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Transit initiatives support heat mapping study results, help protect Southern Nevadans from extreme climate

*New and innovative shelters, more frequent service and other measures to provide protection
from heat and improve health and safety*

[Click to Tweet:](#) New heat data supports @RTCSNV efforts to improve the transit experience with service updates and innovative shade solutions. How hot is your neighborhood? Visit rtcsonv.com/heatmap to see where your part of the valley ranks.

LAS VEGAS, NV – Results from the [Heat Island Mapping campaign](#) conducted by the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC), Get Outdoors Nevada, and more than 60 community volunteers support recent transit improvements, including more frequent service and innovative new shade structures in some of the hottest areas of our valley.

In August 2022 and January 2023, the RTC implemented service changes to improve frequencies and schedules on several routes to reduce wait times for riders, a significant enhancement particularly during the summer months. And just last month, the RTC began installing a new type of “slimline” transit shelter to help mitigate the effects of heat.

Slimline shelters, funded by a \$4 million federal grant, include shading to protect waiting passengers from the sun and provide more lighting at night, creating greater visibility and added security benefits. These shelters have a smaller footprint to accommodate stops that are less than five feet from the roadway while continuing to enable access under the Americans with Disabilities Act. More than 100 slimline shelters will be installed in the valley over the coming year, with more than 80 percent located in and around locations that comprise the hottest 30 percent of the valley. The RTC will also add more than 50 traditional transit shelters throughout the same areas.

“Safety and comfort for passengers and vulnerable road users are top priorities for the RTC, and the results we gathered from the heat mapping project will help us more responsibly plan for the future,” said RTC CEO M.J. Maynard. “By better understanding which neighborhoods experience higher temperatures, we can continue to work with local jurisdictions to create initiatives that mitigate heat impacts and reduce the risks of heat-related dangers across our community.”

The “Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaign” study found that neighborhoods with the hottest temperatures are largely located in and around downtown Las Vegas, downtown North Las Vegas, the Historic Westside, and the eastern area of the valley. Most of these locations feature large proportions of pavement and buildings but lack dense concentrations of trees. Their lower elevations also result in

naturally warmer temperatures than higher elevations elsewhere in the region. While hotter temperatures are generally concentrated in the central and eastern valley, all areas of the region had “hotspots.”

Equipped with special sensors mounted to their cars, more than 30 volunteer teams drove pre-mapped routes throughout the valley last summer to collect data. The teams gathered 138,000 temperature and humidity measurements that were used to create detailed maps of the distribution of heat across the valley. The interactive maps, complete project summary and more can be found on the [RTC's website](#).

Southern Nevada, which has one of the fastest-warming climates in the country, was one of [14 locations](#) in the U.S. chosen to participate in the heat mapping campaign, which was supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Local project partners included the Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability, UNLV School of Public Health, and Get Outdoors Nevada.

About the RTC

The RTC is the transit authority, designated metropolitan planning organization, regional traffic management agency and administrator of the Southern Nevada Strong comprehensive regional plan for the Las Vegas valley. The RTC's vision is to advance regionally transformative mobility solutions through equitable, innovative and sustainable infrastructure development. The RTC's mission is to elevate quality of life for residents and visitors through sustainable planning, collaborative problem-solving, and safe and equitable transportation service. 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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