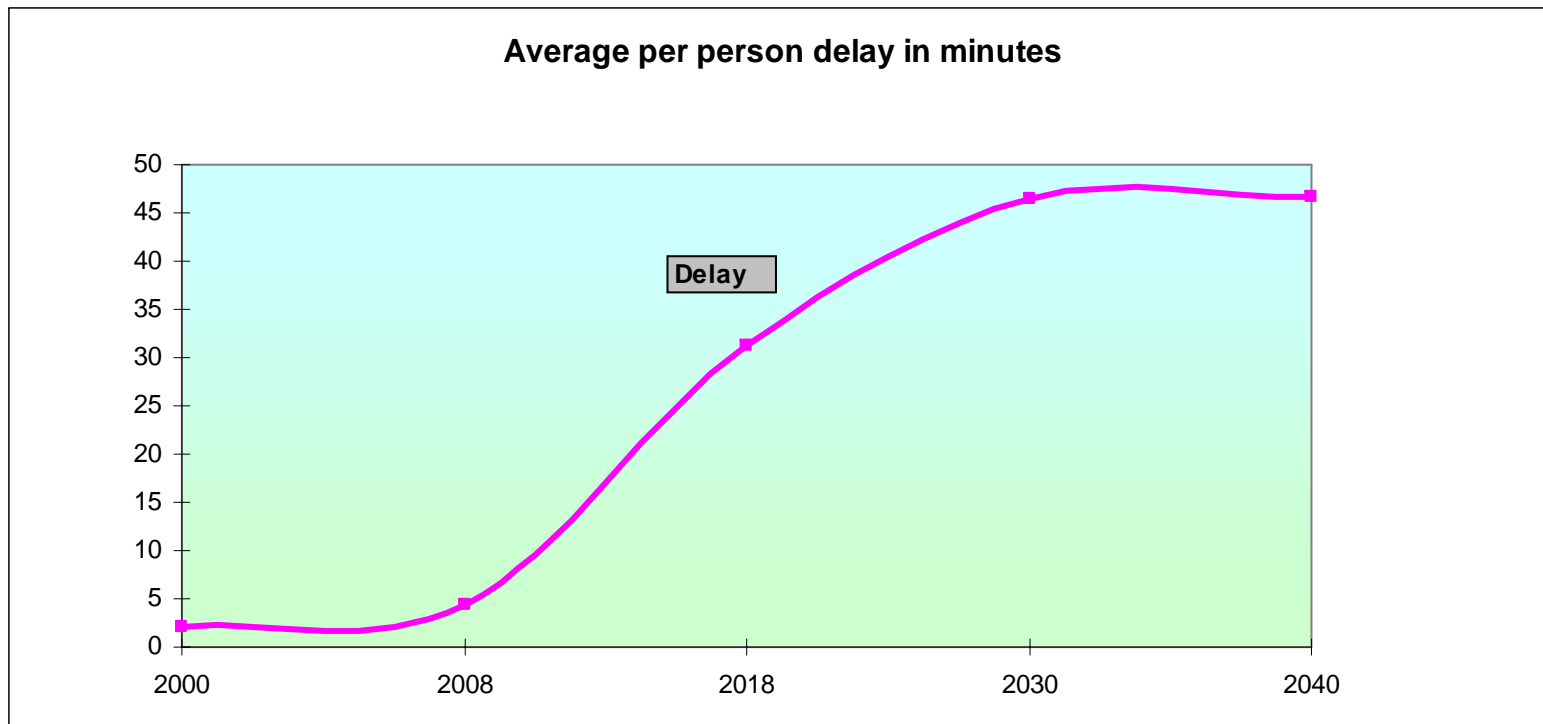
## Status Quo for the Truckee Meadows: Streets and Highways

Unacceptably congested  
roadways by 2040



# Status Quo for the Truckee Meadows: Streets and Highways

Average per person delay up 2150% 2000 to 2040  
from 2 minutes to 47 minutes by 2040



# Truckee Meadows **Streets and Highways** Funding Outlook Through 2040

Activity	Needs	Revenues	Shortfalls
Routine maintenance and operations	\$2.3 billion	\$2.3 billion	-
System preservation	\$5.1 billion	\$4.0 billion	\$1.1 billion
Capacity/congestion relief	\$6.5 billion	\$2.8 billion	\$3.7 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13.9 billion</b>	<b>\$9.1 billion<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$4.8 billion</b>

<sup>1</sup>This amount includes the 180% increase in developer impact fees approved by the RTC Board



## Causes of **Street and Highway** Shortfalls

- **Lack of action at federal/state levels**
- **Flat taxes and inflation**
- **International competition for resources**
- **Under investment**
- **More people traveling-people traveling more**
- **Increasing fleet economy/move to alternative fuels**

# Causes of **Street and Highway** Shortfalls

- **Federal/state inaction**
  - **Federal gas tax not increased since 1993**
  - **State fuel tax not increased since 1992**

<b>Cost of Gasoline 1993</b>	<b>\$1.16...Total Tax was 52 cents</b>
<b>Cost of Gasoline Today</b>	<b>\$3.53...Total Tax 54 cents</b>

- **Inflationary erosion of purchasing power**
  - **Flat taxes:** A federal and state gas tax dollar buys 33% less today than in 2003
  - **Local gas taxes are somewhat better due to indexing to CPI but still buys 20% less today than in 2003**
  - **60% of projected shortfall is due to inflationary erosion of existing revenue streams**

*With current revenue structure, recurring shortfalls are inevitable.*



## Public Transit use at an all time high!

- Increased gas prices have drastically impacted our community. People are looking to mass transit as a viable alternative to driving.
- RTC RIDE, RTC SIERRA SPIRIT and RTC INTERCITY have seen record ridership numbers over the past 12 months, reaching over 9 Million rides!

