

AGENDA

RTD Accountability Committee

Monday, March 8, 2021

8:30a.m. - 10:00a.m.

VIDEO/WEB CONFERENCE

Denver, CO

1. Call to order
2. Public comment
Up to 20 minutes is allocated for public comment and each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. The RTD Accountability Committee requests that the public comment be limited to an item on the Committee's current agenda. Please note: public comment may also be submitted in writing to Matthew Helfant (mhelfant@drcog.org). Comments received will be shared promptly with RTD Accountability Committee members.
3. February 8, 2020 RTD Accountability Committee meeting summary
(Attachment A)
4. Co-Chair Report
5. Subcommittee reports
 - Finance Subcommittee
 - Governance Subcommittee
 - Operations Subcommittee
6. RTD Update

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Partnership Roundtable Wrap-Up
(Attachment B) Douglas W. Rex
8. Equity Assessment Contracting Conversation
(Attachment C) Matthew Helfant

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

9. Member comment/Other matters
10. Adjournment

MEETING SUMMARY
RTD ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE
Monday, February 8, 2021

Note: Meeting held virtually via GoToMeeting

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elise Jones (Co-Chair)
Crystal Murillo (Co-Chair)
Deyanira Zavala
Rutt Bridges
Chris Frampton
Rebecca White

Jackie Millet
Julie Duran Mullica
Dan Blankenship
Krystin Trustman
Lynn Guissinger
Troy Whitmore

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Debra Johnson, Mac Callison, Luke Palmisano, Alex Hyde-Wright, Adam Zarrin, Jean Sanson, Debra Baskett, Nathaniel Minor, Kent Moorman, Jordan Sanchez, Totsy Rees, Roger Sherman, Natalie Shishido, Miller Hudson, Holly Buck, George Gerstle, Tanya Eydelman, Lindsey Alarcon, Kathleen Bracke, Nicole Carey, Michael Ford, Nataly Handlos, Stephen Haurert, Julie Kirk, Doug MacLeod, Barbara McManus, Angie Rivera-Malpiede, Bill Sirois, Moux Sullivan, Bill Van Meter, Brian Welch, Joel Noble, Ronald Short, Peggy Catlin, Allison Crump, Brian Jeffrey, Molly McKinley, Marjorie Sloan, Melanie Choquette, Shelley Cook, John Hersey, Edward Lovato, Peggy O'Keefe, Ronald Short, Pauletta Tonillas, and DRCOG staff.

Call to Order

Co-Chair Murillo called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Public comment

John Hersey recommended that the committee look into local zoning limitations, high minimum parking requirements, and high infrastructure costs around RTD stations, in reference to the committee's recommendation to amend statute 32-9-119.8, section four, removing the law's requirement to provide adequate parking.

Co-Chair Report

Co-Chair Murillo reported that the Northwest Rail was on the agenda for discussion at the RTD Board Study Session on February 9.

January 11, 2021 Accountability Committee meeting summary

The summary was accepted as written by the committee.

Subcommittee reports:

- Finance Subcommittee – Rutt Bridges reported the subcommittee received a summary on the 2021 Federal COVID-19 relief funding and its intended uses at their January 20 meeting. The subcommittee reviewed RTD's debt and interest obligations and their impacts on unfinished corridors. They reviewed a draft schedule of outstanding work goals for the subcommittee and finalized how they will be completed by May 2021. The committee reviewed and approved eight recommendations on uses for the COVID-19 relief funds at their February 3 meeting. The committee also reviewed equity assessments on each of these recommendations.

- Governance Subcommittee – Julie Duran Mullica reported the subcommittee continues to focus on local service councils as, they received a presentation on travel sheds, and reviewed the Roundtable conversation that took place on January 29. They are hoping to shift their focus to discussing partnerships within the next week.
- Operations Subcommittee – Deya Zavala reported the subcommittee engaged in conversations with Auraria Campus and Colorado Cross Disability Coalition around service delivery, regarding fares as well as user experience. The subcommittee received an update on the state auditor's report, specifically looking at worker conditions and what current operators/drivers are experiencing in terms of riding services from RTD.

