



**GREATER  
DENVER  
TRANSIT**

[www.greaterdenvertransit.com](http://www.greaterdenvertransit.com)



Please sign up  
for our email list.

## Agenda

- |        |                       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 6:00pm | Doors Open            |
| 6:30pm | Meeting Start         |
| 6:32pm | The News              |
| 6:45pm | Events & Projects     |
| 7:00pm | Paratransit           |
| 7:15pm | Harm Reduction        |
| 7:20pm | RTD BoD<br>Candidates |
| 8:00pm | Drinks @ DUS          |

# Monthly Meeting

**October 24th, 2024**



# The News

# 4014 “Big Boy” Returned to Denver



9-State  
“Heartland of America Tour”

Arrived in Denver on Monday,  
October 21st

Left Denver on Wednesday,  
October 23rd

# Greyhound Eviction from Union Station?



RTD does not plan to renew agreement with Greyhound to use Denver Union Station

Uncertainty about future Denver hub location?

Where will they go?

# RTD January 2025 Service Changes



E and H Lines back at 15 minute frequencies!

AB2 route is back serving 28th Avenue in Boulder.

30 minute frequencies on AB1 and 83D.

Route 35 east extension to Nine Mile reinstated.

Routes 1 & 44 being rearranged into 3 routes with a new "1E/44" service.

Additional trips on routes FF5 and LD1

Service span improvements on 24 and 73.

**Aurora Metro Center Station** 05:03 PM

Route	Destination	Gates	Departs
R	R Line Peoria Station		05:04 PM
133	Nine Mile Stn via Tower	Aurora Metro Center Stn Gate B	05:06 PM
15L	Decatur Station via E Colfax	Aurora Metro Center Stn Gate E	05:06 PM
6	Auraria via 6th	Aurora Metro Center Stn Gate H	05:10 PM
130	Nine Mile Stn via Buckley	Aurora Metro Center Stn Gate C	05:13 PM
153	Arapahoe Station	Aurora Metro Center Stn Gate G	05:18 PM
R	R Line Peoria Station		05:18 PM

**New online "drop in" format being tried by RTD - 1-on-1 discussions with planners.**

# Dr. Joel “Lewis Hamilton” Fitzgerald Fired



**UPDATED**



**RTD Chief of Police Dr. Joel Fitzgerald  
“terminated with cause”.**

**Dr. Fitzgerald has hired a civil rights lawyer to  
investigate possible racial discrimination.**

**Steve Martingano and Glynell Horn Jr. appointed  
as acting co-chiefs. Police Union unhappy.**

**RTD GM & CEO Debra Johnson still pretty  
tight-lipped - but no longer ignoring journos!**

# Colfax BRT Groundbreaking



Colfax BRT broke ground on Friday, October 4th!



5401

 **Federal Transit Administration**

DATE October 4, 2024

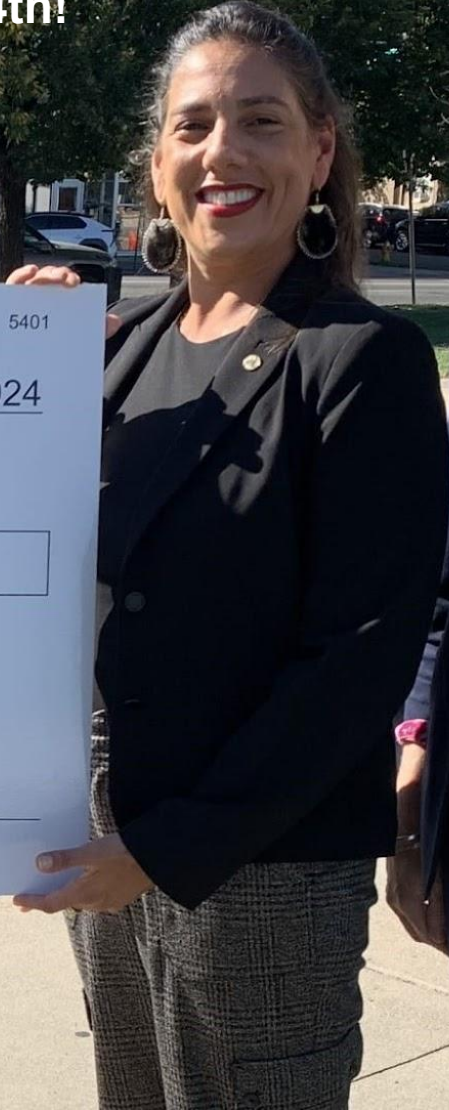
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Denver Regional Transportation District \$ 150,000,000