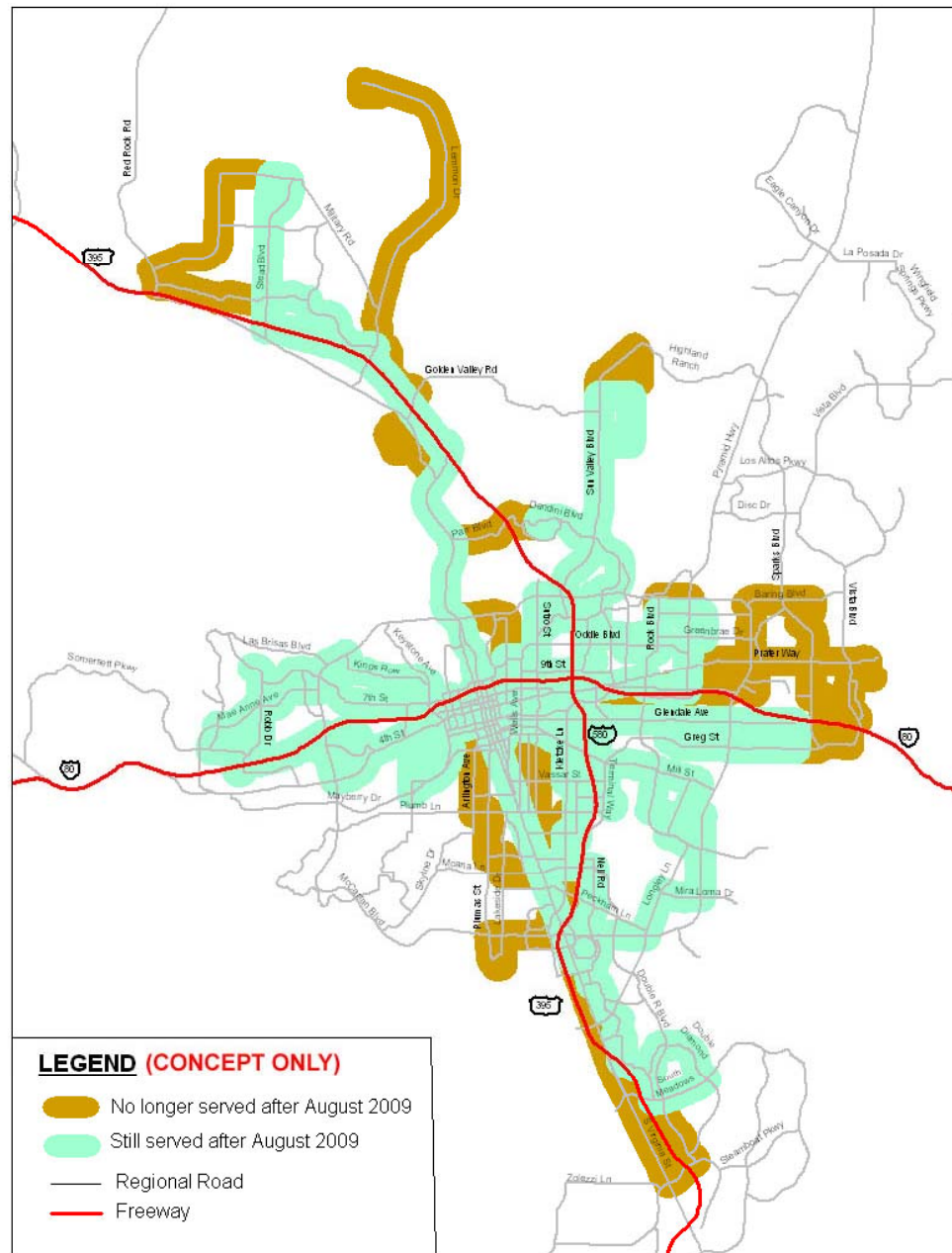


# Status Quo for the Truckee Meadows: Public Mass Transit

- **Near-term**
  - **9% cut in transit service this year**
  - **Approximately 25% further cut in transit service within next year**
  - **RTC ACCESS (paratransit service) will also be affected**
- **Long-term (through 2040)**
  - **Ridership per capita declines 48%**
  - **Transit mode share declines from 2% to 1%**
  - **Inability to support infill and transit oriented development**
  - **More cars on the road and more delay for all**



