May 5, 2020

Angie Rivera-Malpiede  
Chair, RTD Board of Director  
1660 Blake Street  
Denver, CO 80202

Paul J. Ballard  
Chief Executive Officer, General Manager  
1660 Blake Street  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Chair Rivera-Malpiede and Mr. Ballard:

Thank you for your recent letter updating my administration on the Regional Transportation District’s (RTD) response to the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) crisis. Like you, we are committed to protecting the public’s health and safety during this unprecedented time, and we are acutely aware of the financial impact this event is having on Colorado families, businesses, and the economy overall.

We appreciate your efforts to implement the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s guidance to ensure social distancing and hygienic conditions on your buses for employees and passengers. Efforts like these will promote trust in our public institutions as well as limit and prevent the spread of COVID-19. We urge you to implement additional measures to reduce the number of passengers on especially busy routes and to ensure that all employee lounges and work areas have clear postings for social distancing, and ensure that these same protective measures in our guidelines are also afforded to contractors.

To further build confidence and trust in our public institution, we must ensure that we are transparent and accountable to our constituents. Our economic recovery depends on the ability to have a safe, efficient, and accountable transportation network. RTD will be an important player in the coming months as we begin to recover from the impacts of this economic disruption. For these reasons, we urge you to ensure there is oversight of the RTD budget after being the recipient of at least $232 million in CARES Act funding. Furthermore, we encourage RTD to work with us and the General Assembly to establish an oversight body for its operation, administration, and finances, including the federal stimulus dollars.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. We appreciate your continued service to Colorado and thank you.

Sincerely,

Jared Polis  
Governor