One Hundred and Fifty Million DOLLARS 

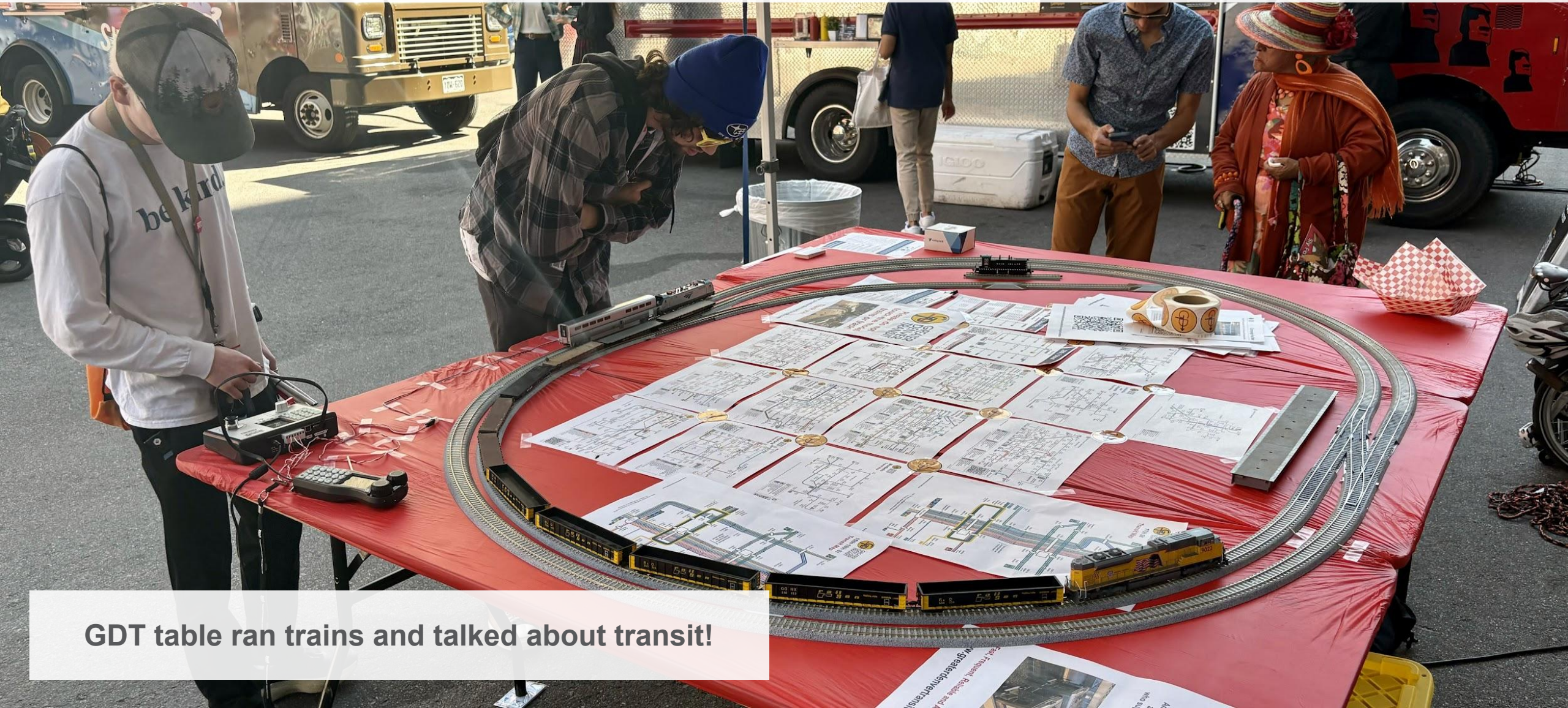
FOR East Colfax Avenue BRT

11234567890 | 7890"56731:

*Federal Transit Administration*  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE



