

**Karen  
Olson**  
City Council, Ward 3



6241 Chokecherry Lane , Rapid City, SD 57702 (605) 348-1511 (605) 390-9440 karen.olson@rcgov.org  
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I would like the community to consider a new term describing people 60 or older, Medicare members, and people with disabilities. The term is "Honored Citizen."

This term came to my attention as I prepared for a visit to Portland, Oregon. I discovered that Portland's Tri-Met transportation system uses the term "Honored Citizen" to describe seniors, Medicare members and people with disabilities. This thoughtful identification sounds both welcoming and positive

The new designation would not change already approved fares and other RTS service options. Only the designation would be different. As our community strives to treat others with respect and kindness, "Honored Citizen" seems wonderfully inclusive. I am exploring possible support in Rapid City for use of this, in my view, very positive designation.

I've visited with Rich Sagen, Director of Rapid Transit System. Mr. Sagen sees this designation as easily implemented. With the already approved changes in RTS rates and routes, the new designation could be easily incorporated into publicity and print materials without a lot of additional cost.

I would be interested in your response. I can be reached at 390-9449, 348-1511 or emailed at [Karen.olson@rcgov.org](mailto:Karen.olson@rcgov.org).

Yours truly,

Karen Gundersen Olson,  
Alderman Ward 3