



January 17, 2023

Greater Denver Transit

Mr. James Flattum
Mr. Richard Bamber
greaterdenvertransit@gmail.com

Subject: January 2023 Service Changes – A and R Line Transfers at Peoria Station

Dear Greater Denver Transit,

Thank you for writing to share your observations and concerns related to this month's service changes to the R Line schedule. Your dedication and attention to the region's public transit system is appreciated, and RTD values your feedback, input, and continued support. As expressed in your letter, RTD agrees that the Peoria Station is an important transfer location that supports customer mobility in the east metropolitan area.

The January 2023 service changes, specifically related to the R Line, were impacted by both an operational environment and available resources. Immediately prior to the service changes being finalized, RTD staff met to discuss the operation of the R Line through the intersection of Exposition Avenue and Sable Boulevard. Based on the discussion that ensued during that meeting, it was determined that additional running time needed to be added between Aurora Metro Center Station and Florida Station in both directions. Additionally, observations of the R Line show the current service requiring an additional five minutes due to safety enhancements for the operation of the rail line. Staff has already recommended a schedule service adjustment in May 2023 that will better align the new safety enhancements and the current operation.

The R Line also has many important connection points that were considered when the January 2023 schedule was developed. When compared to the Peoria Station, both Nine Mile and Aurora Metro Center Stations have even higher levels of customer activity on the R Line. As noted, increases in travel time impede RTD's metric of increasing ridership, and the line in its entirety was considered when developing the schedule.

In your letter, you also shared ideas and proposals related to the R Line. Unfortunately, as you noted, there are several constraints that go into building schedules. The suggested combination of a one-minute later southbound and four minutes earlier northbound train will reduce the turnaround time between northbound and southbound R Line trains. A minimum of nine minutes is required to perform all preparatory tasks related to operating the line in the opposite direction. Due to a lack in the time required to change the train direction, the proposed recommendation would result in the need of an additional all-day train and three full-time employees. Given the current hiring environment, increasing operator headcount is not feasible at this time.



RTD will continue to explore opportunities to enhance services and meet the needs of the community. Staff will continue to research ways to address and improve connections between the A and R lines, without detrimental impacts to the system. Again, your feedback and input are appreciated as the agency strives to support customer needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debra A. Johnson".

Debra A. Johnson
General Manager and CEO

cc: Board of Directors
Mayor Mike Coffman, City of Aurora