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RTC proposes transit service changes *Community asked to provide input on proposed route changes*

LAS VEGAS –The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is proposing to make changes to many of the valley’s transit routes and the RTC is asking the community to provide input before the changes are made. The RTC will hold a number of public outreach events over the next two months where the community can weigh in on the proposed changes.

The RTC is proposing the changes in an effort to provide the most transit service possible, while staying within the agency’s shrinking budget. The proposal includes replacing an existing transit route with a new, faster service, and eliminating service on routes that are close to other routes in the system.

New Service:

First, the RTC will add to its network of successful rapid transit services by launching the new Sahara Express service. The new Express service will operate in dedicated transit lanes along much of Sahara Avenue. It also features new transit shelters, ticket vending machines, improved sidewalks, and enhanced landscaping along the route.

The route will run from the Red Rock Casino Resort & Spa on the west side of the valley and continue east of Boulder Highway. The route will branch out at Lamb and Nellis Boulevards to serve neighborhoods north and south of Sahara Avenue. The new Express route significantly improves the commute from the neighborhoods near Lake Mead Boulevard east of Nellis Boulevard to the resort corridor. Currently, passengers must make multiple, time consuming transfers. Sahara Express will also connect to the RTC’s Deuce on the Strip, Strip & Downtown Express, Boulder Highway Express, and Henderson & Downtown Express routes.

The majority of funding for the construction of the Sahara Express route was provided by federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act economic stimulus grant funds. The RTC received a \$34.4 million grant through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program for the construction of the dedicated lanes, transit shelters, landscaping and sidewalk improvements.

Route changes and eliminations:

As part of the RTC’s proposed service changes, some routes will be eliminated or modified due to ongoing budget constraints. The service cuts are designed to be as minimally impactful to riders as possible and to generate a needed cost-savings to the agency.

Throughout the valley, most RTC transit routes are located one-mile apart. The RTC proposed transit service changes include the elimination of two routes which have services that operate within a half mile of other routes.



- **Route 207** (Alta/Stewart) is also proposed for elimination. Route 207 currently starts at the Westcliff Transit Center, travels east, and terminates at Stewart Avenue and Nellis Boulevard serving Meadows Mall, the medical district on Shadow Lane (including the University Medical Center and Valley Hospital) and the Bonneville Transit Center (BTC). Route 207 currently operates within a half mile of other east-west transit routes, providing Route 207 customers with alternate service.

The RTC is recommending modifying Route 106 (Rancho), Route 108 (Paradise), Route 206 (Charleston) and Route 208 (Washington) to provide some Route 207 transit riders with replacement service to the many locations that are currently serviced by Route 207 including the Meadows Mall, the medical district and the BTC. Approximately 80 percent of the impacted riders will have alternate service or replacement service. The remaining 20 percent would have to walk between two-tenths and six-tenths of a mile to alternate transit services.

- **Route 211** (Smoke Ranch/Carey), which starts at the Mountain View Hospital and travels east along Smoke Ranch Road and Carey Avenue to Nellis Boulevard, is proposed for elimination. As other routes operate near the current Route 211, riders will have several transit alternatives. Passengers are encouraged to consult the system map for other routing options in the area.

Modifications will also be made to Route 104 (Valley View/Torrey Pines) and Route 214 (H Street/D Street) to provide transit riders from Route 211 with replacement service between Simmons Street and Las Vegas Boulevard. The Fiesta and Texas Station will still be accessible with other RTC Transit routes.

- **Route 402** (Henderson Connector/Boulder City) which currently ends at the Galleria at Sunset Mall will be extended to the South Strip Transfer Terminal along Sunset Road. To accommodate the extension of Route 402 and eliminate redundant service, the operating hours of Route 212 (Sunset) will be reduced.

Several other routes and schedules will also be modified as part of the proposed transit service changes. Many of these changes will streamline service and in some cases, result in enhanced service in certain communities. Details on these changes can be found at rtcsnv.com.

RTC staff will be riding the various routes proposed for modification or elimination to garner customer input.

In addition, interested riders are welcome to learn more about and to express their views on the proposed changes during the upcoming public comment period. Over the next two months, RTC staff will be at various locations across the valley to provide more information, including:

- Thursday, Jan. 19 - Doolittle Senior Center, 1930 J. St., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 21 – Meadows Mall, 4300 Meadows Lane, 11 a.m to 1 p.m. and Galleria at Sunset Mall, 1300 W. Sunset Rd., 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 26 - Centennial Hills Transit Center, 7313 Grand Montecito Pkwy., 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 27 - South Strip Transfer Terminal, 6675 Gilespe St., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



- Saturday, Jan. 28 - Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Blvd. North, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 2 - Westcliff Transit Center, 25 S. Durango Dr., 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Friday, Feb. 3 - Albertsons – Boulder City, 1008 Nevada Highway, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4 - Boulevard Mall, 3528 S. Maryland Pkwy., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 10 - Albertsons – Flamingo Road at Maryland Parkway, 1300 E. Flamingo Rd., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 17 - Albertsons – Sahara/Maryland, 2575 S. Maryland Pkwy., 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 3 - Albertsons – North Las Vegas, 3010 W. Ann Rd., 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Monday, March 5 - Whitney Library, 5175 E. Tropicana Ave., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 7 - Desert Breeze Community Center, 8275 Spring Mountain Rd., 5 to 7 p.m.
- Friday, March 9 - Albertsons – Henderson, 2910 Bicentennial Pkwy., 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Several public hearings will also be held to discuss the elimination of Routes 207 and 211.

- Saturday, Jan. 21 - Meadows Mall, 4300 Meadows Mall Lane, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 25 - Transportation Advisory Access Committee (TAAC), Rm. 108 of the RTC Administration Building, 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 11 - Pearson Community Center, 1625 W. Carey Ave., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 16 - North Las Vegas Library, 2300 N. Civic Center Dr., 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 23 - Bonneville Transit Center, 101 E. Bonneville Ave., 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 29 - Rainbow Library, 3150 N. Buffalo Dr., 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 14 - Bonneville Transit Center, 101 E. Bonneville Ave., 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Public comments will be accepted from Monday, Jan. 16 through Friday, March 16. Comments can be submitted via email to diaza@rtcsonv.com, online at rtcsonv.com, by phone at (702) 676-1557, by fax at (702) 676-1589, or by U.S. Postal Service mail to: RTC Administration Office, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106-4512, Attention: Transit Service Outreach. Comments can also be provided in person at the Bonneville Transit Center or the RTC Administration Office.

The proposed service changes will be presented to the RTC Board of Commissioners for final approval. Pending the RTC Board of Commissioners' approval, the proposed service changes will be effective Sunday, May 20.

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. For more information, visit rtcsonv.com.

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