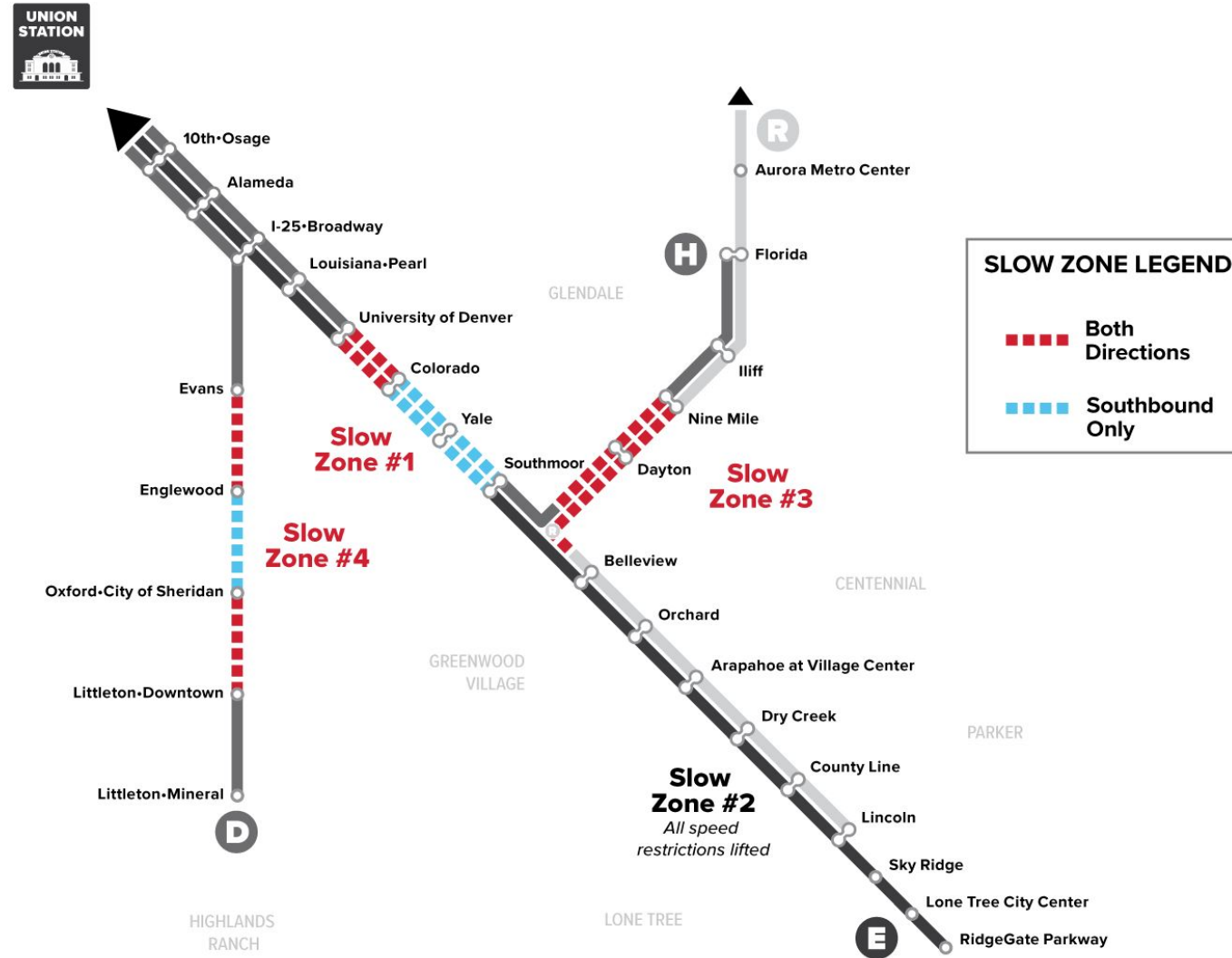
# 30th Anniversary Light Rail Party



**GDT table ran trains and talked about transit!**



# Oct 18th - Light Rail Slow Zones



# Beyond Denver...

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Eagle and Arkansas River Valley advocates called an all-hands meeting.

**Called on fast support to expand the Mountain Rail Concept.**



# Eagle River Valley Service

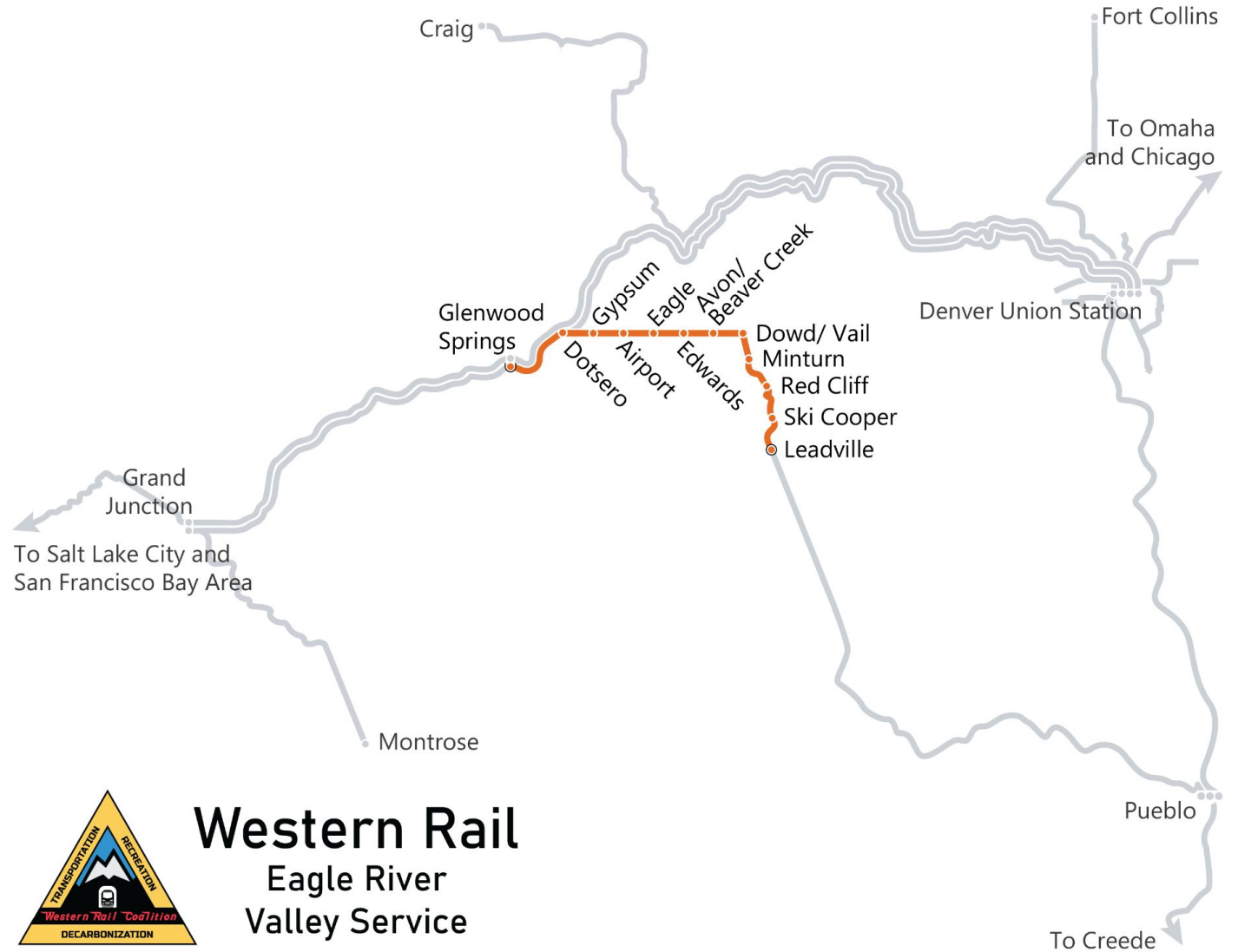


Advocates have been considering how to successfully support going “bigger” in the mountains.

