



We make lives better
through connections.

September 16, 2026

RTD Comprehensive Operations and Network Needs Evaluation for Community Transit (CONNECT)

**Aligning the transit network with our region's
needs and resources**

Doug Monroe

Manager, Corridor Planning

Agenda

- COA Outcomes
- Project Timeline
- Next Steps



COA Outcomes

RTD CONNECT kicked off in March

- The COA is intended to:
 - Evaluate how RTD's network should evolve in the near- and long-term
 - Align service with today's travel patterns, land use, and customer needs
 - Provide a roadmap for a useful, equitable, and financially sustainable network



What is a COA?

- Used by transit agencies to address changing travel patterns, regional growth, and mobility needs in communities
- Ensures the agency effectively delivers bus and rail services in a manner that supports our mission of *making lives better through connections* across the entire service area



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF TRANSIT



Service Changes (3x/year)



- Fine-tune routing, schedule tweaks, respond to demand shifts
- Implements minor adjustments that cannot be forecast years ahead

Short-Term Service Plan (5-year horizon)



- Sets near-term network strategy based on resources
- Revisited periodically as constraints/opportunities shift
- Informed by the COA and aligned with long-term vision

Long-Term Vision (30-year horizon)



- Supports major investments and infrastructure direction
- Refined periodically to maintain alignment with strategic plan
- Defines long-range goals and network aspirations

