

RTD to participate in nationwide public transit 'Health and Safety Commitments Program'

The agency joins over 100 public transit agencies across the country in making this pledge

DENVER (Oct. 19, 2020) – The [Regional Transportation District \(RTD\)](#) has joined the [American Public Transportation Association \(APTA\)](#)'s "Health and Safety Commitments Program," the public transportation industry's overarching pledge to passengers that transit systems are taking all the necessary measures to operate safely as the nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety – a core value at RTD – is especially important as it relates to COVID-19 for our passengers and employees. Since the beginning of the pandemic, RTD has worked tirelessly to keep customers safe from the coronavirus. By signing on to the APTA Health and Safety Commitments Program with more than 100 public transit systems, RTD and the public transit industry are actively working to instill confidence in customers that we are committed to protecting their health and safety.

The program was developed after asking transit users from across the country what measures would make them feel more confident riding public transportation amid concerns about COVID-19. From this research, the industry identified four key areas that transit systems need to address to earn customers' confidence:

- Following public health guidelines from official sources
- Cleaning and disinfecting transit vehicles frequently and requiring face coverings and other protections
- Keeping customers informed and empowered to choose the safest times and routes to ride
- Putting health first by requiring customers and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill

RTD has pledged to meet these commitments by creating specific policies that are effective for our system, our customers and our community. A key component of the Health and Safety Commitments Program is the shared responsibility of our system and our riders to follow the guidelines. Riders rely on us to follow these commitments, and RTD relies on riders to protect themselves and other customers.

"We are proud to make this pledge to protect our employees and customers," said Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Paul Ballard. "During these uncertain times, we commit to doing everything we can to ensure that employees and customers can board our vehicles in confidence, knowing safety is top of mind every day at RTD."

RTD is committed to continually addressing and implementing pillars of the program. Current actions include:

- Daily sanitation of vehicles with electrostatic sprayers
- Installation of polycarbonate driver shields, to provide a protective barrier between operators and customers
- Daily wellness check of employees
- Requiring masks of all employees and customers
- Ongoing coordination with local health authorities
- The launch of our "Let's Get Our Region Moving Again" campaign in June, to instill confidence in the safety of the RTD system and encourage riders to get back on board during the pandemic

“This program is a commitment that this industry is making to all those we serve now and to those who we look forward to serving,” said Nuria I. Fernandez, APTA chair, and general manager and CEO of Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. “Public transportation is and will be vital to the social and economic recovery of our nation. But getting there requires us to win back our ridership and encourage new riders to view public transit as a preferred mobility choice. We believe this commitment program will help do this.”

“The program being launched today is the public transportation industry’s pledge to promote sensible policies and practices designed to keep transit users and transit employees safe during the COVID-19 crisis,” said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas. “It is a logical extension of the innovation and commitment we have been demonstrating for the past several months – and it makes the need for at least \$32 billion in additional emergency funding that much more urgent and critical.”

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. RTD’s buses, rail lines, shuttles and additional services provide approximately 100 million annual passenger trips. For more information, visit rtd-denver.com, call 303-299-6000 and follow along on social media: www.facebook.com/RideRTD, [@RideRTD](https://twitter.com/RideRTD) on Twitter, [@ridertd](https://www.instagram.com/ridertd) on Instagram and [rideRTDco](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) on YouTube. For the most current RTD news, visit the News Stop, at rtd-denver.com/news-stop.

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