

**Testimony of Jessica Padrón, Advocacy Director, AARP Nevada
In Support of Assembly Bill 28, 5/5/2025**

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jessica Padrón, and I serve as the Advocacy Director for AARP Nevada. I am here today to express AARP Nevada's strong support for Assembly Bill 28, which preserves the Regional Transportation Commission's authority to request a ballot question to secure funding for public transportation in Southern Nevada.

AARP has long recognized that accessible, reliable, and affordable transportation is essential to the health, independence, and well-being of older Nevadans. Without robust public transit, many of our state's seniors—particularly those who no longer drive—lose access to medical appointments, grocery stores, jobs, education, social connection, and essential services. Public transit is not a luxury; it is a lifeline.

Assembly Bill 28 aligns with AARP's Transportation Principles and broader Age-Friendly and Livable Communities initiative, which emphasizes the importance of:

- Promoting affordable transportation options
- Ensuring accessibility for all users
- Fostering healthy, sustainable infrastructure
- Coordinating services to maximize efficiency and reach

As Nevada's population ages, more multigenerational families are depending on a strong public transportation network. Grandparents are caring for grandchildren. Adult children are caring for aging parents. Reliable transportation strengthens these family bonds by connecting people to jobs, education, and caregiving responsibilities. Cutting off transit access would place new burdens on caregivers and further isolate our most vulnerable neighbors.

If AB 28 is not passed and no new funding mechanism is secured, the projected cuts to RTC transit services—eliminating over 50% of all routes—would have devastating effects. Nearly 900,000 residents, including thousands of older adults, would lose access to transit entirely. Paratransit service areas would shrink by 53%, and essential destinations such as hospitals, senior centers, libraries, and even VA facilities would become unreachable. These impacts would disproportionately affect those least able to adapt—seniors, low-income families, people with disabilities, and those without a personal vehicle.

Assembly Bill 28 does not impose a tax increase. It simply gives the public the opportunity to weigh in on how we fund essential services and plan for Southern Nevada's future growth. AARP Nevada believes our members deserve a say in ensuring their communities remain livable for people of all ages.

On behalf of our members and the growing number of Nevadans who rely on public transportation to remain active and independent, we urge you to support Assembly Bill 28. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this critical legislation.