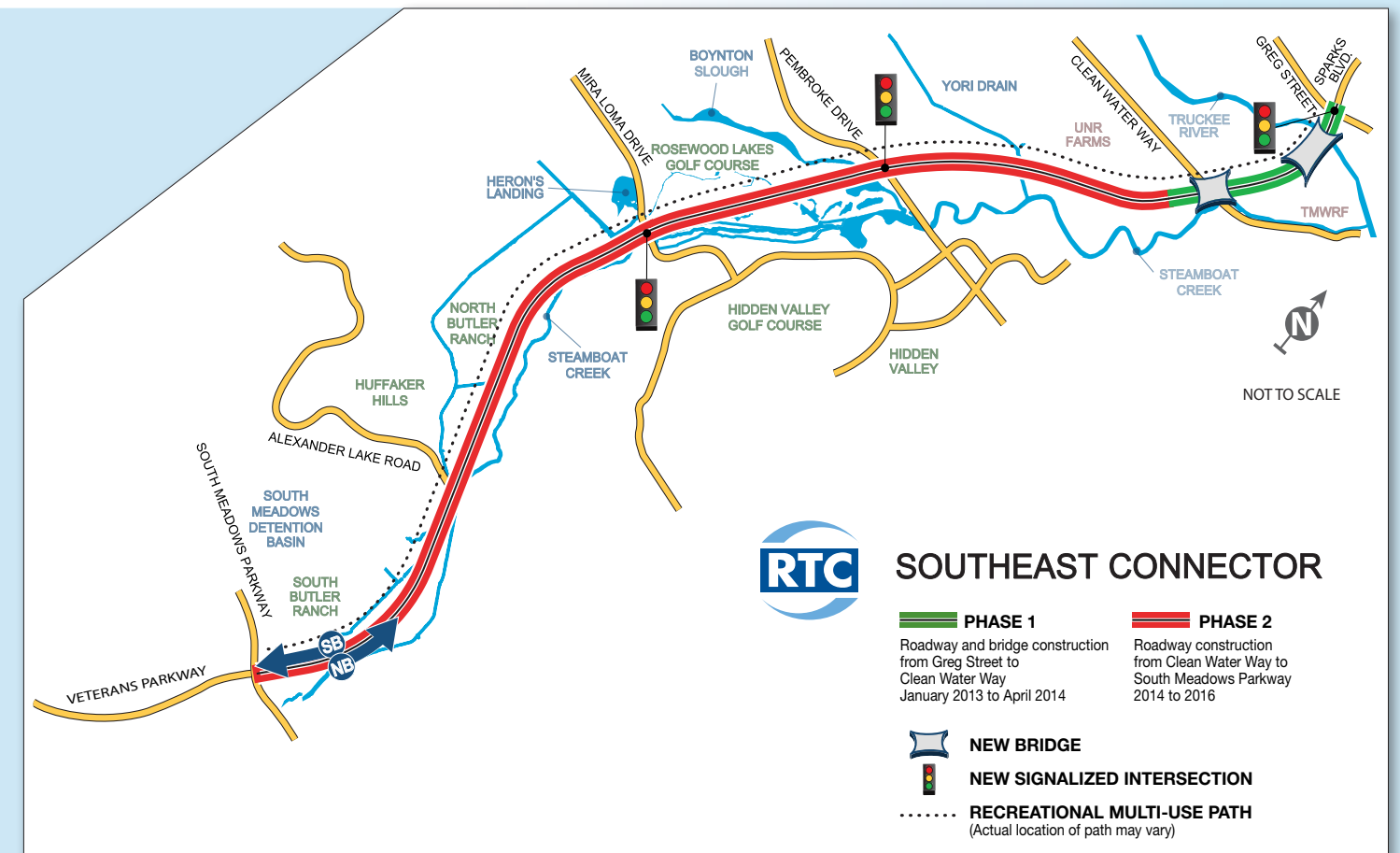
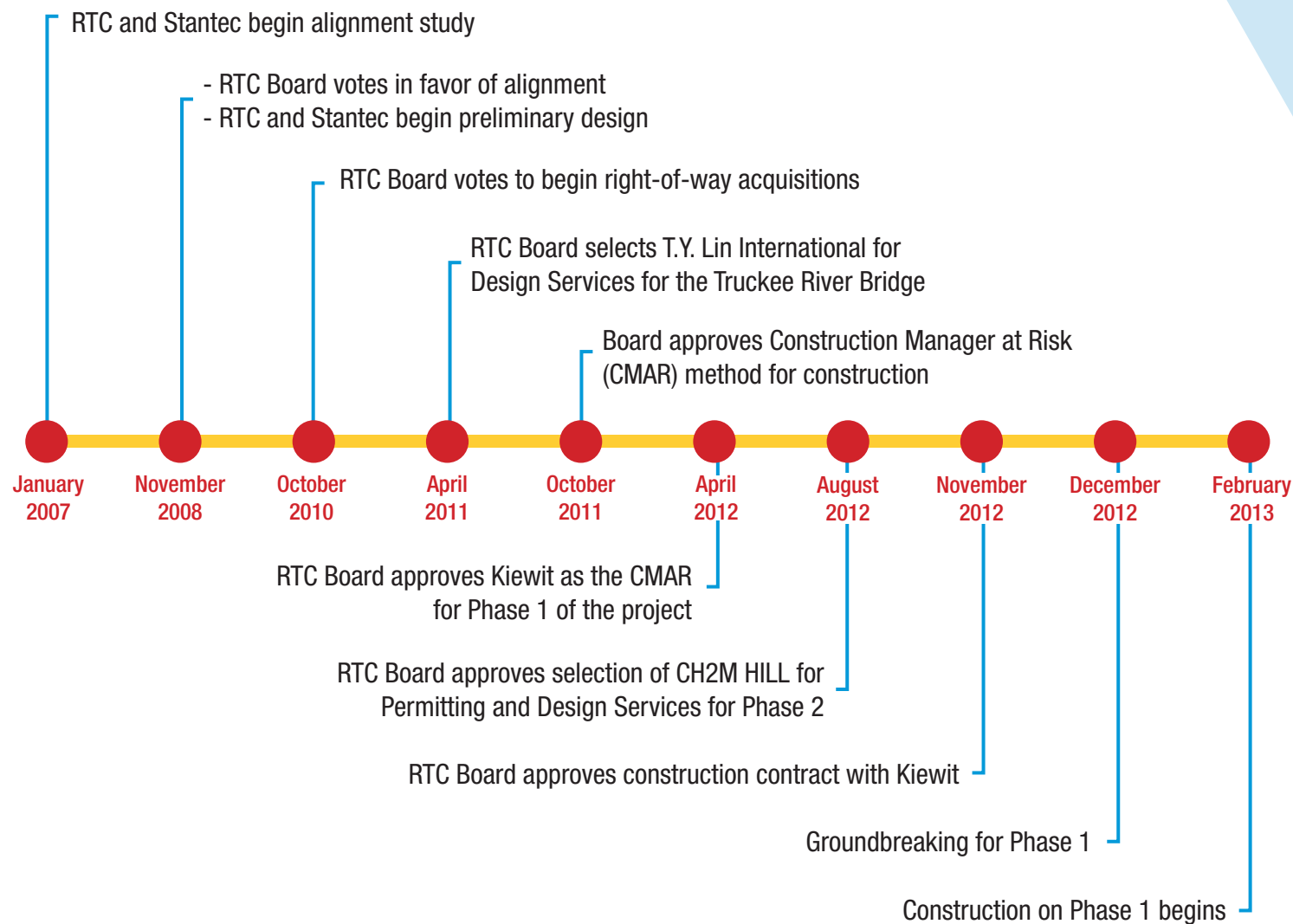


Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County

SOUTHEAST CONNECTOR

PROJECT TIMELINE



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The SouthEast Connector is an important and significant regional investment in the Truckee Meadows that addresses the long-term transportation needs to improve the safety and mobility of people, goods, and services in the Reno/Sparks area. The project is an ongoing effort between the RTC, partner agencies, and the community that began almost 40 years ago. Once completed, the new SouthEast Connector roadway—which will be called Veterans Parkway—will stretch 5.5 miles from the intersection of Greg Street and Sparks Boulevard at the northern end, to the existing intersection of Veterans Parkway and South Meadows Parkway at the southern end. The road will be three lanes in each direction, with two new signalized intersections at Mira Loma Drive and Pembroke Drive.

The project will be built in two phases over a period of three years. The first phase of work, at the northernmost end of the project, began in February 2013. This phase includes the construction of a bridge over the Truckee River and will build the roadway from Sparks Boulevard to just south of Clean Water Way. The second phase will build the new roadway from Clean Water Way south to the Veterans Parkway/South Meadows Parkway intersection. This phase—approximately 4.5 miles—is currently in development, which involves obtaining environmental permits and completing the design and engineering work.

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The SouthEast Connector Project will provide many long-term benefits to the community and to the quality of life of Truckee Meadows residents. The project team is continuing to develop strategies to optimize traffic operations; enhance the environment; and maximize the safety of drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

The SouthEast Connector will provide the following benefits to the region:

1. IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY FOR NORTH/SOUTH TRAVEL

The new roadway will provide an alternative route to the heavily traveled US 395/I-580 freeway and South McCarran Boulevard. Recent development in the eastern Truckee Meadows has resulted in more demand for travel routes from the south and west. Traffic patterns are heavy in the east with fewer roadways. This project will offer motorists another option and alleviate congestion on parallel roadways.

