

Decision No. C22-0721

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

PROCEEDING NO. 22I-0471R

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IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN REGARDING THE SABLE BOULEVARD AND EXPOSITION AVENUE DERAILMENT, RULE 4 CCR 723-7-7347.

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**COMMISSION DECISION PARTIALLY APPROVING RTD  
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

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Mailed Date: November 18, 2022  
Adopted Date: November 16, 2022

**I. BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Statement**

1. On September 21, 2022, a Regional Transportation District's (RTD) light-rail vehicle derailed at the intersection/crossing of Sable Boulevard and Exposition Avenue in the City of Aurora resulting in the decoupling of the two light-rail vehicles and three injuries requiring transport.

2. RTD filed a copy of the confidential accident with Staff on November 4, 2022, which is currently under review by Staff. RTD also filed its proposed Corrective Action Plans (CAP), confidentiality. RTD filed CAP1-09212022 and CAP2-09212022. Staff has started reviewing the proposed CAPs in relation to the accident investigation report and will bring forth recommendations to the Commission in the coming weeks. There are two proposed items in CAP1-09212022 that need immediate attention by the Commission, and three remaining items in CAP1-09212022 for which Staff believes additional information needs to be provided by RTD for the Commission to understand what is being proposed.

3. CAP1-09212022 provides five proposed actions as part of this CAP including: 1) initiating an interim condition whereby operators will be required to stop and proceed before entering into the crossing (coordination will be required between RTD and City of Aurora for the traffic signals); 2) reduce speed on the A Track (the track on which the derailment occurred) from 35 miles per hour (MPH) to 25 MPH; 3) add additional signage on A Track to warn operators of the Sable Boulevard and Exposition Avenue curve; 4) relocate the radar sign further north to allow more advanced warning to operators; and 5) develop a formal plan for implementation of TS to be installed north of the curve on the A Track. Discussion of this CAP for purposes of this Commission Weekly Meeting is regarding actions one and two, and request for additional information for items three and four.

#### **B. Background**

4. At the Commission's Weekly Meeting of October 19, 2022, the Commission opened this investigatory proceeding into the September 21, 2022 derailment of an RTD light-rail vehicle at the intersection/crossing of Sable Boulevard and Exposition Avenue in the City of Aurora. By Decision No. C22-0675 mailed October 31, 2022, the Commission required RTD to file its preliminary CAP and hazard analysis in this proceeding by November 7, 2022.

5. RTD filed the preliminary CAPs on November 4, 2022.

6. Based on our preliminary review of the proposed corrective actions outlined in CAP1-09212022, there are two items that we need to take immediate action on and two items that we request additional information on from RTD.

7. RTD proposes as an interim corrective action implementing a stop and proceed for southbound train moves into the subject crossing/intersection. All operators will be required

to stop prior to entering the intersection/crossing and will be entering the intersection/crossing at or below the 10 MPH.

8. We agree with this interim condition proposed by RTD. If all operators are required to stop the light rail vehicle before entering the intersection/crossing, it will force operators to operate through this intersection/crossing at the required speed of 10 MPH or less. We will approve this corrective action.

9. RTD also proposes to reduce speed on Track A approaching the Sable Boulevard and Exposition Avenue curve from 35 MPH to 25 MPH. The reduction in speed on the southbound track approaching the intersection/crossing will contribute, in combination with the proposed stop and proceed operations, to slowing vehicles as they approach the intersection/crossing to make it easier to reduce speed prior to entering the 10 MPH curve.

10. We agree that RTD should reduce the speed of the track approaching the Sable Boulevard/Exposition Avenue crossing/intersection 10 MPH curve. A slower approach speed towards the crossing gives operators a little more time to slow down the light-rail vehicle to stop at the intersection prior to proceeding into the crossing.

11. RTD proposes to add additional signage on Track A to warn operators that the Sable Boulevard and Exposition Avenue curve. RTD also proposes to relocate the radar sign further north to allow more advanced warning.

12. We would like RTD to file additional information on these two items showing the proposed sign, how large the sign is proposed to be, where it will be posted, and a review to see if the sign might contribute to any unintended consequences (e.g., sight distance obstruction). We would also like RTD to include additional information showing where the proposed location

of the radar sign will be in relation to the intersection/crossing. If RTD provides a plan to show the locations of these items, they can be included on the same drawing.

### **C. Conclusion**

13. We will give RTD approval to move forward with the stop and proceed operations, and the speed reduction from 35 MPH to 25MPH of CAP1-09212022 and we request RTD to provide additional information showing the proposed sign, the proposed location of the sign, and the proposed location of the relocated radar sign. We request the additional information be provided for this CAP by November 30, 2022.

## **II. ORDER**

### **A. The Commission Orders That:**

1. Corrective Actions to implement stop and proceed operations at the intersection/crossing of Sable Boulevard and Exposition Avenue and to reduce the track speed of track approaching the intersection/crossing from 35 miles per hour (MPH) to 25 MPH are approved.

2. RTD is requested to provide additional information regarding the proposed new sign and location, and information showing where the radar sign is proposed to be located by November 30, 2022.

3. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

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THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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JOHN GAVAN

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Commissioners

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Doug Dean'.

Doug Dean,  
Director