

AGENDA

RTD Accountability Committee
Operations Subcommittee
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
3:00- 4:00 p.m.
VIDEO/WEB CONFERENCE
Denver, CO

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. December 2, 2020 Meeting Summary
(Attachment A)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Briefing on RTD Fare Evasion Enforcement Policy
(attachment B) RTD Staff
5. Continue discussion of potential recommendations related to RTD Fare Structure and Pass Programs
(Attachment C) Chair Deya Zavala

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

6. Next Steps
7. Member Comment/Other Matters
8. Adjournment

MEETING SUMMARY
RTD ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
Note: Meeting held virtually via GoToMeeting

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Krystin Trustman
Deya Zavala
Jackie Millet
Lynn Guissinger
Troy Whitmore

Elise Jones
Chris Frampton
Rutt Bridges

Others Present: Steven Higashide, Transit Center, Erik Davidson, Holly Buck, FHU, Kent Moorman, Thornton, Miller Hudson, Callie McKenna, Roger Sherman, CLR Associates, Allison Crump, City of Boulder, Doug MacLeod, RTD Nicole Carey, RTD, Steven Brier, RTD, Michael Ford, RTD, Barbara McManus, RTD, Monika Treipl-Harnke, RTD, Theresa Rinker, RTD, Alex Hyde-Wright, Boulder County, Mac Callison, Aurora, Natalie Shishido, CDOT, Luke Palmisano, Aurora, Justin Begley, Denver, George Gerstle, and DRCOG staff.

Call to Order

Deya Zavala, Operations Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3p.m.

Meeting Summary from November 4, 2020

No comments.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Overview of A Fare Framework: How transit agencies can set fare policy based on strategic goals
Steven Higashide from Transit Center briefed the committee on the overview and answered questions. Jackie Millet asked about fare evasion enforcement if agencies who changed their policies regretted it. Steven said that this type of policy is still new but stated that early data suggests that most people who evade fares do it unintentionally and the rest generally cannot afford the fares. Ease of use is important to reducing the former. Understanding that it probably is not helpful to ticket the latter is also important. Elise Jones asked about low-income programs at the agencies Transit Center studied. Steven said that when agencies establish low-income fare programs ridership increases. He cited an MIT study. In some places the low-income fare program has a dedicated revenue source. He cited a tax in Seattle as an example. Lynn Guisinger asked if Steven has seen research about ease of use with annual passes. Steven said he did not know about annual passes, but he said that monthly passes increase use generally. Krystin Trustman asked about agencies that cap pass costs for pay as you go. Steven said fare capping is new due to new technology and therefore, there is not sufficient data to show its impact on ridership but its fair to say that this is something equitable to do. Krystin asked for fare capping to be included for consideration for recommendations. Deya Zavala asked if fare capping can be done with paper passes. Steven said that it cannot be done with current technology. Rutt Bridges asked if there are any examples of "carry over" of fares not used on a monthly pass like it can be done with mobile phone plans. Steven said he has not seen it but it should theoretically be able to be done. He did mention, that many passes allow you to run a negative balance for one trip. Chris Frampton asked about pre-purchasing pass programs and compared it to advance ski lift tickets to bring in guaranteed revenue. Elise Jones said that the Eco Pass program somewhat replicates it. Deya Zavala asked if there is any data on Eco Pass models. Steven said that the report did not look at that type of program but stated he has seen other examples from around the country including ones that work with residential properties in addition to employers.

Peer Transit Agency Pass Programs- Additional information highlighting Houston Metro as a best practice

Natalie Shishido from CDOT briefly discussed Houston Metro pass programs. Jackie Millet asked how Houston makes up the rest of the revenue. Houston has a sales tax. Elise Jones asked how agencies have balanced fare box recovery and revenue. Steven said that generally the literature suggests that when you increase fares you depress ridership, and it does not slide immediately as the increase in fares may temporarily make up for the loss in ridership volume. However, a loss in fare box revenue may in the long run happen when a loss of ridership gets significant enough that the increase in fare revenue per person no longer makes up for the loss in ridership. In New York, a flat fare through taking away fare zones led to a large increase in ridership. Rutt Bridges stated that increases in transit ridership have positive impacts by reducing congestion. Deya Zavala stated the subcommittee should think about specific goals when making recommendations. Elise Jones stated that increasing ridership is key for congestion and cleaner air but there is a need to figure out how those public goods can pay for transit rather than the other way around. Chris Frampton asked about why it would it be a goal to decrease ridership. Elise said that it could happen if you prioritize revenue over ridership. There was brief discussion about how all forms of transportation are subsidized.

Continue discussion of potential recommendations related to RTD Fare Structure and Pass Programs

Deya Zavala said she thinks the conversation at the next meeting should center around discussing draft recommendations.

Next Steps

The next meeting will take place on December 16, 2020.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Member Comment/Other Matters

Chris Frampton asked about discussing how to improve bus trips verses automobile trips. Deya Zavala said it could be part of the recommendations discussion. Elise Jones perhaps there should be a discussion with the Governance Subcommittee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 4pm.