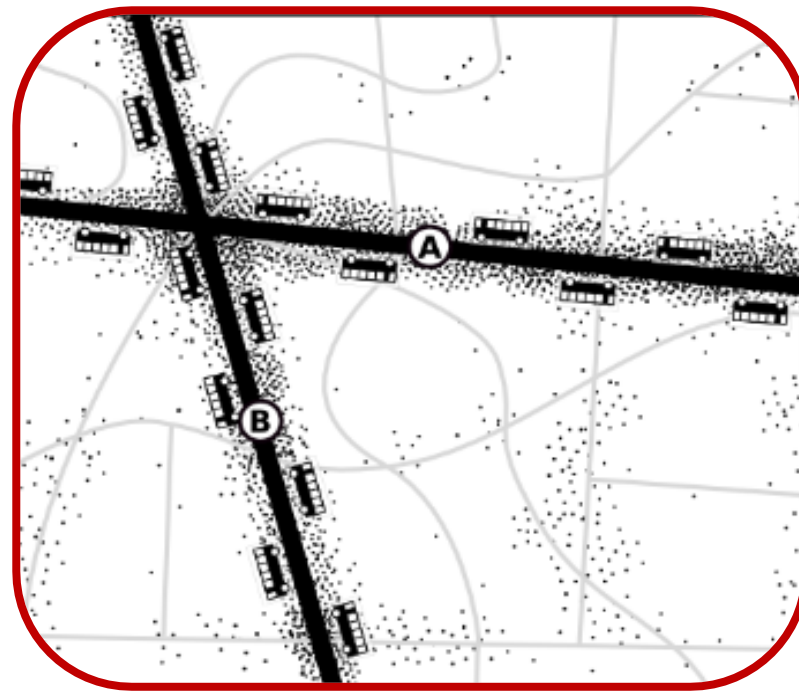


Baseline Scenarios

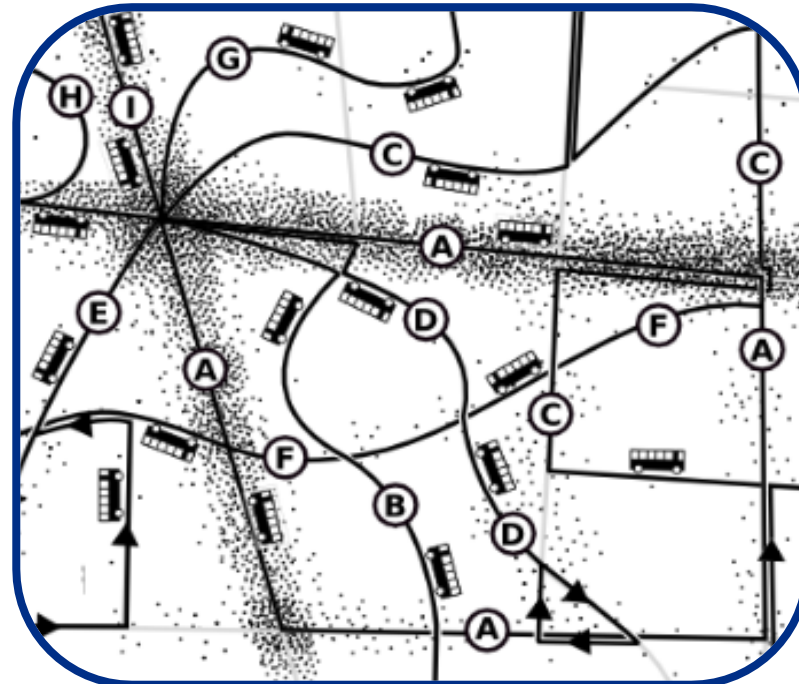
Contrasting visions will be developed to illustrate trade-offs in the short-term (2028), including:

- **Frequency focus:** designed to focus on areas where people most likely will use transit
- **Coverage focus:** designed to serve as much of the service area as possible

The **short-term network plan** will be developed based on Board direction, after stakeholders and the public engage with the alternatives and provide comments



Maximizing
Frequency



Maximizing
Coverage

Long-Term Vision

- Less constrained network roadmap beyond five years
- Technical foundation for a potential ballot measure
- Objective service standards defining total regional transit needs
- Synthesized long-term vision for service delivery and infrastructure investment



September 16, 20

Project Timeline

PROJECT ROADMAP

PHASE 1: CURRENT CONDITIONS

Understand the current network, market and industry conditions



PHASE 2: NETWORK ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Share alternatives that show what the network could look like if designed to maximize utilization or maximize coverage. Understand the public, stakeholders, and Board's priorities for a future network



PHASE 3: DRAFT PLANS

Share short-range service and long-range vision plans for input from the public, stakeholders, and Board



PHASE 4: FINAL PLANS

Finalize short and long-range plans and prepare for implementation



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Next Steps – A Community Conversation

A community conversation

RTD CONNECT will engage:

- Current transit customers
- Community members and organizations
- Neighborhood groups
- Local governments and regional leaders
- Advocacy organizations
- Service councils and advisory committees
- RTD staff and Board Members



Phase 2 Engagement

RTD CONNECT's next phase of engagement will run September 30 through November 11 and will include:

- Community Ambassador Selection and Activation
- Community Survey (open Sept. 30 through Nov. 11)
- Stakeholder Workshops (Sept. 30, Oct. 1, Oct. 2)
- Virtual Stakeholder Meetings (Oct. 13, Oct. 14)
- In-person Community Meetings (weeks of Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2)



Engagement will include:

- Three in-person stakeholder workshops
- Three in-person community meetings
- Two virtual community meetings
- Pop-up events in the community and along RTD routes
- An online survey
- Presentations at community meetings
- Digital tools (e.g. website, project inbox)
- Communications toolkits for partners
- Community Ambassadors



Stakeholder Workshops

- Interactive workshops designed for key stakeholders to understand the issues and inform short- and long-term network design.
- September 30
- October 1
- October 2



Community Ambassador Program

- The Community Ambassador Program has recruited 30 community representatives, two per RTD Board District, to ensure community members across the region have a voice in the future transit network design through at least 25 touchpoints per engagement phase.
- Ambassadors will be equipped to do pop-ups at stations within their districts, canvass, share information on social media and present at local organizations.



An online survey will capture directly actionable feedback.

- All forms of engagement will direct members of the public to an online survey asking the key questions:
 - **What should RTD's highest priorities be?**
 - **How should RTD's network balance ridership and coverage goals?**
- The survey will also be made available at in-person community events, either on paper or with tablets provided by the project team.
 - **The survey will run throughout the Fall Engagement Phase (Sept. 30 – Nov. 12)**



What is the right balance of goals for RTD?



**Ridership
Alternative**
80% Ridership
20% Coverage

*Somewhere in
Between?*

**Coverage
Alternative**
60% Ridership
40% Coverage

This is **not** a technical question.
It's about your community's **values** and **priorities** for transit.

Thank you.

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