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RTC Welcomes Back Riders with Safe and Sanitized Service as Las Vegas Moves to Pre-pandemic Guidelines

Technologies such as air ion cleaners, micro-bacterial shields and contactless payments options have been implemented to promote clean transit service

[Click to Tweet:](#) Welcome back riders! [@RTCSONV](#) is ensuring safe and sanitized transit services for all new and existing riders

LAS VEGAS – As the city opens to full capacity, The [Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada](#) (RTC) is well prepared to welcome an influx of public transit riders, debuting new sanitization initiatives that provide the community with a safe, clean and accessible travel experience throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

“As our community phases out previous COVID-19 restrictions, the health and safety of our riders will always be top of mind,” said M.J. Maynard, RTC chief executive officer. “The addition of new technologies to our transit operations will not only continue to help protect our transit and paratransit riders from germs and viruses, but will allow passengers that rely on transit to feel safe and comfortable riding the bus.”

While Nevada moves to open fully on June 1, public transportation falls under federal guidelines, which include ongoing mask, and social distancing guidelines. In addition to enhanced sanitation and safety measures implemented through RTC’s [14-Point Safety Plan](#), the temperatures are heating up! The following new vehicle safety features and summer heat tips are the latest will help to keep Southern Nevadans healthy as the community recovers.

Air Ion Cleaners

The RTC is clearing the air – literally – with new air ion cleaners. The on-board equipment eliminates airborne germs and viruses while RTC vehicles are on the road.

The air ion cleaners are designed to improve indoor air quality – producing positive and negative ions that suppress dust, control various odors, and reduce airborne contaminants. A video of the air ion cleaners can be viewed [here](#).

Micro-Bacterial Shields

As an additional layer of protection for riders, AEGIS micro-bacterial shields are being applied to seats and high-touch surfaces on all new transit vehicles to eliminate bacteria and mold for up to 1 year on most surfaces. The micro-bacterial shields can protect vehicles from odors, extend fabric life and make surfaces easier to clean.

The micro-bacterial shield bonds to fibers in the vehicle, allowing for bacteria to attract to the treated fibers – puncturing the bacteria’s membrane and destroying it on contact.

Contactless Cash Payment

The RTC offers transit customers a convenient and contactless option to purchase bus passes by cash. Using the RTC smartphone app, [rideRTC](#), customers who choose not to use a credit or debit card may now opt to add funds to their rideRTC account by pre-loading cash at nearly 350 locations valley-wide. Cash-in payment platforms accept the cash payment and scan a barcode from the user’s rideRTC app. Customers then have the cash deposited to buy and store RTC bus passes that they can then use at their convenience.

Summer Heat Tips

The RTC is also looking to protect the health and safety of our riders from this week’s excessive heat warning, reminding them to beat the heat and take precautions to reduce their risk of heat-related illnesses in our triple-digit temperatures. High summer temperatures can be especially harmful to older adults, people with chronic medical conditions, and children. Residents and visitors who may not be used to the high temperatures should use precautions such as:

- Check the local weather forecasts and plan activities accordingly.
- Wear lightweight, light colored clothing.
- Plan activities earlier in the morning or later in the evening.
- Avoid being out in the sun for extended periods.
- When planning extended outdoor activity, bring an adequate supply of water. Drink plenty of water at regular intervals – regardless of activity level.

For more information on current COVID-19 precautions and technologies in place, visit rtcsonv.com/coronavirus

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 and stay informed by subscribing to our [blog](#).

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