

Pay for Carson bus drivers to increase

By Anne Knowles
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Carson City's bus operator will be upping driver pay after experiencing trouble recruiting drivers for the city's Jump Around Carson routes.

"We've had a rash of driver shortages and it's threatened loss of service," Graham Dollarhide, transit coordinator, Public Works, told the Regional Transportation Commission on Wednesday.

The problem, said Dollarhide, were low wages that compared unfavorably with other rates in the region.

The RTC agreed to split the cost of a \$2 across the board wage increase with MV Transportation, Inc., the operator.

The RTC agreed to kick in \$1 per hour per driver at a cost of \$24,985.84 for the second half of the contract's second year and \$33,314.45 for the third year of the three-year contract.

Drivers will now start at \$12 an hour, which is still lower than surrounding areas, including Douglas County where drivers start at \$13.34 per hour and Washoe

County, which recently bumped up starting pay from \$12 per hour to \$14.

The RTC also accepted the final right of way needed to proceed with the reconstruction of 2.5 miles of Sierra Vista Lane.

The final piece was a 1,400 foot section of road owned by the Bureau of Land Management.

The RTC approved a grant application for \$260,892 in Community Development Block money to make handicap-accessibility improvements along College Parkway, between Carson Street and Northgate Lane.

Lucia Maloney, transportation manager, Public Works, told the RTC two grant applications to the Nevada Division of State Parks' Recreational Trails Program were denied.

The city had applied for about \$205,402 to construct a 10 foot-wide multi-use path from Appion Way to Clearview Drive and for \$77,101 to repair the linear path from Roop Street to 5th Street/Airport Road.

Both projects are on hold while the city looks for a new funding source, Maloney said after the meeting.

SENIOR PROJECT



BRAD COMAN/NEVADA APPEAL

The staff of Tahoe Fracture and Orthopedic Clinic pose for a photo with Carson High senior Maria Guadalupe-Ledesma (third from right, first row) Wednesday. TFOC employees donated products for her "Hygiene Drive" senior project. Tahoe Fracture & Orthopedic in Carson City collected 777 hygiene products for Ledesma. The hygiene drive was Maria's senior project. Tahoe Fracture & Orthopedic held a 'friendly competition' in each department to see which department could collect the most products.

California firefighters gain on blaze amid wind threat

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Southern California firefighters on Wednesday continued working to contain the fifth largest fire in the state's history but warned that some communities are

still at risk and could be in greater danger if unpredictable winds whip up again and fan the flames.

Warnings of ideal conditions for wildfires were extended because of Santa Ana winds and lack of moisture, with a possible

increase in wind gust speeds at the end of the week.

Evacuations continued for the seaside enclaves of Montecito, Summerland and Carpinteria and the inland agricultural town of Fillmore.

Officials announced Tuesday night that crews had carved containment lines around one-quarter of the blaze straddling Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, northwest of Los Angeles.

Southern California.

Elsewhere, fire officials announced that a cooking fire at a homeless encampment sparked a blaze last week that destroyed six homes in the exclusive Bel Air neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Arson investigators determined that the so-called Skirball fire near the world-famous Getty museum was started by an illegal fire at a camp near a freeway underpass, city fire Capt.

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