

Special Board of Directors

Meeting date: October 2, 2024

Agenda Item #: 7

Discussion of Regional Transportation District TABOR Ballot Question

Agenda item type: Action item

Summary

This item concerns the possible adoption of a position on the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) ballot measure. RTD has submitted a question for the November 5 election seeking voter approval to collect, retain and spend all revenues received as required under Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution (TABOR).

Background

In 1999, voters exempted RTD from the TABOR revenue and spending limitations for the purpose of paying debt incurred to finance construction of the Southeast and Southwest light rail lines until bond repayment, which will happen this year. At its June 25, 2024 meeting, the RTD Board passed a resolution to submit to the voters a continuation of the exemption. The question will be on the November 5 election ballot.

The official ballot title states:

WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX OR INCREASING ANY TAX RATE, SHALL THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT'S ("RTD") AUTHORIZATION TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES IT RECEIVES FROM ALL SOURCES, INCLUDING ITS SALES TAX REVENUES, GRANT FUNDS AND OTHER MONEYS LAWFULLY RECEIVED BY RTD FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO OR ANY OTHER SOURCE, ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN 1999, BE CONTINUED TO PERMIT RTD TO RETAIN REVENUE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE VITAL RTD SERVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

1. PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION CHOICES TO LOCAL RESIDENTS BY MAINTAINING AND GROWING CURRENT LEVELS OF BUS, AND RAIL SERVICES;
2. REPAIRING AND IMPROVING RAIL LINES, BUSES, BUS STOPS AND STATIONS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC'S INVESTMENT IN TRANSIT;
3. MAINTAINING THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES;
4. CONTINUING TO PROVIDE CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION OTHER THAN DRIVING ON ROADS AND HIGHWAYS; AND
5. PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR YOUTH 19 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER AT REDUCED OR NO FARES;



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WITH ALL FUNDS SUBJECT TO INDEPENDENT AUDIT AND OVERSEEN BY THE ELECTED RTD BOARD; AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND EXEMPTION FROM ANY REVENUE AND SPENDING LIMITATIONS UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

At the September 18 Board meeting, the Board voted to table this item to give directors ample time to discuss this ballot measure with their jurisdictions. It was requested and decided that a special Board meeting take place before the next regular meeting to discuss and possibly take action on this item.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

[April 17, 2024](#) – Board of Directors meeting

[September 18, 2024](#) – Board of Directors meeting

Recommendation

At the Board's discretion.

Attachment(s)

Draft resolution

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Rich Mauro, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 303-480-6778 or rmauro@drcog.org.