RTD update on Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

Debra Johnson, RTD GM and CEO, and Doug MacLeod, RTD Acting CFO, provided an update to the committee. The March 2020 CARES Act provided RTD with \$232.3 million in federal aid, which was all used to finish out the year of 2020. RTD then faced an additional \$140 million revenue shortfall in 2021, which led to a multitude of cost reduction measures to be enacted. On January 11, 2021, RTD received notice of their CRRSAA apportionment of \$203,367,528. The funding will be on a reimbursement basis and 100% federal with no local match. Some of the eligible expenses are for payroll and operational costs. Any additional requirements and guidance from the FTA for distributing funds will be available at a later date. RTD currently intends to use the CRRSAA funds for:

- \$180,000,000: Operations funding to restore service up to an additional \$30 million per run-board for six run-boards or two years beginning June 2021.
- \$4,446,809: Restore necessary overtime and extra shift pay, for operational purposes, which was eliminated in the 2021 Budget.
- \$1,734,942: Cost of eliminating the planned six furlough days in 2021 for non-represented employees.
- \$886,550: Cost of eliminating the tiered salary reductions planned in 2021 for non-represented employees.
- \$2,401,009: Cost to restore the annual opportunity for non-represented staff to sell excess PTO, vacation, and sick balances.

RTD is anticipating a remaining balance of \$13,898,218 in funds, which will be available for additional uses such as implementing recommendations from the RTD Accountability Committee and the State Performance Audit.

Recommendations for the use of COVID Relief Funding

Ron Papsdorf provided a brief overview of the recommendations to the committee. RTD received approximately \$232 million in federal CARES Act funding in 2020 and was able to retain all employees through the end of the year and add approximately \$80 million to reserve funds. RTD adopted its 2021 budget of \$1.66 billion, built on a continued service level of approximately 60% of pre-pandemic levels and a reduction of approximately 400 positions. The Finance Subcommittee discussed several ideas to consider as recommendations to RTD for use of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) funds to stabilize RTD operations, restore services, rebuild trust, attract new and returning riders, and position the agency for strategic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff presented the [recommendations](#) and the [equity assessment](#) to the committee for discussion and approval.

Crystal Murillo **moved** to adopt recommendations to RTD for use of COVID-19 relief funds appropriated to RTD in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Subcommittee Workplans

Matthew Helfant provided an overview of the workplans to the committee. All three subcommittees developed workplans that outline topics to be discussed, make recommendations for, and show an anticipated schedule. The committee had a brief discussion about the workplans. Co-chair Jones commented that a discussion about environmental impacts should be added to possibly the Operations subcommittee workplan. Troy Whitmore commented that RTD's fares are some of the highest in the country and that is an issue this subcommittee needs to discuss and hopefully formulate a recommendation on how to reduce those prices. Deya Zavala commented that there are a lot of conversations that overlap amongst the subcommittees and there are plans to have joint subcommittee meetings to address those overlapping discussion points.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Member comment/Other matters

There were no member comments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

ATTACH B

To: Members of the RTD Accountability Committee

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

| Meeting Date | Agenda Category | Agenda Item # |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| March 8, 2021 | Discussion | 8 |

SUBJECT

Partnership Roundtable Wrap-up

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

SUMMARY

The scope of work for the RTD Accountability Committee states that in issuing its report and recommendations, the Committee may consider including several topics including RTD's partnerships with local governments. Representatives from Via Mobility, the Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, Boulder County, the City of Lone Tree and RTD provided brief overviews of current practices at a joint subcommittee roundtable on March 1. Staff will summarize the conversation and seek direction at the March 8 meeting.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

LINKS

1. [Boulder County Transit Partnerships presentation](#)
2. [City and County of Denver RTD Partnerships presentation](#)
3. [City of Lone Tree Link On-Demand Service Update presentation](#)
4. [RTD: Paratransit Mobility Alternatives presentation](#)
5. [RTD: Innovative Mobility on Demand \(MoD\) and Microtransit presentation](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information, please contact Doug Rex, Executive Director, DRCOG at drex@drcog.org or (303) 480-6701, or Matthew Helfant, Senior Transportation Planner, at 303-480-6731 or mhelfant@drcog.org.

