

Northwest Mayors & Commissioners Coalition (MCC)

September 3, 2020

Boulder County

City of Boulder

*City & County of
Broomfield*

City of Lafayette

City of Longmont

City of Louisville

City of Westminster

Town of Erie

Town of Superior

RTD Board of Directors
Paul Ballard, Interim General Manager and Chief Executive Officer
Regional Transportation District
1660 Blake Street
Denver, CO 80202

Dear RTD Board Chairperson Rivera-Malpiede and General Manager Ballard,

In response to the recent information discussed with RTD and the Northwest Mayors & Commissioners Coalition (formerly the US 36 Mayors & Commissioners Coalition), we respectfully request that RTD continue to work with us to address several outstanding issues that we have raised with RTD over the last few months:

1) We are continuing to request that RTD protect the FasTracks Investment Savings Account (FISA) fund and reserve these dollars to ensure the completion of FasTracks. While we understand the financial constraints that RTD is facing due to COVID19 impacts and prior financial challenges, now is not the time to repurpose these dollars and forfeit on the promises made to regional voters in 2004. RTD must honor prior commitments made to community partners in order to rebuild public trust.

In the near term, RTD should approve use of a portion of the available FISA funds to invest in the completion of the 30% design of the Northwest Rail passenger line from Westminster to Longmont as outlined during RTD's recent meeting with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Corporation, as well as fulfill the other remaining FasTracks commitments along US 36. In addition, it is important for RTD to retain the existing FISA funds given these uncertain financial times, and to have funds available to leverage any potential state and/or federal funding opportunities that may arise to support our region's economic recovery.

2) Northwest MCC continues to request that RTD advance a small portion (~\$5 million) of the \$33 million in funding that RTD has already committed for the SH 119 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in 2023. Providing this initial funding for SH119 in 2021-22 will allow RTD to better partner with local agencies and the Colorado Department of Transportation on the full, multimodal corridor design process that is occurring from 2021-2022. The RTD funding for the SH119 BRT project is separate from the FISA funding request outlined in #1 above.

3) RTD's reporting of the county-by-county FasTracks financial information continues to reflect 48% of the FasTracks funding remaining as "unallocated" to any county within the metro area. Communicating the financial data this way unfortunately misconstrues the data and misleads the public and policy makers to think that the FasTracks funding revenue and expenses creates regional geographic equity, when we believe that is an inaccurate statement. The Northwest MCC continues to request that RTD update your financial reporting and mapping visuals to reflect full allocation of the FasTracks funding on a county-by-county basis to be more accurate and congruent with real, on-the-ground investment of these public dollars throughout the metro area. Until this information can be updated, we request that RTD cease sharing the attached map and associated financial data publicly because of the inaccurate allocations and the resulting significantly erroneous unallocated share. We look forward to continuing to work with RTD to update this information so that it can be beneficial to help inform current and future policy discussions within RTD, as well as with on-going collaboration with each of our communities and the metro area as a whole.

We appreciate your prompt response to these continuing questions and requests from the Northwest Mayors & Commissioners Coalition.

Thank you,



Elise Jones, Boulder County Commissioner

cc: Heather McKillop, RTD Chief Financial Officer
RTD Board of Directors
Governor Jared Polis
Senate Majority Leader Stephen Fenberg
Speaker KC Becker
Senator Faith Winter
Senator Mike Foote
Representative Matt Gray
Representative Edie Hooton
Representative Jonathan Singer
Representative Sonya Jaquez Lewis