



The pandemic has highlighted the need to be flexible and agile and acknowledge what we don't know, Johnson said.

"COVID-19 has brought things that we wouldn't think we would see in our lifetime. Recognizing that I'm a person in the people business and I enjoy being a servant leader, it's important to me that we are moving essential people to get them where they need to go," Johnson said. "But I would be remiss not to recognize that we have essential employees that are making that reality day to day."

Johnson joins RTD from Long Beach Transit, where she served as Deputy CEO of the Southern California agency from May 2014 to October 2020. Full details about Johnson's background, experience and philosophy, as well as the video from today's news conference, are available on the [CEO and General Manager webpage](#).

Starting tomorrow on the [News Stop](#), the agency's digital newsroom, RTD will publish a Q&A conversation with Johnson on several topics – including transit equity, her prior experience and her approach toward her work – over multiple days.

Johnson succeeds Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Paul Ballard, who led RTD on an interim basis since February. He oversaw the agency throughout the pandemic to this point and during the opening of RTD's newest commuter rail line, the N Line, in September.