2. RELIEVE CONGESTION FOR TRAVEL IN 2030

The RTC uses the Regional Consensus Forecast to determine anticipated population growth. Based on this forecast, significant congestion and delay are expected on portions of I-80, I-580, South McCarran Boulevard, Longley Lane, Greg Street, and Double R Boulevard by the year 2030. This project will provide relief for north/south travel and reduce traffic volumes on these and other significant regional routes. This project will also provide a much needed alternative route for emergency responders, reducing response times.

3. ACCOMMODATE CURRENT AND FUTURE EMPLOYMENT CENTERS AND COMMERCIAL AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

This project will provide an efficient route not only for commuters in the Spanish Springs area to access employment centers in the south Truckee Meadows, but also for commuters in the growing south Truckee Meadows to access jobs in Sparks and the east Truckee River Canyon, along I-80.

4. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION IN THIS CORRIDOR

The RTC is researching opportunities to provide transit services along this new roadway, including new bus routes and intercity service to Carson City. The project includes development of a 5.5 mile long multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists, connecting the Truckee River bike path and Sparks to Hidden Valley and the South Truckee Meadows.

5. ENHANCED SAFETY FOR MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED TRAVEL

The new SouthEast Connector will have a limited number of intersections between Greg Street and South Meadows Parkway. This will allow traffic to flow more smoothly and minimizes the number of potential conflicts at intersections—resulting in fewer crashes.

The project will be designed to meet the safety criteria of a high-speed roadway with features including wide shoulders, full median and/or barrier rail, turn lanes at intersections, and separation of the multi-use path from the vehicle lanes.



6. ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY ACCESS DURING FLOOD EVENTS

Project engineers are developing hydraulic (water flow) models both to demonstrate that the new roadway will not increase flooding, and to ensure that the roadway will be passable in a 117-year flood event.

Currently there is limited access to the Hidden Valley area during large flood events. This project will enhance emergency vehicle access to Hidden Valley, the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility, and areas east of Steamboat Creek during Truckee River and Steamboat Creek flood events.

7. ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The RTC and the design team are researching potential environmental strategies to protect wildlife, improve water and air quality, and restore native vegetation affected by project construction. The proposed project is subject to review and approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Historical Preservation Office, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Nevada Division of State Lands, and the Nevada Division of Wildlife. The RTC is working closely with all agencies and stakeholders to ensure that the project will meet or exceed applicable environmental regulations.



LONG-TERM ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The SouthEast Connector provides a significant economic investment in our community and will create jobs during construction and future economic prosperity.

- Creates 120 direct jobs; indirectly 1,200.
- Short term benefits: every dollar spent on infrastructure construction produces roughly double the initial spending in ultimate economic output.
- Long term benefits: over a 20 year period, generalized public investment generates an accumulated \$3.21 of economic activity for every \$1 spent.

VALUE ENGINEERING

The RTC is using the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) project delivery method for Phase 1 of the project. CMAR allows the owner (RTC) and the contractor (Kiewit Western Co.) the opportunity to work together during design to develop

the most efficient and highest quality project possible. CMAR brings innovation and potential cost savings to the project. Preliminary estimates for the SouthEast Connector Phase 1 indicate \$5 million in savings resulting from CMAR team innovations. CMAR will also be used for Phase 2 of the project.

FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT

The project is 100% funded through local RTC-5 funding. The community has been investing in this project for several years. The project is an RTC priority project outlined in the Regional Transportation Plan.

HOW YOU CAN STAY INFORMED

WEBSITE

To learn more about the project, visit www.rtcwashoe.com and click on HOT TOPICS, SouthEast Connector; visit the project website at www.SouthEastConnector.com; or call our construction hotline at (775) 398-5059.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The RTC will host community meetings to receive public input on the SouthEast Connector throughout construction of the new Truckee River bridge and the design development of the remaining 4.5 miles of roadway. Meeting times and locations will be announced through the RTC and project websites, advertising, stakeholder emails, and local media.

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

The RTC has formed a Community Working Group, with representatives from a variety of homeowner, community, business, civic and environmental groups to provide focused input to the Phase 2 design team. This group will meet monthly through the design process.

PRESENTATIONS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS.

Community awareness and outreach is a critical component of the SouthEast Connector. The RTC is developing a comprehensive speaker's bureau and is available to present the project to your group. We are here to listen to you!

Subscribe to  **MyRTC Email Updates**

at rtcwashoe.com to receive free project updates and information.

CONTACT

Please contact **Michael Moreno**, the RTC's Public Information Officer, at 775.335.1869 or Mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com if you have any questions, need additional information, or would like to ask the RTC about scheduling a project presentation.