Vision for hourly or better service between Gypsum and Avon, some trains continuing beyond.

Letter sent to Governor Polis and CDOT Director Lew urging for a study to be initiated!

Major consensus and backing from Eagle River Valley leadership!



**Western Rail**  
Eagle River  
Valley Service

# An Invitation from Minturn



← Hi Brett!

James was asked by Mayor Earle Bidez of Minturn to present to the Town Council.

Lots of questions, missed out on endorsement by 3 vs. 4 votes, but helped start a conversation.

# Media Coverage



## Western Rail Coalition urges study of local service in letter to Gov. Polis, CDOT

By David O. Williams

October 22, 2024, 9:10 am



## Colorado Western Slope leaders call on Gov. Polis, CDOT to expand scope of mountain rail project to include other resort areas

Coalition group wants to resurrect a dormant train line between Leadville and Glenwood Springs to bring passenger rail to key ski towns

News [FOLLOW NEWS](#) | Oct 24, 2024



Robert Tann [FOLLOW](#)  
rtann@vaildaily.com



The RealVail broke the story, covered some strong quotes from letter signees!

The Vail Daily followed up, and confirmed support from Senator Reports for the study!

The dormant section of the Tennessee Pass line includes the old mining town of Silver Lake, Colo. A coalition group of Western Slope citizens and rail advocates are hoping to resurrect the line, which has not been operational since 1997, for the purpose of carrying passenger rail trains up and down the Eagle River valley

# The Election - Vote!



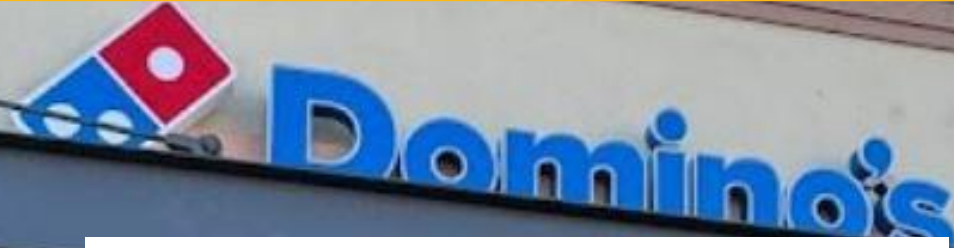
Less than two weeks until Election Day, VOTE!

Major impacts to transit inc. Measure 7A.

# Pizza Fund: For Members Only

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***venmo***

**\$3 for each piece of pizza.**







# Events

# Monthly Meetings

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6pm on 3rd Thursday  
of the month.

**Transit-oriented Drinks (ToD)**  
follow after!

Next meeting:  
**6pm Thursday November 21st**

# RTD Board of Directors Meeting



**RTD** Peak Service Study  
Northwest Rail  
**Feasibility Study Update**  
Board of Directors  
December 3, 2024

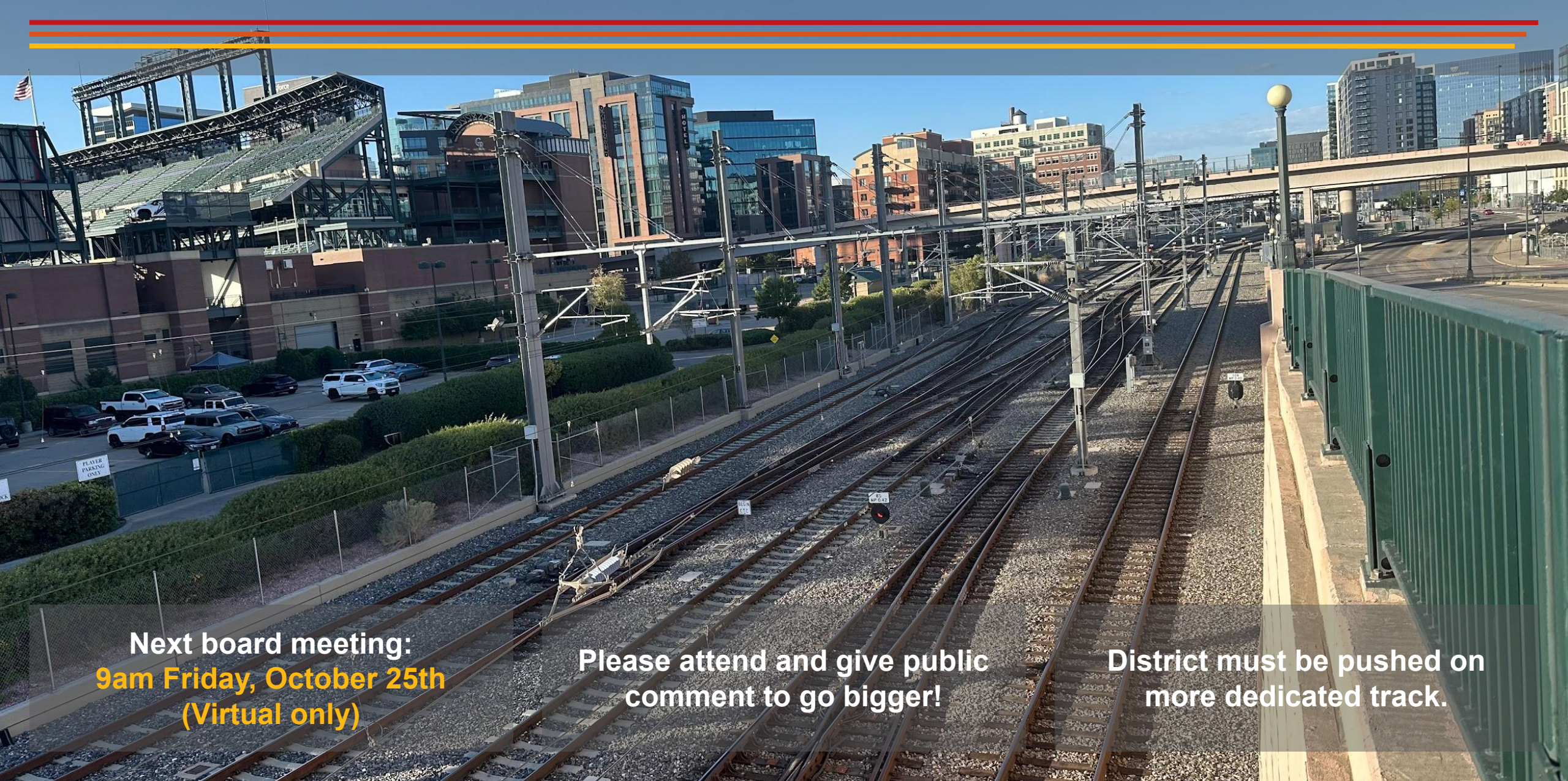
**Item XVI.2 - Discussion Item**  
XVI. General Manager's Report  
XVI.1. Accession System Update  
XVI.2. Northwest Rail Peak Service Feasibility Study Update  
XVI.3. Livability Grants  
XVI.4. 2024-2025 Year-Over-Year Performance Review and Annual 2025 Performance Improvement Plan  
XVI.5. Board of Directors' Action  
XVI.6. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.7. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.8. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.9. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.10. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.11. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.12. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.13. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.14. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.15. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.16. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.17. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.18. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.19. Board of Directors' Report  
XVI.20. Board of Directors' Report

