



600 S. Grand Central Parkway • Suite 350, Las Vegas, NV 89106 • 702-676-1500

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Local leaders celebrate groundbreaking for Sahara Express route *Sahara rapid transit route will further improve mobility in Southern Nevada*

LAS VEGAS – The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada commemorated the beginning of construction of the new Sahara Express rapid transit project today with local leaders, including U.S. Sen. Harry Reid and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator Peter Rogoff outside of Gaudin Ford on East Sahara Avenue.

“The Sahara Express will be another addition to our growing network of rapid transit services in Southern Nevada,” said Jacob Snow, RTC general manager. “We are committed to creating a rapid transit system in Southern Nevada that provides enhanced connectivity and enables people to get around the Las Vegas Valley faster and with greater ease.”

The Sahara Express rapid transit line will include dedicated transit lanes along much of Sahara Avenue, from Hualapai Way in the west to Boulder Highway in the east. The Sahara Express will then branch to serve neighborhoods north and south of Sahara Avenue and will also connect to the RTC’s Deuce on the Strip, Strip & Downtown Express and Boulder Highway Express routes.

The RTC received \$34.4 million in federal economic stimulus grant funds for the Sahara Express project to improve mobility, connectivity and accessibility in Las Vegas as well as to help spur local economic growth. Expected to be complete by early 2012, the project is estimated to create nearly 500 private-sector jobs.

"Over two years later, the Economic Recovery Act is still putting Nevadans back to work," said Sen. Reid. "Not only will this project create hundreds of good paying jobs, the new bus line will spur badly needed economic growth and development in the city. While there is still work to be done, this is exactly the kind of initiative we need to continue creating jobs and getting our state's economy back on track."

The new dedicated transit lanes will be constructed in the far right parking lane on Sahara Avenue. The project will also feature modern transit shelters with shade structures and solar power. Most will include ticket vending machines and elevated station platforms, and many will include artwork.

Traffic flow along the busy Sahara Avenue corridor will improve as a result of the project’s upgrades to traffic signals and timing. Where possible, sidewalks will also be expanded to benefit pedestrians, and enhanced landscaping will be added along the route to improve the local scenery.

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The RTC is the transit authority, transportation planning agency and regional traffic management agency for Southern Nevada. The RTC's vision is to provide a safe, convenient and effective regional transportation system that enhances mobility and air quality for citizens and visitors. The RTC encourages residents and visitors to use alternate commute modes to help reduce traffic congestion, clean the air and improve the quality of life in Southern Nevada.

RTC Transit service carried nearly 55 million passengers last year. The system is one of the most cost-efficient transit systems in the nation. For more information, visit **www.rtcnv.com**.

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