

AGENDA

RTD Accountability Committee
Governance Subcommittee
Monday, April 19, 2021
4:00- 5:00 p.m.
VIDEO/WEB CONFERENCE
Denver, CO

1. Call to Order
2. April 5, 2021 Meeting Summary
(Attachment A)
3. Discussion of revised draft partnership recommendations
(Attachment B)
4. Continued discussion of RTD boundary focus area
(Attachment C)
5. Next Steps

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

6. Member Comment/Other Matters
7. Next meeting: May 3, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.
8. Adjournment

ATTACH A

SUMMARY

RTD Accountability Committee: Governance Subcommittee
Monday, April 5, 2021

Note: Meeting held virtually via GoToMeeting

Joint subcommittee members present:

Julie Duran Mullica (Chair)
Deya Zavala
Elise Jones
Jackie Millet
Rutt Bridges
Lynn Guissing
Troy Whitmore

Others Present: Doug Rex, Ron Papsdorf, Matthew Helfant, Melinda Stevens, Jordan Sanchez, Natalie Shishido, Bill Sirois, Debra Baskett, Debra Johnson, Justin Begley, Mac Callison, Kent Moorman, Kathleen Bracke, Marjorie Sloan, Angie Rivera-Malpiede, Brian Welch, Bill Van Meter, Annie Rice, Andy Taylor, Cyn Hudson, Brad Calvert, Michael Davies, David Krutsinger, Alex Hyde-Wright, Doug Tisdale.

Chair Mullica called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

March 15, 2021 Meeting Summary

Meeting summary was submitted. No revisions were requested.

Discussion of draft partnership recommendations

Staff summarized the components of the recommendations. Specific questions/comments about the subregional service council recommendation included:

- Jackie Millet
 - Appreciated the recommendations but suggested language to talk to opportunities for RTD to partner with established local service being provided. For example, Lone Tree has provided intra-city service of its own for some time and also pays into the RTD system. Despite providing ridership to RTD service, RTD isn't currently a Lone Tree Link funding partner. Ms. Millet felt there was opportunity to expand the first recommendation to incentivize local communities to do more.
- Elise Jones
 - Agreed with Ms. Millet's suggestion.
 - Suggested adding a recommendation that as more federal stimulus funds become available, that RTD consider more of these partnership opportunities. This would build off an earlier Committee recommendation around federal CRRSAA funds.
- Rutt Bridges
 - Was impressed by the efficient service Lone Tree is able to provide (\$6/ride).
 - Finance and Operations subcommittees are working on finding first/final mile solutions at a reasonable cost, but it has been challenging without a data-sharing agreement with TNCs.

- Jackie Millet
 - Suggested expanding the innovation grants to explore other RTD services (e.g., paratransit service) to see if there are other providers that may specialize in a particular service that might be able to offer it at a lower cost.
- Chair Mullica
 - Suggested adding language to the first bullet to include Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs)
- Deya Zavala
 - Suggested adding language to the first bullet to include anchor institutions (e.g., universities)

Discussion of RTD boundary

Annie Rice presented background information on population and employment density in the RTD district along with other demographic data for the region. Specific questions/comments about the subregional service council recommendation included:

- Jackie Millet
 - What is the year of the data used in the presentation? Ms. Rice responded that the data came from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS).
 - How do you account for future population and job growth for the planning area? Ms. Rice explained that the presentation did not include future year comparison but could provide 2020 and 2050 comparison maps at the next meeting.
- Elise Jones:
 - How does the data compare to peer agencies with regards to geography? Do other transit agencies deal with the issue of density as much as we do? Ms. Rice explained that the region is unique in that we have one service provider for the entire region. Staff will try to provide some density information for other regions at the next meeting.
- Rutt Bridges:
 - It's not only how many people are in a specific area but are they better candidates for transit. Need to have good information before we do pilots to ensure the market is available.
- Chair Mullica
 - What are the expectations for the focus area? What problem are we trying to solve?
 - Jackie Millet
 - There is a sense that some communities are not getting the service for the investment they are making. Ms. Millet wondered if it even makes sense for areas of low density to remain in the District. Has RTD done any analysis about "right-sizing" the District? Also need to be forward thinking and include future growth in that analysis.
 - Ron Papsdorf
 - Commented that it is important to determine how to gauge the "value" of having a regional system at your disposal. You may not ride it every day but having the option may be important.

