

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

December 13, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing to express our strong support of the Denver Regional Transportation District's (RTD) application for funding assistance from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) American Rescue Plan Act Additional Assistance Funding (Additional Assistance). This Additional Assistance will support the workforce needed to reinstate up to 85% of RTD's pre-pandemic service.

Because of the COVID -19 pandemic, RTD and other transit agencies throughout the country are navigating unprecedented staffing and operational challenges. Federal funding played a critical role to sustain public transit services since the start of the pandemic. RTD used previous funding to identify and maintain routes that serve communities and people that most rely on public transportation in a methodical and equitable manner.

RTD's 2022 goal is provide its riders with 85% of pre-pandemic service. Currently, RTD operates 70% of pre-pandemic services; however, current workforce constraints limit RTD's ability to increase the number of operating routes and service. The Additional Assistance funding will allow RTD restore and retain the workforce needed to support its 2022 goal and continue to serve the Denver-metro area.

We appreciate your consideration of this important application.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator