

**Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities (ACPD)  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
Microsoft Teams Remote Meeting**

## **MINUTES**

### **Welcome and Opening Comments**

Committee Chair Jaime Lewis called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

### **Virtual Protocol/Roll Call**

Vivian Morales, RTD's Civil Rights Outreach Specialist, reminded the committee of the virtual meeting protocols. Gabe Christie, RTD's ADA Manager, assisted with the roll call.

### **In Attendance:**

1. Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities:  
Jamie Lewis; Aaron Pasterz; Brett Belisle; Earl Lee; Greg Martinez Kyle Bradell; Lynne Edmonds; Tex Elam, APAC representative
2. RTD Board Members:  
Director Kate Williams
3. RTD Staff:  
Gabe Christie; Vivian Morales; Zamy Silva; Racel McMurray; Sean Moran; Mike Millage, Todd Nikkel, Duane Sayers, Julie Skeen.

### **Safety Moment**

Gabe Christie reminded the attendees of proper precautions during flu season.

### **Public Comment Period**

No public comment.

### **Updates for ACPD Committee:**

- **RTD Staff Update**

Zamy Silva, RTD's Civil Rights Senior Manager, informed the committee about Anne Hillyer's passing. Ms. Hillyer served as RTD's ADA Specialist/Investigator. Zamy Silva recognized Anne Hillyer as a true advocate for people with disabilities and the ADA. Ms. Hillyer, an attorney by trade, litigated ADA related matters prior to RTD. Jaime Lewis reminded the ACPD that Ms. Hillyer's specialty was recognizing RTD employees who went above and beyond serving people with disabilities. Greg Martinez suggested the committee gave a plaque to Anne Hillyer's family in recognition and gratitude for her service.



- **RTD Recruitment**

Jaime Lewis noted that the goal of starting the RTD Recruitment conversation is to increase the recruitment of employees with disabilities. Racel McMurray, RTD's Human Resources Senior Manager, expressed her excitement to be part of the conversation from the employer perspective as in the past she worked in vocational rehabilitation and helping prepare people for recruitment. She mentioned that RTD's Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 focuses on partnering with the communities that RTD serves, with recruiting being one of the components. Racel McMurray added that she hopes to look towards the ACPD as a partner for insights and feedback on how to improve and be more effective in recruiting people with disabilities, such as looking at the agency's branding, career site, and other methods of recruiting. She mentioned that RTD has established relationships with workforce centers, military services and vocational rehabilitation centers. Internally, RTD has working plans to ensure management teams understand what they can do for outreach, modeling behavior, and showing their teams how to interview inclusively.

Jaime Lewis said that there is no silver bullet when it comes to these practices and welcomed the opportunity for the ACPD to work with RTD's Human Resources. He suggested one of the ACPD members attend meetings with RTD's Human Resources. Greg Martinez recused himself from this opportunity due to a possible conflict of interest given his work with HDR, Inc.; still offering his services for quality assurance and quality control in the process. Brent Belisle asked about the time commitment to participate in these meetings. Racel McMurray replied that for the time being it would be virtual and could be worked out to a frequency that would work for everyone. Brent Belisle said he would think about it. Lynne Edmonds suggested that RTD's Human Resources reach out to local disability organizations.

- **American Rescue Plan Update**

Todd Nikkel, RTD Budget Analyst, Delivered a presentation to ACPD. Todd Nikkel stated that as of September 2021 RTD service restoration is at 70%, with projection to 85% in 2022, however service demand is going to where the demand for service is high now not necessarily where demand was highest prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. American Rescue Plan funds have been used to replace lost revenue, maintain the workforce, and provide supplemental service that is required to maintain social distancing on public transportation. Grant funding has also restored RTD's cash reserves to three months and has restored deferred projects related to compliance and safety. Although funding is reduced, the proposed federal infrastructure bill would be beneficial to RTD as it could potentially receive more funding.

Lynne Edmonds asked if there was a time limit by which to spend the money, and Todd stated that typically we plan for two to three years, but we are planning based on returns to ridership which based on current projections will probably reach 85% of the pre-pandemic rate in 2023. Brent Belisle asked if the Delta variant of COVID-19 had an effect on ridership, and Todd Nikkel reported that we are unable to see the effect that Delta variant has had at this point, but we will likely be able to see it in the August 2021 and September 2021 metrics. Earl Lee asked if the projections to the year 2027 account for an increase in the fare, Todd Nikkel responded that we are forecasting a decrease in fare after our fair study in 2024 although it is still too early

Commented [ZS1]: I don't understand this sentence  
Commented [GC2R1]: I have added some additional clarification

Subject:

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to tell. Jamie Lewis Stated that at this time last year RTD was discussing furloughs, and he is very happy about the money that's coming in. Jamie Lewis asked can the relief funds be used for marketing; Todd Nikkel stated that relief funds are funding employee salaries and benefits however, spare sales, tax, and fair revenue could be used to fund marketing. Jamie Lewis asked if CDOT had offered any assistance to RTD, but Todd Nikkel informed him that CDOT has not.

Commented [ZS3]: Something is missing

- **High Block Signage**

Duane Sayers, General Superintendent of Rail Operations reported that all high blocks in the district now have appropriate signage regarding the requirement to yield to persons with mobility devices on the high block. This project resulted in 120 signs being installed across the district that are made up of the international wheelchair sign with a double ended arrow that states "Yield to". Lynne Edmonds was excited that the signage was completed and asked if there were pictures available. Earl Lee volunteered to provide pictures to be shared.

Jamie Lewis asked if there has been feedback from the conductors regarding the signs having a potential impact. Duane Sayers stated that there has not been any feedback yet, but the sign does provide something for the operators to point to as a reference. Zamy Silva thanked the committee members for their recommendations and input that made this possible. Gratitude was also extended to Duane Sayers and Dave Jensen for taking the lead and seeing this through to completion.

- **ReImagine RTD**

Julie Skeen, Senior Strategic Director – Communication Infrastructure Group, provided update regarding the long- and short-term impacts of the ReImagine Project. The short-term plan is one of service optimization, that got off to an excellent start in 2019 but was forced to pivot because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rebuilding services working group, which has a role in the reimagined project is looking for members. Interested members should contact Jamie Lewis or Gabe Christie for more information. By May of 2022 there will be the potential for more active service optimization. ReImagine is also looking for perspective from the community; Julie asks that any recommendations be provided to Gabe or Jamie before the end of October.

The long-term section of the reimagined project focuses on mobility for the future in 2050. This aspect of Reimagined focuses on how the district will grow, where things will go as the district grows, and how RTD can now establish practices, procedures, and processes to meet future demand. Rather than attempting to determine the future, this group will establish 4 to 8 scenarios and what those scenarios do for ridership. This data should be compiled in October, and Julie Skeen has offered to return and present on said data.

Jaime Lewis asked if reimagine is adjusting to the accountability committee recommendations, Julie Skeen stated that they will be rolled into reimagine and some of them are already being worked on. Greg asked if there will be an evaluation of bus stops, so called sticks in the mud



stations that have limited accessibility. Julie stated that community involvement in the ReImagine process will help ensure that these stations are addressed.

Commented [ZS4]: What was the response?

Commented [GC5R4]: The Response has been added

- **Updates on Various Topics**

1. **Elevator at Englewood Station**

Sean Moran, Manager of Contracted Public Facilities, stated that there has been an issue regarding the return to functionality of the Englewood station elevator. The current elevator shaft needs to be updated to code, a water line needs to serve the structure, and a fire suppression system must be installed. The City of Englewood has applied for a variance to expedite the process. Jamie Louis asked if there was someone who could be contacted to speed up the process. Sean Moran informed him that it is a slow moving process that involves the City Council, the City Manager, and the Fire Department; but did let members know that he communicates weekly with the City of Englewood as they maintain the entire station. Earl Lee stated that this lack of action from Englewood leaves RTD with the blame and creates additional difficulty for transit users. Lynne Edmonds asked if there was an alternative for persons with disabilities to get around , and Sean stated that there is another elevator in the Englewood City Service Building, however Earl Lee stated that the elevator has limited availability , ending at 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.

2. **Elevator at 38<sup>th</sup> & Blake**

Mike Millage, RTD Senior Manager of Commuter Rail Contract Services, reported on the repeated elevator outages at 38th and Blake St station. The elevators at the Blake St station at both ends have gone out repeatedly, and the outages have not been clearly communicated to the public. Mike Millage stated that he has been working with Denver Transit Partners\Denver Transit Operators to rectify this issue for several weeks and he is frustrated and unsatisfied with the outcome. Earl Lee stated that when he has visited the station there have been signs written on paper but no signage where passengers deboard the light rail. Mike Millage asked that any feedback please be provided through Salesforce and Customer Care to properly track these issues. Zamy Silva asked Mike Millage to please inform Civil Rights about how the division can be of assistance in this matter. Jamie Lewis recommended that Mike Millage make a joint statement with ACPD /Civil Rights Division.

3. **ACPD Member Recruitment** – Gabe Christie, ADA Manager (5 minutes)

Gabe Christie, RTD ADA Manager, stated that ACPD member recruitment is ongoing and will close on September 24th, at which time the application will be closed. Member recruitment was extended as at the initial close of the application there were five applicants. Gabe Christie stated that he intends to have new ACPD members on board for the November joint meeting. Jamie Lewis encouraged members to recommend people they know to apply to join the

committee. Director Williams stated that she has a contact at Craig Hospital and will recommend they complete the application and recommend it to others.



#### 4. **APAC Update**

Tex Elam, representative of the Access-a-Ride Paratransit Advisory Committee, delivered a report. The MTM paratransit eligibility assessment group with which RTD has partnered is now in operation, they are ready to go into full service. They had an experimental phase where they conducted mock assessments and further developed the process. There has been no additional information regarding a second assessment center in Boulder. The Uber contract has moved into the second phase increasing from 7 to 9 areas divided by zip codes, with no date limit for and increased to more zip codes. New vehicle testing is going to begin soon, contractors have indicated they have a willingness to improve.

#### **Other Matters**

- **ACPD & APAC Joint Meetings**

Zamy Silva ask the committee for their feedback regarding the ACPD & APAC meetings as well as the value of maintaining two committees versus one committee or keeping the 2021 pilot program of having 3 joint meetings and 3 separate meetings to focus on accessibility at RTD. ACPD members provided the following feedback:

- Brent – Maintain the Status Quo – 2021 pilot
- Earl – One Group, but more frequent meetings e.g. 6 meetings/year
- Jamie – Status Quo; Joint meetings are working – Healthy input from both– 2021 pilot
- Kyle – Merge both Committees with 6 meetings/year addressing 2-3 topics at a time
- Lynne – Status Quo– 2021 pilot
- Greg – Left Early
- Aaron – Status Quo– 2021 pilot

Vivian, Greg, and Vincent will be contacted to receive their feedback as well. Brent asked how does RTD staff feel about separate or joint committees, and if one is more complicated than the other. Zamy responded that RTD staff do not have a preference. Tex closed by providing the general consensus of the APAC, which is that the status quo (2021 pilot) is preferred.

- National Western Complex  
Jamie asked that a contact for the national western complex be provided, so an entrance from the light rail station can be discussed

#### Closing Comments

- Brent Belisle asked Jaime Lewis to speak about the next year of his term. Jamie Lewis responded and stated that he is okay to serve until September 2022.

Adjourned at 3:30 pm – Jaime Lewis