

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 2025

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

We are writing in support of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada's (RTC) application to the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Low or No Emission Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Programs. The RTC intends to use the funding to replace and upgrade buses as well as modernize security at their operational facilities. The proposed projects support the Administration's goals of modernizing public transit, enhancing safety, and driving economic growth through responsible investment.

As part of the request, RTC proposes replacing eight 40-foot compressed natural gas fixed-route buses that have reached the end of their useful life, in compliance with FTA guidelines. Replacing these vehicles is critical to maintaining safe, reliable, and efficient transit service across the region. RTC is the twelfth busiest transit system in the nation; last year alone they provided more than 52 million passenger trips across nearly 40 routes. To continue meeting this demand and keep our community moving, RTC must ensure its fleet remains modern and dependable.

The application also includes safety and security enhancements at two key RTC facilities, the Integrated Bus Maintenance Facility and the Mobility Training Center, which include modernizing camera and access control systems. The improvements will strengthen the security of RTC operations and create a safer environment for both staff and transit users. RTC has already made significant investments in safety, resulting in measurable improvements: a 37% reduction in overall assaults, 40% fewer passenger-on-passenger incidents, and a 26% decrease in operator assaults between 2023 and 2024. As Southern Nevada continues to experience major ridership growth, additional security investments are essential to ensure rider and operator safety.

Finally, RTC is seeking support to expand the installation of video mirrors on its fixed-route fleet. This technology significantly improves operator visibility by eliminating lateral blind spots and reducing glare and distortion. While the RTC received \$1.35 million in FY24 community project funding to outfit approximately 140 buses, this application would enable full deployment across up to 300 vehicles, enhancing roadway safety for operators, passengers, and the broader community. Las Vegas is ranked among the most dangerous cities for pedestrian safety. Enhancing tools that give transit operators maximum visibility is critical to helping prevent future roadway accidents.

Public transit in Southern Nevada is a vital connector for both residents and visitors in our tourism-based economy. With this funding, RTC will be able to continue upgrading its fleet and

facilities, strengthening safety for riders and operators, and improving the overall reliability of service. For these reasons, we ask that you give their application your full and fair consideration. Do not hesitate to contact us, or any of our staff, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Cortez Masto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacky Rosen". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jacky Rosen
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susie Lee". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most prominent.

Susie Lee
United States House of Representatives