# Transit service reduction concept 2008-2009



# Truckee Meadows **Public Mass Transit** Funding Outlook through 2040

Activity	Needs	Revenues	Shortfalls
Operations and maintenance	\$2.76 billion	\$1.81 billion	\$0.95 billion
Capital (vehicles, equipment, facilities)	\$0.43 billion	\$0.29 billion	\$0.14 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3.19 billion</b>	<b>\$2.10 billion</b>	<b>\$1.09 billion</b>



# **RTC Blue Ribbon Committee on Transportation Funding**

- **Created by RTC Board January 2008**
- **30+ community leaders with diverse backgrounds**
- **Charged with:**
  - **Reviewing the community's transportation needs**
  - **Reviewing projected shortfalls in revenue**
  - **Developing a recommendation on a transportation funding package to be placed on the November 2008 ballot**
- **Began work in Feb; made recommendations 15 May**
- **RTC Board adopted recommendations 16 May**



## **Key Understandings Gained Through the BRC Process**

- **Shortfalls in transportation funding are significant**
- **60% of street and highway shortfall due to inflationary erosion of existing revenue streams**
- **Inflationary problem only grows with time**
- **Public transit is in immediate crisis**
- **With current economic times, a two-step phased in approach was preferred**

# **BRC Recommendations: First steps toward a long-term solution**

## **November 2008 Ballot Questions**

### **RTC-2 For Public Transportation:**

**Enact the remaining 1/8% transportation sales tax already authorized under NRS 377A; a binding vote**

### **RTC-5 For Street and Highways:**

**Advisory vote to protect local, state, and federal gas and diesel tax revenues from inflation**



# Ballot Question

## RTC-2 for Public Transportation

- **Implement remaining 1/8% transit sales tax authorized under NRS 377A**
  - **Collection could begin April 2009**
  - **Adds 1.3 cents to a \$10 taxable purchase**
  - **Projected yield through 2040: \$280 million**



## Benefits if RTC-2 is Approved by Voters

- Stops approximately 25% cut in current transit service
- Allows limited restoration/expansion of transit service (Spanish Springs, Summit Sierra)
- Funds first phase of rapid transit services in the Virginia Street Corridor
- Continued growth of RTC ACCESS
- Reduces congestion; better air quality
- Alternative to autos and mobility for non-drivers



# Ballot Question RTC-5 Streets and Highways

Adjust tax rates just enough to capture loss of buying power due to construction inflation:

- Amend local gas tax index  $\frac{3}{10}$  cent
- Index state gas tax  $\frac{8}{10}$  cent
- Index federal gas tax  $\frac{8}{10}$  cent
  - Adds an estimated 2 cents per gallon that could begin in 2010
  - Projected yield through 2040: \$1.8 billion
- Index state diesel tax  $1 \frac{1}{10}$  cents
- Index federal diesel tax  $1 \frac{3}{10}$  cents
  - Adds an estimated 2.4 cents per gallon that could begin in 2010
  - Projected yield through 2040: \$0.8 billion



## Benefits if **RTC-5** is Approved by Voters

- Local Money/Local Control: *What's collected in Washoe County, stays in Washoe County*
- Solid first-step to address the \$5 billion Street & Highway funding shortfall
- Moves community towards sustainable funding
- Would allow for bonding of \$250 million in Street & Highway construction
- Thousands of well-paying construction jobs; creates economic activity
- Accelerates key regional congestion relief projects



## What Voter Approval Could Do: Accelerate Priority Projects

US-395/I-580	At Meadowood Way	Construct new interchange	\$50,000,000
McCarran Boulevard	At Pyramid Highway	Construct interchange	\$45,000,000
McCarran Boulevard	Greg to Longley	Widen 4 to 6/8 lanes	\$28,000,000
Vista Boulevard	Los Altos (N) to Hills	Widen 2 to 6 lanes	\$15,000,000
McCarran Boulevard	West 4 <sup>th</sup> to West 7th	Widen and reconstruct interchange	\$64,000,000



## Accelerate Priority Projects...continued

Southeast Connector	South Meadows to Greg	New 6 lane arterial	\$152,000,000
Vista Boulevard	I-80 to Los Altos	Widen 4 to 6/8 lanes	\$23,000,000
Moana Lane	I-580 to S. Virginia	Widen to 6 lanes	\$32,000,000
McCarran Boulevard	Prater to Greg	Widen to 8 lanes	\$27,000,000



# What will the BRC Recommendations Cost?

- **RTC-2: Mass Transit Ballot Question**
  - Average person would pay about \$1.94 per month
- **RTC-5: Street and Highway Ballot Question**
  - If there is no inflation in highway construction, nothing
  - Average driver would pay about 3.6 cents more per day or \$1.10 per month in the first year
  - Average commercial trucker would pay about half a cent more per mile driven in the first year



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## For more information

- **rtcwashoe.com click on HOT TOPICS**
- **To schedule a presentation to your business, community organization, or neighborhood group contact:**
  - Michael Moreno, RTC Community Relations
  - E-mail: [mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com) or (775) 335-1869

