



January 9th, 2023

Service Development Division
Regional Transportation District
1660 Blake Street
Denver, CO 80202

ATTN: January 2023 Service Changes - A and R Line Transfers at Peoria Station

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Greater Denver Transit, we are compelled to comment on the severely degraded connections between the R Line and A Line trains at Peoria Station as a result of the January 2023 service changes.

Representatives from Greater Denver Transit participated in the public consultation for the January 2023 service change process and were informed that the planned changes for the R Line were to be 'Minor schedule adjustments [that would] be made to improve train sequencing with the E and H lines and increase on-time performance.' Further discussion with RTD staff indicated that this was part of a schedule recast also involving the D, E, H & W lines to provide better connections at I-25 & Broadway, 10th & Osage and Auraria West Stations. No proposed schedules were provided in the public consultation process, so we only became aware of the true impact of the changes after downloading the new January 2023 schedules from the RTD website.

While Greater Denver Transit broadly welcomes the light rail schedule adjustments, in particular the new 4 minute scheduled transfers between the E and W lines at Auraria West,, we note that this has come at the expense of useful transfers between the A and R Lines at Peoria Station.

A Line to Southbound R Line Transfers at Peoria Station

Currently, transfers from the A Line to the R Line are scheduled to be 5 minutes. Under the January 2023 proposed schedules, the southbound R Line trains are scheduled to depart at exactly the same time as the A Line trains arrive, meaning that unless the rider is able-bodied and very quick, they will have to wait at least 15 minutes in the daytime, 30 minutes in the evening for their transfer.

Southbound R Line Transfers	Existing	January 2023 Proposed Changes
Eastbound A Line Arrival	xx:01, xx:16, xx:31, xx:46	xx:01, xx:16, xx:31, xx:46
Westbound A Line Arrival	xx:01, xx:16, xx:31, xx:46	xx:01, xx:16, xx:31, xx:46
Southbound R Line Departure	xx:20, xx:50	xx:16, xx:46



Northbound R Line to L Line Transfers

Currently transfers from the R Line to the A Line are scheduled to be 4 minutes in the daytime, 19 minutes in the evenings. Under the January 2023 proposed schedules, the southbound R Line trains are scheduled to arrive 1 minute later than when the A Line trains depart, meaning that riders will have to wait at least 14 minutes in the daytime, 29 minutes in the evening for their transfer.

Northbound R Line Transfers	Existing	January 2023 Proposed Changes
Northbound R Line Arrival	xx:27, xx:57	xx:17, xx:47
Eastbound A Line Departure	xx:01, xx:16, xx:31, xx:46	xx:01, xx:16, xx:31, xx:46
Westbound A Line Departure	xx:01, xx:16, xx:31, xx:46	xx:01, xx:16, xx:31, xx:46

The A and R Lines are currently the fastest RTD option to travel between Downtown Denver and Aurora Metro Center with an end-to-end time (including the transfer at Peoria Station) of 39 minutes. This compares favorably with taking the H line and transferring to the R Line at Florida Station (57 minutes) or by bus routes 6 (60 minutes) and 15L (61 minutes). The proposed January 2023 service changes would lengthen this time to 52 minutes.

Because of this, Greater Denver Transit would like to propose the following changes to the R Line schedule, which should be implemented as soon as reasonably practicable:

1. **Southbound R Line trains are retimed to depart Peoria Station at xx:17 and xx:47 past the hour and run 1 minute later throughout their entire journey.**
 - Between Florida Station and the I-25 / I-225 junctions, R Line trains would travel 7 minutes behind and 8 minutes ahead of H Line trains.
 - There is no conflict with H Line train switching moves at Florida Station.
 - Between the I-25 / I-225 junctions and Lincoln Station, R Line trains would travel 12 minutes behind and 3 minutes ahead of E Line trains.
 - There is no conflict with R Line train switching moves at Lincoln Station.

2. **Northbound R Line trains are retimed to depart Lincoln station at xx:19 and xx:49 past the hour and run 4 minutes earlier throughout their entire journey.**
 - Between Lincoln Station and the I-25 / I-225 junctions, R Line trains would travel 5 minutes behind and 10 minutes ahead of E Line trains.
 - There is no conflict with R Line train switching moves at Lincoln Station.
 - Between the I-25 / I-225 junctions and Florida Station, R Line trains would travel 6 minutes behind and 9 minutes ahead of H Line trains.
 - There is no conflict with H Line train switching moves at Florida Station.



Greater Denver Transit fully accepts that we may not be aware of every constraint that goes into building schedules and that it is a complicated task. That said, we feel that a key transfer point on the RTD system has been massively overlooked. We urge RTD and partners to correct these schedule discrepancies, which will no doubt inconvenience riders and turn them off from using the R Line at a time we should be looking to rebuild ridership in Aurora, following the recent prolonged closure.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Flattum'.

James Flattum
Greater Denver Transit

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RJ Bamber'.

Richard Bamber
Greater Denver Transit

CC: Debra Johnson, General Manager & CEO
Director JoyAnn Ruscha (elect), District B
Director Paul Rosenthal, District E
Director Bob Broom, District F
Mike Coffman, Aurora Mayor