



SOUTHEASTconnections

July 2009

RTD Receives the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2009 Fiscal Year from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by RTD. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

In addition to RTD receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individuals designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. This has been presented to Robert Merriman, Manager, Budget & Financial Analysis, and Todd Nikkel, Senior Budget Analyst.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving over 17,600 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

-Provided by RTD

New Customer Service Signs at RTD Stations and DIA

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) has updated the electronic signage at Market Street Station, Civic Center Station, Denver International Airport (DIA) and the Boulder Transit Center.

Market Street Station was the first to be outfitted with the new 46" Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) monitors replacing the old Light-Emitting Diode (LED) signs that had been in operation since 1996. The large LED signs at the top of the stairs were removed and will soon be replaced with a large display unit comprised of nine 46" LCD monitors.

The Boulder Transit Center gates received new weatherized LCD monitors and a new summary sign in the waiting area. A new monitor was also installed at RTD's service desk at DIA, and new LED signage will soon be installed on the East and West skyRide loading platforms.

This new technology offers full color capabilities, centralized content management, and will display passenger information, ads, weather, news, and traffic conditions. RTD's goals are to modernize the signage, replace outdated and unsupported equipment, and provide a higher quality experience for RTD's passengers.

-Provided by RTD



South I-25 Urban Corridor
Transportation Management Association
304 Inverness Way South, Suite 15
Englewood, CO 80112



Bike To Work Day 2009: A Huge Success in the Southeast Corridor

The South I-25 Urban Corridor Transportation Management Association (TMA) is celebrating the success of its first ever Bike to Work Day breakfast station at the Vallagio! Bike to Work Day has been an ongoing event in the Denver area for years. After a break last year, the TMA returned and managed its own breakfast station for cyclists.

"We wanted to promote our Corridor's amazing bike trails and the ease riders feel when using these trails, while also raising awareness of alternative commuting options," says Lauren Hayutin, the TMA's Transportation Manager. "The weather was amazing, which is a huge perk for riders living in Colorado."

The TMA pulled out all the stops for the June 24th event, playing music from the sponsoring radio station 89.3 KUVU, offering bike-aid from Alpha Bicycle Company and providing breakfast muffins and bagels from My Favorite Muffin. Cyclists were able to take a short break from their commute to eat, rehydrate and connect with others in the community.

Cyclists also enjoyed sports drinks and giveaways, including a drawing for four \$50 gift certificates to Alpha Bicycle Company, a messenger bag and two Transit Rider Incentive Program (TRIP) monthly RTD passes. All Vallagio breakfast station attendees received transportation information on the Southeast Corridor, a free water bottle and coupons for local restaurants and shops.

The TMA's breakfast station at the Vallagio had over 40 participants and many of the other stations located around the Denver area saw a large number of riders making the 2009 event the most successful to date. Participants in this year's event have helped to increase awareness of alternative commuting options and encouraged an even higher turnout for Bike to Work Day 2010. The TMA would like to thank all Bike to Work Day participants for actively contributing to a healthier, greener Colorado.

-Provided by 360 Media



RTD's Assistant GM Named Interim Chief Agency Veteran says he won't take an "increase of one nickel"

RTD's board of directors Tuesday chose Phillip Washington, 51, as the interim general manager to run the transit agency when current GM Cal Marsella leaves at the end of next month.

For the past nine years, Washington has been assistant general manager for administration at the Regional Transportation District, with responsibility for departments that included finance, procurement, human resources and information technology.

Before joining RTD, Washington spent 24 years in the military, retiring from the Army after reaching the rank of command sergeant major.

Washington's annual salary at RTD is \$172,790. Noting the agency's troubled financial condition, he told directors, "I'm not going to take an increase of one nickel."

Marsella's compensation, which included an annual base salary of about \$300,000 and what some considered an overly rich benefit package, has been a point of controversy in recent months.

RTD's board plans to hire an executive-search firm to help find a permanent replacement for Marsella, and some directors say the agency should consider hiring two top officials to lead RTD — one to run the current bus and light-rail operation and the other to be a large-project "czar" responsible for getting FasTracks built.

FasTracks includes at least six new rail lines, yet the agency is short about \$2.2 billion to get it built on time.

The RTD board hopes to have permanent leadership in place by early next year.

"We have many challenges right now," Washington told directors, including "critical questions for FasTracks."

"We will get this investment initiative done," he said, referring to the \$6.9 billion program, and "build out this transit system so it is the envy of the world."

Washington said he will be a candidate for permanent general manager "if the board thinks that it is in the best interest of the district."

Also Tuesday night, RTD officials reported that the agency's sales-and-use tax collections declined 18.7 percent in April compared with the same month last year. For the first four months of this year, they are down 13.8 percent from the comparable 2008 period.

RTD depends on sales-and-use taxes to fund about 60 percent of its operations.

Finance chief Terry Howerter told directors he planned this year and next to transfer \$24 million from RTD's capital-acquisition reserve "to beef up" the agency's operating budget.

The capital fund is used to buy equipment such as new buses, but Marsella said RTD used some federal stimulus money for bus acquisition, which helped allow for the transfer.

Marsella also told directors that private consortiums bidding to win a public-private partnership, or PPP, within FasTracks are concerned "about the bankability of moving into this agreement."

Some of the firms worry that Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights might put constraints on the PPP process.

"We are looking at alternatives," Marsella said, that would "obviate the TABOR question."

-Provided by The Denver Post

New Lane Configuration on Arapahoe Rd.

The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) is installing large concrete box culverts under Arapahoe Rd. to improve the flow of water at Little Dry Creek and to provide a new pedestrian and bike walkway. This work will occur on Arapahoe Rd. between Heritage Pl. and Homestead Pkwy (East of S. Quebec St.).

Beginning tomorrow, June 30, three operational travel lanes on the south side of Arapahoe Rd. will undergo lane shifts throughout the week. Two lanes of travel will be provided for eastbound traffic during morning rush hours. Then traffic will be shifted by noon to provide two westbound travel lanes for the afternoon rush hours. Lane shift instructions will be clearly marked. Lane restrictions will be in place until approximately Aug. 24.

No left turns will be allowed to or from Heritage Pl., or Briarwood Cir. while this project is underway.

Installing the new box culverts is a joint project of SEMSWA and the City of Centennial Open Space Fund.

-Provided by the City of Centennial

Road Project Begins on Arapahoe

On June 1, CDOT started a 1.5 mile asphalt resurfacing project on University Blvd. between C-470 and Arapahoe Road. The \$2.8 million project is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

This segment of University Blvd. carries approximately 32,000 vehicles a day and is currently in poor condition. The rotomilling and asphalt paving will help extend the life of the pavement. In addition to paving, the project will repair and replace concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk.

Throughout the project, motorists can expect lane closures Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

-Provided by The Villager Newspaper

For more information on transportation news in the Southeast Corridor or TRIP, visit www.SOUTHEASTconnections.com



South I-25 Urban Corridor
Transportation Management Association
304 Inverness Way South, Suite 15
Englewood, CO 80112