

BERNARD P. CELESTIN

Candidate

RTD-BOARD OF DIRECTORS-DISTRICT F

1- My top three priorities if elected as a Board Member:

- A. Hire enough Operators to cover all the routes thus having more passengers and thus fewer cars on the road.
- B. Make rides free permanently for our youth up to 19 years old and for handicapped passengers who are wheelchair bound thus helping them to save money and have a better quality of life.
- C. Have better lines of communication with all the employees and the greater community groups in the district.

These are my top three priorities because I believe that showing the community that you respect their value and are willing to do what you can help them will mean a great deal to both the community and RTD.

I do believe that these priorities align with what the Board's priorities should be.

- 2- The most effective way to make change and/or advocate for effective policies on the Board is for the Board members to build stronger relationships with each other by getting to know and respect one another more. This will also improve transparency on the Board. We are one Board working to make better one RTD.
- 3- My plan for constituent outreach is for the Board members to attend Homeowners Association Meetings. The more visible the Board is to the public the more support we will receive from them as we get to know each other. This will enable the public and RTD to better and successfully engage with one another on issues concerning the public.
- 4- The general public is who RTD needs to focus on to increase ridership so that RTD better serves the community as a whole. By sharing with the general public the total number of buses on the road every day, the total number of accidents that happen each day (if any), and total number of miles driven daily will show the public that RTD is very safe and reliable. This information will help all the riders. If focusing on specific groups is the way to begin to increase ridership, focusing on the youth and handicapped members in the ways stated in my top three priorities above will help increase ridership.
- 5- I do not think the current service change process needs to be overhauled because RTD must be flexible depending on the season of the year and other situations where more or fewer buses may be needed. I also think RTD needs to add more routes because of the many growing communities.

- 6- Currently I do not believe that the Directors play any role in resolving the operator shortage. That being said, RTD can improve the recruitment and retention of operators by having the Directors visit the various garages and rail shops. This would enhance communication between the operators and the Directors and thus improve the morale of all the employees. In addition, RTD can improve the recruitment and retention of operators by promoting the agency in a more positive light. Work conditions could always be improved but first we must improve relationships between staff and management and the Union.
- 7- The metrics that should be made public are the number of miles driven each day by the operators verses the number of accidents that occur during the same time frame. It is hard to say which of these metrics the GM/CEO should be subject to because GM/CEO are also the ones providing a safe place to work and vehicles that are properly maintained.
- 8- As far as the Light Rail system is concerned the Directors must be very honest and upfront about the service and respectfully explain to the public what must be done to maintain the safety of the Light Rail tracks and trains.

To mitigate these issues going forward, RTD must be sure any Lightly Rail issues are promptly and properly addressed to maintain a great state of functionality.

- 9- Regarding safety on transit and all post-pandemic concerns such as substance abuse/drug use, crime, and other poor behaviors, we must remember that prisons and hospitals were releasing people in large numbers due to untimely deaths of others and those people did not have anywhere to go.
  - A- They took over anywhere they felt comfortable which included the RTD bus stops
  - B- RTD and City Leaders must work very hard together to continue finding a safe place for the homeless to live in peace. The fact is that the bus stops are part of the cities, and one group cannot and should not just put the problem on the other group. At the same time the operators should receive the same number of protections that a flight crew receives while serving the public.
  - C- We have but one Colorful Colorado and it is incumbent on all of us to do our part to keep Colorado moving forward and treating all our citizens with respect.
- 10- Regarding the deBrucing ballot measure, I fully support it. Due to the way our cities and state are growing it makes sense and it will assist in the Expansion of RTD and maintenance costs.