

NEWS RELEASE



RTD selects consultant to develop a low/no-emissions transition plan

WSP USA, Inc will develop the agency's comprehensive facilities and fleet transition plan

DENVER (August 25, 2023) – The [Regional Transportation District \(RTD\)](#) has entered into a contract with WSP USA, Inc to evaluate the feasibility of transitioning the District's facilities and fixed-route fleet to low/no-emission operations. The holistic plan, which is expected to be finalized in late 2024, will outline recommendations for facilities, fixed-route services by fleet type, a replacement schedule, and overall cost projections and proposed timelines.

"RTD remains focused on transitioning to a sustainable energy future," said Debra A. Johnson, RTD General Manager and Chief Executive Officer. "The first step in that transition is to understand and consider all aspects of RTD's system, including its facilities, infrastructure, and transit service delivery model. This plan will guide RTD's future decisions as the agency transitions to low/no emissions."

On April 25, 2023, the RTD Board authorized the General Manager and CEO to enter into a contract for consulting services to develop a holistic Low/No Emission Facilities and Fleet Transition Plan. The agency subsequently released a solicitation on May 23 to select a consultant to lead the planning process.

This week, RTD announced that WSP USA, Inc had been selected among five qualified firms that submitted proposals. WSP's subject-matter expertise in this area will ensure RTD's transition plan is not only comprehensive, but also specific to the agency's needs and operating environment, and it aligns with the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. WSP USA, Inc, a New York-based consultancy firm with offices in Colorado, will immediately begin work on developing the transition plan. In conducting their work, WSP has committed to a 25% disadvantaged business enterprise participation goal, which further aligns with the agency's commitment to the Strategic Priority of Community Value. The anticipated timeline for completing the full plan is the fourth quarter of 2024.

"This is a monumental and necessary step forward for RTD and the entire Denver metro region," Johnson said. "RTD is not only planning for tomorrow, but for the tomorrows to come."

RTD's first steps toward a low/no-emission bus fleet transition were taken in 2000 with the deployment of hybrid-electric buses using compressed natural gas along the 16th Street Mall. In 2008, a subfleet of hybrid diesel-electric fixed-route buses was introduced to the system. Eventually, all previously used MallRide buses were replaced in 2017 by a fleet of 36 zero-emission battery electric buses. The agency has garnered operational knowledge through the deployment and maintenance of its low- and no-emission vehicles. This knowledge gained over the past two decades will support the development and eventual implementation of the comprehensive transition plan.

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ABOUT RTD

The Regional Transportation District develops, operates, and maintains a public transportation system that meets the transit needs of close to 3 million people within an eight-county service area in the Denver Metro region. For more information, visit rtd-denver.com, call 303-299-6000 and follow along on social media: [RideRTD](#) on Facebook, [@RideRTD](#) on Twitter, [@ridertd](#) on Instagram and [rideRTDco](#) on YouTube. For the most current RTD news, visit the News Stop, at rtd-denver.com/news-stop.