ATTACH C

To: Members of the RTD Accountability Committee

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

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SUBJECT

Equity Assessment Contracting Conversation

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

SUMMARY

One of the first items the RTD Accountability Committee worked on was developing an equity assessment template to evaluate all recommendations for their potential impact on vulnerable communities (attached). DRCOG staff used this template to assess the equity of the Committee's first two sets of recommendations: the Legislative Proposal and recommendations on how to spend Covid relief stimulus monies.

Committee leaders have requested that, for the recommendations included in the final report, this work be done independently. There are three viable options to achieve this:

1. Ask contracted on-call consultants North Highland to do this work.
2. Ask Mile High Connects offer to work with community-based organizations.
3. Solicit informal bids for consulting services.

The proposal that North Highland submitted for on-call consulting included expertise in conducting equity analyses. Since North Highland will be drafting the content for the final report, this additional work can be folded in and accommodated within the current contracted amount.

Mile High Connects is a broad partnership of organizations from the private, public and nonprofit sectors that are committed to increasing access to housing choices, good jobs, quality schools and essential services via public transit. Deya Zevala, Chair of the Operations Subcommittee and Executive Director of Mile High, offered to have Mile High Connects work with community-based organizations to conduct the analysis pro bono.

The other option is to solicit informal bids. Staff believe that the estimated budget for this assignment is below the threshold that requires a full Request for Proposals (RFP) and therefore, soliciting informal bids would be appropriate. While a procurement using informal bids does not take as much time as an RFP, staff estimate it will take at least a month from the solicitation through contract execution.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENT

RTD Accountability Equity Assessment Document

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information, please contact Doug Rex, Executive Director, DRCOG at drex@drcog.org or (303) 480-6701, or Matthew Helfant, Senior Transportation Planner, at 303-480-6731 or mhelfant@drcog.org.

RTD Accountability Committee
Equity Assessment Mission Statement

Social, economic, financial, and environmental equity is a paramount consideration for the RTD Accountability Committee. The Committee will consider the needs of communities of concern, including but not limited to minority, low-income, individuals with disabilities, older adult, and veteran populations. Effort will be made through the Committee's work to ensure benefits are shared across the RTD service area and that no one group bears a larger burden of environmental or financial impacts. Actions that include spatial and other forms of analysis, community engagement, and consulting experts will be used at appropriate times to inform the work and final recommendations of the Committee.

Operationalizing Equity in the Deliberation of the Committee and Subcommittees

Each subcommittee will engage community organizations with expertise in equity such as the Center for Community Wealth Building, the Denver Institute of Equity and Reconciliation, and Mile High Connects during their initial deliberations as part of the research phase. During the formation and consideration of issues and policy options, an equality lens will be applied. This lens should include the following questions:

1. How could this recommendation benefit or burden communities of concern? Is there likely to be an increase or decrease in equity?
 - a. How are we defining benefit and burden?
 - b. How do we measure this impact?
2. Could this recommendation impact specific communities or geography more than others? If so, which communities and how?
 - a. What are the demographics of the most impacted areas?
 - b. Are neighborhoods equally required to help achieve the policy recommendation? If not, does this raise issues of equity and justice?
3. Could there be unintended consequences? If so, can they be mitigated?
4. Does this policy/strategy address historic, systemic, environmental, or institutional barriers that have impacted this community?

DRCOG staff and/or the on-call consulting team will assist subcommittees and the Committee to conduct appropriate equity assessments of draft recommendations. Draft recommendations, along with the assessments, will be made available for public review and input. Each subcommittee will consider the assessment and any input obtained through public engagement before making final subcommittee recommendations to the full committee.

The full committee will consider subcommittee recommendations and finalize draft recommendations to bring to a public hearing. Input received from the public hearing will be considered before the committee makes final recommendations. As needed, dissenting opinions will also be included with the final recommendations.