



**Proclamation No. 23-0772**

**A Proclamation Supporting the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) Zero Fare for Youth Pilot Program**

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) has been a vital part of Denver and the Front Range's transportation system since its establishment in 1969; and

**WHEREAS**, RTD has strived to enhance mobility and accessibility for residents and visitors alike, playing a pivotal role in the region's economic development, environmental sustainability, and social equity; and

**WHEREAS**, RTD has proposed an innovative Zero Fare for Youth Pilot Program, which aims to eliminate transit fares for young people under the age of 19, ensuring equitable access to public transportation and fostering a stronger, more inclusive community; and

**WHEREAS**, RTD's Zero Fare for Youth invests in long-term ridership and cleaner air for the City and County of Denver; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zero Fare for Youth Pilot Program aligns with the City and County of Denver's vision for a more sustainable, interconnected, and prosperous region; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and County of Denver's Safe Routes to School Action Plan encourages students and employees to use incentive programs to increase alternate modes of transportation to move around Denver; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zero Fare for Youth Pilot Program works to encourage students to use of public transportation, reducing private vehicle usage, alleviating traffic congestion, and improving air quality for the benefit of all residents;

**WHEREAS**, the Zero Fare for Youth Pilot Program works to empower students to explore educational, recreational, and employment opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zero Fare for Youth Pilot Program will provide financial relief to families by eliminating transportation costs for young individuals, freeing up resources that can be allocated to other essential needs, such as housing, healthcare, and education;

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

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver supports the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) Zero Fare for Youth Pilot Program and acknowledge its potential to benefit Denverites and the Front Range.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be made available to RTD.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 20, 2023

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT