



Transit Keeps Southern Nevada Moving

Transit Funding: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is there a transit funding issue right now?

Southern Nevada has grown significantly, but transit operating funding has not changed in more than 20 years. At the same time, costs such as labor, fuel, and maintenance have increased, making it harder to sustain the service our community relies on.

2. What has RTC done so far to address this?

RTC has worked with community leaders, businesses, local governments, and state officials for years to identify long-term funding solutions. While several options have been explored, no sustainable solution has been approved.

3. Can fuel tax revenue be used for transit?

No. Under Nevada law, fuel tax revenue can only be used for roadway and transportation infrastructure projects, not transit operations.

4. How much funding is needed to maintain current service?

RTC needs approximately \$118.5 million annually to maintain today's transit system. This funding supports nearly 58 million passenger trips each year and helps keep residents connected to jobs, healthcare, education, and other essential destinations.

5. Who uses transit?

Transit riders are a vital part of Southern Nevada's workforce. According to RTC's most recent customer survey, 88% of riders use transit to get to work or seek employment.

6. Why do some buses appear empty?

Bus occupancy varies throughout a route. A bus may appear less crowded at the beginning or end of a route, but it typically fills up as it approaches employment centers, schools, shopping areas, and other destinations. Many riders use transit during peak travel times, so what you see at a single moment may not reflect overall ridership.

7. What needs to happen to fix the funding issue?

Southern Nevada needs a stable, long-term funding source that can grow with the community and keep pace with rising costs and demand for service.

8. What happens if nothing changes?

Without additional funding, RTC could be forced to reduce transit service by up to 42% by 2028. This could mean fewer routes, longer wait times, and reduced access to jobs, healthcare, education, and other essential services.

9. How is transit currently funded?

Transit service is primarily funded through a small portion of local sales tax, passenger fares, and federal funding for major projects and equipment.

10. What would the additional funding be used for?

Additional funding would be used to maintain the transit service Southern Nevada relies on today and preserve access to jobs, schools, healthcare, and other daily destinations.

11. Would this funding support new options like light rail?

No. The estimated funding need is intended solely to maintain existing transit service. Major transit expansions would require separate funding sources.

12. What funding options are being considered?

Potential options could include legislative solutions, ballot measures, or other funding approaches used successfully in communities across the country. Any long-term solution would require public input and community support.

13. Are other transit systems experiencing funding challenges or cutting service?

Yes. Transit agencies across the country are facing similar budget pressures as pandemic-era funding ends and operating costs continue to rise. In Philadelphia, the San Francisco Bay Area, Washington, D.C.; Chicago; and Portland, this has led to service reductions, lower frequency, or proposed cuts without new funding. While the specifics vary by region, the broader trend is consistent: many transit systems are working to maintain reliable service in the face of long-term funding gaps.

14. Why should people who don't ride transit care?

Transit supports employers, connects workers to jobs, and helps keep Southern Nevada's economy moving. When transit works, the entire region benefits.

15. What are the next steps?

RTC will continue engaging residents, businesses, and community organizations to share information and gather feedback on potential funding solutions.

16. What's the bottom line?

Transit connects people to opportunity and helps keep Southern Nevada moving. Without a long-term funding solution, significant service reductions could affect residents, businesses, and the region's economy.

17. How can I help?

Become a Transit Champion at **forward.rtcsonv.com**. Share your story, stay informed, invite RTC to speak to your group, support public transit with elected officials, and help spread the word by sharing our survey.



Learn More and Become a Transit Champion

Sign up for updates and opportunities to get involved.
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