**Next board meeting:**  
**5:30pm Tues December 3rd**  
**1660 Blake St**

**Please come and give**  
**public comment.**  
**Meet outside at 5:15pm**

**Last one of the year!**

# FRPR District Board of Directors Meeting



**Next board meeting:**  
**9am Friday, October 25th**  
**(Virtual only)**

**Please attend and give public  
comment to go bigger!**

**District must be pushed on  
more dedicated track.**

# Transit Oriented Hike 2



We held our second transit hike-along at the beginning of October

Took the Flatiron Flyer to the NB1 to the Hessie Trailhead Shuttle

Checkout the #transit-hikes Slack channel for information on upcoming transit hikes

# Spooky Halloween Party

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**Spooky Halloween volunteer  
party fundraiser!**

**6PM at the Spire in  
Downtown Denver**

**Register at:  
[chrisforRTD.com/party](https://chrisforRTD.com/party)**

# Ride-Alongs!



Tonight, we beverages at DUS!

Will head over between 8 - 8:30 pm, will meet fellow advocates on Floor 2.

Let us know your ideas for future ride-alongs!

A wide-angle photograph of a modern train station platform. The platform is paved with light-colored concrete and features a yellow tactile strip along the edge. Overhead power lines and support structures are visible, with a black support pole in the foreground on the left labeled 'M1-6' and another on the right labeled 'M2-4'. In the background, a train is visible on the tracks, and the station building with a red roof is partially visible. The sky is a mix of blue and white clouds, suggesting a clear day.

# Projects



# Project Champions



There is so much going on  
and we need your help!

