

RTD Board of Directors
Regional Transportation District (RTD)
1600 Blake Street
Denver, CO 80202

September 4, 2012

Dear RTD Board of Directors:

As elected officials who represent citizens served by RTD, we recognize that creating more connectivity in the FasTracks system through completion of the I-225 corridor is an important step forward to finishing the entire system. However, we also recognize, as do our citizens, that the north area continues to be left without any access to rapid transit for the foreseeable future according to RTD's current plan. That is why we have taken the position that real and usable rapid transit investments in the north area must take priority over extending or enhancing corridors that already have operating service.

The District's emphasis must now shift away from the corridor-by-corridor approach you've been following since EAGLE P3, and getting back to an equity-based solution. This means if an area does not have existing rapid transit service or expectations of receiving reasonable operating service in the near future, RTD should focus its financial and political resources toward building rapid transit infrastructure within those corridors to provide that service.

For North Metro, this means building the corridor up to 72nd as a part of the "phase one project" by 2018, and constructing the rest of the corridor by 2025. Understanding the time and fiscal constraints we are working under, if we are unable to develop a plan for full build out by 2025, the minimum segment that needs to be constructed in this time frame is to 104th Avenue, accompanied with an approach and reasonable time line for building the remainder of the corridor.

We believe we can achieve this objective by forming a dedicated partnership consisting of members of RTD, local stakeholders, CDOT, HPTE and the private sector. Working in partnership to understand how we can think out-of-the-box to leverage partnership resources is critical to having a transparent and productive conversation to achieve our goal by 2025.

We urge the District to include building the North Metro Corridor up to 72nd as a part of the “phase one project” by 2018 and work in partnership with us to find a way to build the rest of the line by 2025.

Sincerely,

Erik Hansen, Adams County Commissioner

Steve Hogan, Mayor of Aurora

Sean Ford, Mayor of Commerce City

Joyce Downing, Mayor of Northglenn

Heidi Williams, Mayor of Thornton