ATTACH B

To: Members of the RTD Accountability Committee Operations Subcommittee

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

Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
December 16, 2020	Informational	4

SUBJECT

Briefing on RTD Fare Evasion Enforcement Policy

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

SUMMARY

At the last meeting, there was a presentation on pass and fare discount programs. One item that was discussed is how fare enforcement changes can be implemented as part of fare and pass strategy. For example, it was noted by Steven Higashide from Transit Center in his presentation on *Overview of a Fare Framework: How transit agencies can set fare policy based on strategic goals*, that Portland's TriMet replaced criminal penalties for fare evasion with administrative fines and diverting first time evaders to the low-income fare program when appropriate in lieu of any penalties.

RTD staff will provide a brief presentation about their fare enforcement policies.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENT

RTD Presentation (to be sent as an addendum)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, 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 Operations Subcommittee

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

Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
December 16, 2020	Informational	5

SUBJECT

Continue discussion of potential recommendations related to RTD Fare Structure and Pass Programs

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

SUMMARY

Over the past several meetings, the subcommittee has explored options related to possible recommendations to RTD fare structure and pass programs. The attached draft Fare and Pass priorities concept is provided to stimulate conversation at the December 16 meeting.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENT

DRAFT Fare and Pass Concept

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at drex@drcog.org or (303) 480-6701; or Matthew Helfant, Senior Transportation Planner, at 303-480-6731 or mhelfant@drcog.org or Deya Zavala, Chair RTD Accountability Committee Operations Subcommittee, at dzavala@milehighconnects.org.

DRAFT Fare and Pass Concept

For Discussion Only

Overview

It is the recommendation of the Operations Subcommittee that RTD should review its stated transit fare and pass goals and policies in alignment with the agency’s overall strategic plan and goals/objectives. The RTD board:

- Sets and approves policies for district fares and passes, including authorizing the review of passes and fares
- Establishes RTD’s short and long term transit goals

Recommended Goals

The Operations Subcommittee recommends the following fare policy goals for consideration by the RTD Board:

Goals/Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create fare and pass structures that are easy to understand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Align all discount fares (seniors, youth, persons with disabilities, and low income) - Create a simple fare and pass structure for customers and operators - Minimize cost burden to equity populations - Deliver communications through easy to access channels & easy to use tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure regional and sub-regional coordination <i>(Purpose: Operationalize the governance work; Connects to governance subcmte work)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement strategy for RTD to support suburban communities with eTOD - Align % of affordable housing + frequent service routes - Explore strategic partnership to optimize bus priority lanes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve and promote operational efficiency <i>(Purpose: Operationalize the governance work; Connects to governance subcmte work)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure equitable distribution of service via equity population access within 15-20 min - ADA Accessibility and Service Delivery - Community based transit planning

DRAFT Fare and Pass Concept

For Discussion Only

RTD Fare Structure (Full Price Only)

Table 1
Regional Transportation District Fares

Year	Local Fare	Regional Fare	Express Fare	Airport Fare
2002	\$1.10	\$3.50	\$2.50	-
2003	\$1.15	\$3.50	\$2.50	-
2004	\$1.25	\$3.75	\$2.75	-
2005	\$1.25	\$3.75	\$2.75	-
2006	\$1.50	\$3.75	\$2.75	-
2007	\$1.50	\$3.75	\$2.75	-
2008	\$1.75	\$4.00	\$3.00	-
2009	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$3.50	-
2010	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$3.50	-
2011	\$2.25	\$5.00	\$4.00	-
2012	\$2.25	\$5.00	\$4.00	-
2013	\$2.25	\$5.00	\$4.00	-
2014	\$2.25	\$5.00	\$4.00	-
2015	\$2.60	\$4.50	-	\$9.00
2016	\$2.60	\$4.50	-	\$9.00
2017	\$2.60	\$4.50	-	\$9.00
2018	\$2.60	\$4.50	-	\$9.00
2019	\$3.00	\$5.25	-	\$10.50
2020	\$3.00	\$5.25	-	\$10.50

Prepared by: Colorado Legislative Council Staff.

Committee Discussion Topics

- **Fair Fares & Passes:** Decriminalizing fare evasion: what does this look like currently? What can we explore as a committee?
- **Fair Fares & Passes:** what do we mean? What type of guidance should be shared with the RTD board? What would a recommendation look like for RTD's board to consider?
 - o Samples for us to consider
 - Passes: Monthly, Annual; Simplified employer pass program (see [Tri-met](#))
 - Fares: Fare capping
- **Regional Coordination:** How might this work coordinate or blend into the governance structure?
- **Regional Coordination:** How might we operationalize community based planning?
- **Regional Coordination:** What recommendations can we make that operationalize the proposed legislative changes related to transit oriented development and parking challenges?
- **Operational efficiency:** Do we understand the operational impact of privatization of services & impact on fares/operating goals and outcomes (currently RTD can contract with private companies for up to 58% of services)? What are the unintended consequences (positive and negative)?