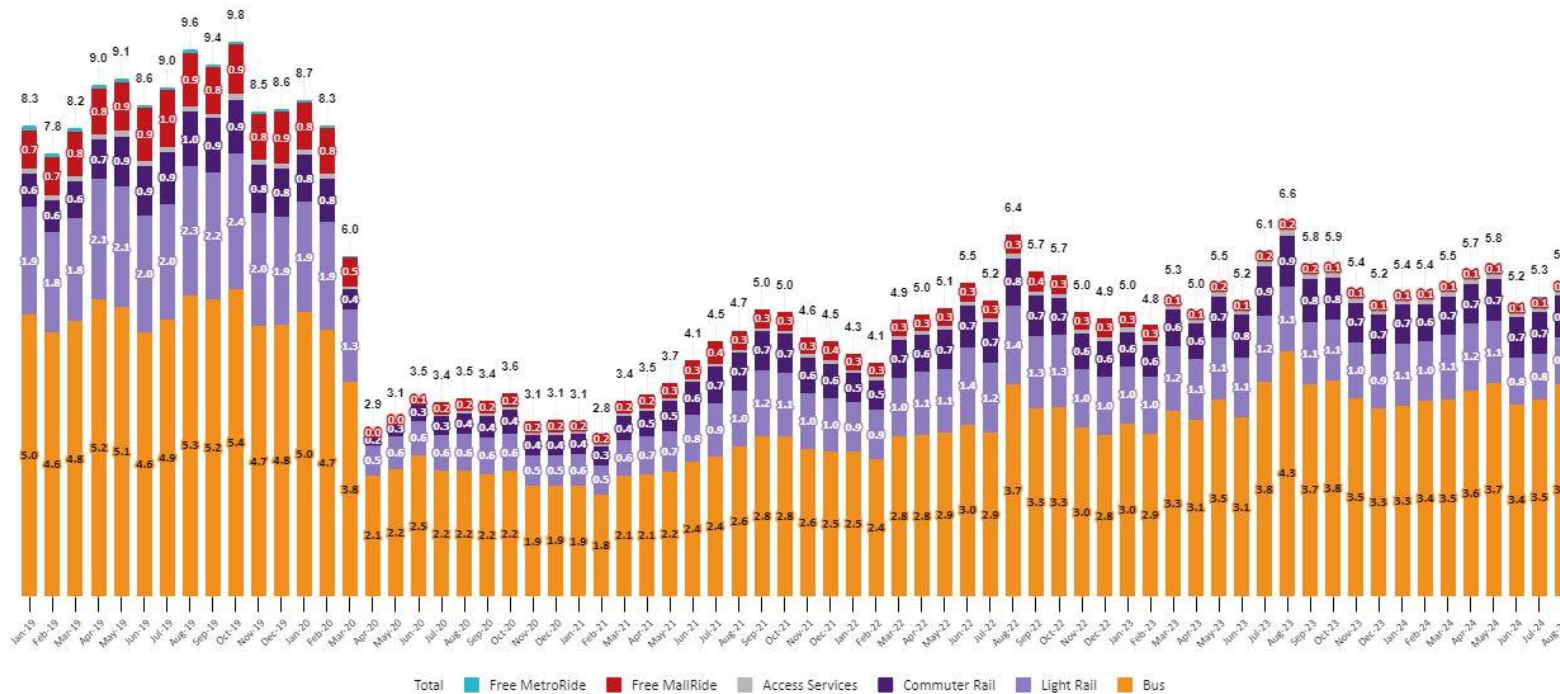
Project champions are being  
appointed for RTD, CDOT &  
DOTI projects.

Volunteers Needed!

# RTD Ridership Analysis - August 2024



RTD Ridership by Mode (millions of boardings)



YoY % Growth\*:  
 Bus: **-5% YoY**  
 Light Rail: **-21% YoY**  
 Heavy Rail: **-11% YoY**  
 Total: **-9% YoY**

\* Growth rates adjusted for equalized work week days on a year-over-year basis

August 2019  
**9.6m riders**

August 2020  
**3.5m riders**

August 2024  
**5.5m riders**

# RTD Operator Shortage - Data Issue



YoY Net Increase in Hiring\*:

Bus: **+149** (+146 per calc)

Light Rail: **+12** (+4 per calc)

Total: **+161** (+150 per calc)

\*YoY Increase (decrease) includes Full Time + Part Time operators presented net of attrition (voluntary & involuntary)

Bus: **32 Vacancies**  
920 vs. 952 Budget

Light Rail: **30 Vacancies**  
172 vs. 202 Budget

Bus+LRT: **62 Vacancies**  
1,092 vs. 1,154



# RTD Paratransit Peer Review

# RTD Paratransit Services

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**To use RTD's paratransit services,  
an individual must:**

**be unable to get to and from a bus stop or on  
and off a lift-equipped fixed-route bus by  
themselves.**

**have a disability that prohibits them from  
completing fixed-route bus independently.**

**live in the RTD District and within  
3/4 mile of a fixed route bus or rail stop.**



# Access-a-Ride



**One-Way Ticket**

**\$4.50**

one-way

**Airport**

**\$19**

one-way to DEN

**Ticket Book - 6, One-Way Passes**

**\$27.00**

**LiVE Fare\***

**One-Way Ticket**

**\$2.25**

one-way

**Airport**

**\$9.50**

one-way to or from DEN

**Ticket Book - 6, One-Way Tickets**

**\$13.50**

**Fully ADA compliant  
door-to-door van service.**

**Trips must be scheduled  
between 1-7 days in advance**

**30 minute pick up window,  
shared service.**

# Access-on-Demand



“Curb-to-curb” service aimed at disabled individuals who can travel in a regular car.

