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## **RTC Awarded \$3.8 Million Federal Grant to Continue to Invest in Clean Energy Vehicles**

*Funds will allow for the purchase of the agency's first hydrogen fuel cell buses*

*[Click to Tweet:](#) [@RTCSONV](#) receives a federal grant to invest in hydrogen fuel cell buses, which don't produce carbon emissions and help improve the air quality in Southern Nevada*

**LAS VEGAS** – The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is moving closer to zero emissions thanks to a \$3.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The funds from the Low or No Emission Grant Program will allow the agency to deploy two hydrogen fuel cell buses and install accompanying hydrogen-fueling infrastructure.

Since 2017, transportation has contributed to 41% of greenhouse gas emissions in Nevada. The RTC has long recognized the need to reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector, and the ongoing climate crisis emphasizes the need for action. Fuel cell buses run on hydrogen, instead of gas or diesel, which don't produce any greenhouse gas emissions.

“We are fully aware that transportation is a major contributor to air pollution, and this grant will help us to continue to do our part to improve air quality and reduce pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions,” said MJ Maynard, RTC CEO. “As an agency, we are committed to investing in clean transit technology and being innovative. We appreciate the support of our federal delegation, local leaders and business partners who advocated on our behalf.”

The RTC estimates the project will cost \$6 million, with a 65% federal and 35% local split. With the estimated 18-month wait time to procure hydrogen fuel cell buses, it is anticipated the vehicles will hit Las Vegas Valley roads in 2022.

Since 2007, the RTC has been transitioning its fleet to a more environmentally friendly fuel called Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Currently, the agency has 314 CNG buses, which make up 78% of its fixed route bus fleet with a goal of a near 100% CNG fleet by 2023. The RTC's paratransit fleet of more than 300 vehicles is 100-percent powered by CNG. Reducing the emission of harmful pollutants will provide considerable public health benefits for Southern Nevada, especially in disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately exposed to harmful emissions.

### **About the RTC**

The RTC is the transit authority, transportation planning organization, regional traffic management agency and administrator of Southern Nevada Strong, the regional planning effort for the Las Vegas valley. The RTC's vision is to provide a safe, convenient and effective regional transportation system that enhances mobility and air quality for citizens and visitors. The RTC encourages residents and visitors to use a variety of transportation choices to help reduce traffic congestion, clean the air and improve the quality of life in Southern Nevada. For more information about the RTC and its major initiatives or to download its transit app rideRTC, visit [rtcsonv.com](http://rtcsonv.com) and stay informed by [subscribing](#) to our [blog](#).

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