- Jackie Millet agreed, but if there is never going to be service to a community, does it make sense for them to be paying taxes....there just needs to be a minimum service threshold
- Rutt Bridges
 - A benefit of transit is that it relieves congestion. Maybe RTD needs to have a more dynamic service area boundary where it could expand or contract depending on where service opportunities are.
- Elise Jones
 - Mentioned the important role transit plays in reducing vehicle miles traveled and resulting improvement to air quality. It is also important to manage expectations regarding the amount of service a community might get since not everyone is going to have the same level especially if they have really low density. Ms. Jones expressed the importance of educating the public on the benefits of RTD even if you don't ever ride a train or a bus.
- Deya Zavala
 - How do we right-size the service where we need to right-size the service? Ms. Zavala mentioned that Houston operates dynamic circulators in lower density areas and is it possible to offer that level of service if that is what the community needs without having to invest in fixed route service. Ms. Zavala worries that if fixed route service is not the right solution, we could be taking it away from areas that rely on fixed route transportation. Need to ensure we are not "spreading the peanut butter to thin" but rather are right sizing the services.
- Lynn Guissinger
 - Confirmed that service area size is part of the Reimagine RTD scope.
 - Need to think about service delivery by population area. For example, Nederland bus is very popular, and they tax themselves to get EcoPass.
- Jackie Millet
 - Because of the value of the regional system to attaining certain state air quality and GHG goals/targets, should the state have a role in funding a portion of the service?
 - Chair Mullica agreed that finding additional funding is essential and this could even be part of a future recommendation.
 - Ms. Millet agreed that it makes sense for a recommendation to include a conversation about state funding for transit services.
- Debra Johnson
 - Trying to discern what outcome the committee is trying to achieve.
- Elise Jones
 - Current state transportation proposal needs to address air quality goals and transit is part of the solution, so this conversation is a very timely.
- Jackie Millet
 - The subcommittee needs to weigh in now...a letter needs to be drafted ASAP.

- Chair Mullica
 - suggested drafting a letter for the full RTD Accountability Committee to consider.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

ATTACH B

To: Members of the Governance Subcommittee

From: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director
(303) 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org

Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
April 19, 2021	Discussion	3

SUBJECT

Draft partnership recommendations

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

SUMMARY

The second of the four subcommittee focus areas is an exploration of how to enable partnerships with other transit agencies and nonprofits to provide for better service inside and outside of the RTD service area.

Staff has revised the draft partnership recommendations based on conversations that have occurred at the April 5 meeting.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft Partnership Recommendations
2. Recommendations to RTD for use of COVID-19 Relief Funds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at drex@drcog.org or (303) 480-6701.

Draft Partnership Recommendations

As RTD continues to evaluate new innovative solutions to improve service delivery, collaborative partnerships will be an important facet of its strategic plan. Building on the RTD Accountability Committee's partnership recommendations for the use of COVID-19 relief funding, the governance subcommittee recommends RTD consider the following:

- Leverage existing and new partnerships to improve service efficiency and grow ridership. RTD should emphasize partnerships with local governments, anchor institutions, transportation management organizations (TMOs) and employers or employment centers who have a unique understanding of local mobility needs.
- Incentivize communities to enter cost-sharing arrangements with RTD to provide new or existing local transit solutions in an effort to minimize service gaps and increase ridership.
- Explore opportunities to provide cost-effective local transportation services through collaboration with existing mobility service providers (e.g., Via, Uber, Lyft) in areas where traditional fixed route may not be the most appropriate mobility solution. Also, explore opportunities to contract with other third party providers that may specialize in a particular service (e.g., paratransit) at a reduced cost.
- As more federal relief funds become available, expand these partnership opportunities to improve service efficiency.
- Consider developing a competitive **Innovation Grant** program to drive bold ideas to increasing ridership. Recipients would receive funds to dive deeper into project concepts and implementation, creating models of innovation for the entire service area.
- Encourage RTD to develop a public-facing **partnership dashboard** to highlight existing private and public partnerships.
- Regularly **evaluate** existing partnerships to determine their effectiveness and opportunities to "re-scope" relationships to ensure maximum benefit.

ATTACH C

To: Members of the Governance Subcommittee

From: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director
(303) 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org

Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
April 19, 2021	Discussion	4

SUBJECT

The RTD boundary discussion

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

SUMMARY

The third of the four subcommittee focus areas is an assessment of whether the size and structure of RTD's service area is appropriate relative to its ability to provide transit service.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENT

1. Staff presentation
2. Microtransit Summary
3. DRCOG Data Brief: Regional growth deceleration

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at drex@drcog.org or (303) 480-6701.