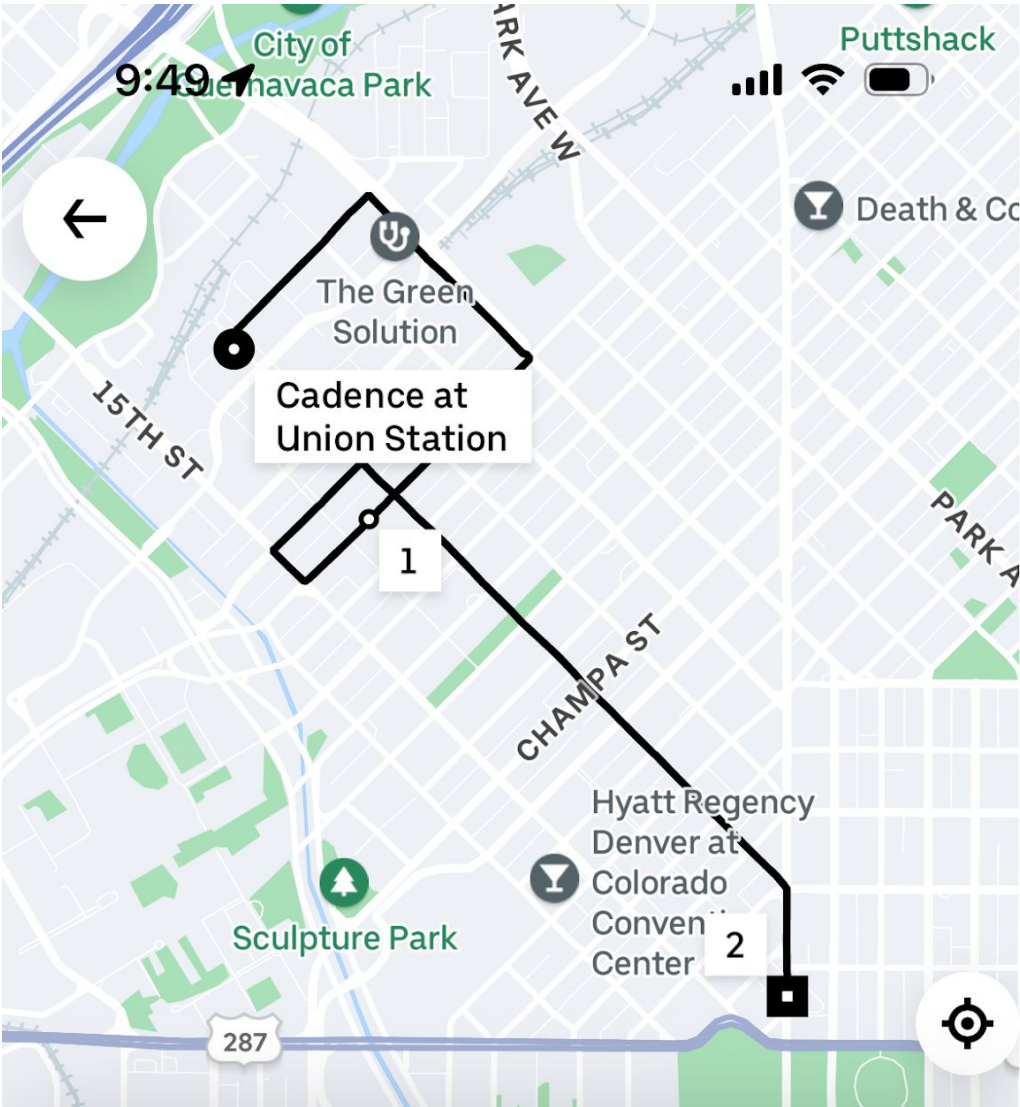
Choice of 4 providers for service, 60 trips / mth.

RTD subsidizes the first \$25 of the fare - then provider’s regular fares apply.

Now described as a “supplemental” and a “premium” service.



# The Banned “Multi-stop” Function



## Add stops

Pickup now ▾ For me ▾

- Cadence at Union Station =
- 1 1660 Blake St = ✕
- 2 Civic Center RTD Bus Station = ✕
- + Add a stop =

Done





PROJECT 13 GYMS



**Jaime Lewis**

**RTD Board Director, District A**

# Jaime Lewis - Paratransit Peer Review



**TABLE 1**  
AoD Program Restructuring Examples

	<b>Fare</b>	<b>Per-Trip Cap</b>	<b>Monthly Trip Cap</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Hours of Service</b>
AaR	\$4.50	n/a	n/a	Fixed route + 3/4 mi	Varies based on route
Current AoD	\$0	\$25/trip	60 trips	Entire RTD service zone	24/7
AoD Example A	\$6.00	\$35/trip	30 trips	Fixed route + 3/4 mi*	Comparable to fixed route
AoD Example B	\$3.50	\$35/trip	40 trips	Fixed route + 3/4 mi*	Comparable to fixed route

\* RTD should evaluate the percentage of trips that start or end outside the 3/4-mile service area

RTD has commissioned a Paratransit Peer Review.

Disability advocates say it is being rushed.

# Jaime Lewis - Paratransit Peer Review



Multi-stop issue.

Pier review focuses only on Access-on-Demand.

Timetable for implementation.

Distance from fixed routes.

Access-on-Demand numbers are flattening (already peaked).

Board members kept out of the process.

Poor survey method.

Avoid 100% backfill (\$1M)



**Questions?**



# RTD's Public Drug Use Problem

*A Place-Based, Services Oriented Solution*

Presented by:  
Bob Dinegar  
for Greater Denver Transit

October 24, 2024

# RTD RIDERSHIP DOWN BY 40%

- RTD exists to provide a viable alternative to single occupancy vehicles.
- RTD has a public drug use problem which negatively impacts the experience of using its services.
- The perception of an unsafe transit environment is a major reason ridership remains low.

# FROM "HELLHOLE" TO DIASPORA OF THE VULNERABLE



- In 2021 RTD's GM/CEO and Board, reacting to a public declaration by the head of RTD's Union Local that Union Station had become a "hellhole" instituted policies to "discourage loitering of 'non-destination' individuals".
- The forced exodus of these vulnerable folks from "Denver's Living Room" resulted in a diaspora that spread across RTD's system and remains a problem to this day.

# IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS

- Last year, just in Denver, 575 folks died of a drug related death, our most ever.
- Every overdose death is preventable.
- Denver lacks public health interventions to reduce rates of public drug use.
- A transit adjacent harm reduction facility would significantly impact rates of public drug use.
- Numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies have proven the positive impacts of harm reduction facilities.
- No one's son or daughter has ever died at an HRF.



# WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

- Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing the public health risks associated with drug use.
- Harm Reduction calls for the non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs, and the communities in which they live, in order to assist them in reducing harm.
- Harm Reduction is not the opposite of Recovery, it is just the

# A HUB OF HOPE

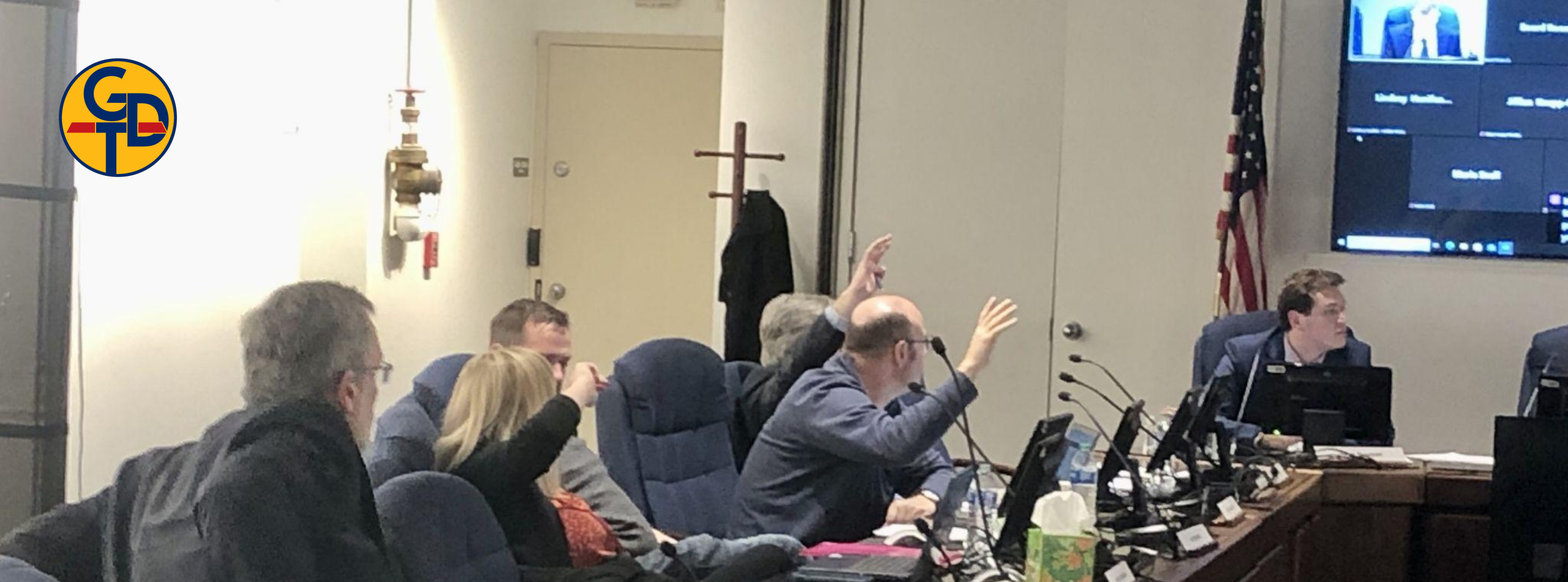


- The University of Denver Station has 40,000 sf of retail space.
- It's been vacant for 18 years, since the station opened in 2006.
- Denver's Harm Reduction Action Center would LOVE to set up shop there.

# LET'S CONNECT THE DOTS



- This is one of four 10,000 SF retail spaces currently used for storage at the DU Station.
- RTD is considering putting its Transit Police HQ onsite.
- A Harm Reduction Facility co-located with them would make for great synergies.
- Just a place to be, with care providers, clean syringes and support referrals will keep folks alive and make RTD's "Welcoming Transit Environment" a reality for all.



# RTD Board Candidates

# RTD Board Candidates

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**Yes / No: Will you be voting “Yes”  
on Ballot Measure 7A?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**You find out the GM & CEO is planning to award a construction contract worth \$2.5m without Board approval. What do you do?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**How many constituent outreach events should you aim to be a part of each year?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**The GM & CEO wants the Board to approve a \$300m, 5 yr bus operations contract with TransDev, yet all you've seen is a short summary presentation. What would you do?**



# RTD Board Candidates

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**Aside from a committee work plan and the chair placing it on, what other method can you use to get a item on a meeting agenda?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**Staff sends you a 500 page document for approval 4 days before a meeting.  
What do you do?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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## Choose a policy...

**1. Rider's Bill of Rights**

**2. Service Planning Review**

**3. Operator Shortage Review**

**4. Light Rail Ops Review**

**5. Service Planning Review**

**6. Title VI Policies Review**

**7. Fare Collection Review**

**8. RTD Police Review**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**Who should lead the GM & CEO's performance evaluation process?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**How many votes in favor do you need to change a Board by-law?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**Can you tell us something positive about the candidate sitting to your right?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**How many other Directors do you need to vote “yes” to pass a regular policy at the full board meeting?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**Approx. how many constituents will you be representing should you be elected?**



# RTD Board Candidates

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**How do staff brief Board members on legally and / or commercially sensitive matters?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**1 minute pitches please...**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**Yes / No: Should RTD  
contract out bus service?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**Who would you nominate for next year's RTD Board chair?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**Should RTD have a policy stating a fare revenue target (e.g. 10%)?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**What do you think of RTD being said to currently being in “maintenance mode”?**

# RTD Board Candidates

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**If you could pass a bill in the Colorado State Legislature, what would it be?**



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# Thank You!

**Transit adventure starts now!**