

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0510 Opposing HB24-1447 As Introduced in Colorado State Legislature

WHEREAS, The Regional Transportation District (RTD) provides public transportation in eight counties including all of Boulder, Broomfield, Denver and Jefferson counties, parts of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, and Weld County providing for the transportation needs of over 3.08 million people; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the "Citizens for an Accountable RTD" ballot initiative established the RTD Board of Directors through majority voter support in a public election to provide public oversight and direct accountability to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, 75% of RTD's operating budget is funded directly by the tax-paying residents within the geographical boundaries of the RTD, with less than 1% funding allocated by the State; and

WHEREAS, the role and responsibility of the elected RTD Directors is to oversee a better and more reliable public transportation system, within the defined RTD boundaries, through a public process, with publicly elected representatives, putting to work taxpayers' monies and interest; and

WHEREAS, in order to appropriately respond to and address the issues and needs felt by riders, the public needs to be ensured that they have representation at the board level; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating the elected accountability of RTD Board Directors risks allowing the isolation of those who would advocate the hardest for those riders who have been historically excluded from decisions which impact them.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. The City Council of Denver stands unified in opposition to the proposed HB24-1447, concerning a Transit Reform as introduced in the Colorado Legislature on April 9th, 2024.

Section 2. The City Council of Denver believes the State of Colorado should be responsive to neighborhood groups and organizations representative of their communities in planning for a governing structure that meets the needs of the state while centering the riders.

Section 3. The City Council of Denver recognizes the need for a more intentional focus on funding our region's historically underfunded public transit systems in conscious effort to provide affordable, safe, reliable and frequent service.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 22, 2024

PRESIDENT

