

Decision No. C23-0044

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 22I-0471R

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN REGARDING THE SABLE BOULEVARD AND EXPOSITION AVENUE DERAILMENT, RULE 4 CCR 723-7-7347.

**COMMISSION DECISION REQUIRING FILING OF
ADDITIONAL CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Mailed Date: January 25, 2023
Adopted Date: January 25, 2023

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On September 21, 2022, a Regional Transportation District's (RTD) light-rail vehicle derailed at the intersection/crossing of Sable Boulevard and Exposition Avenue in the City of Aurora resulting in the decoupling of the two light-rail vehicles and three injuries requiring transport.

2. Today's discussion involves the use of the in-cab and forward-facing cameras by RTD and if an additional Corrective Action Plan (CAP) regarding these cameras is needed.

3. As part of the Staff accident report review for this derailment, Staff asked RTD various questions about the report including the fact that no in-cab and forward-facing camera footage from the lead light rail vehicle was provided as part of the accident report. There was in-cab and forward facing was provided by RTD for the second train car involved in the derailment.

4. In-cab and forward-facing cameras was one of the recommendations that came out of the investigation of the first Sable/Exposition derailment in 2019. The Commission included a requirement in its latest State Safety Oversight Program Standard that RTD was required to install forward facing and operator facing in-cab cameras on all RTD LRV's by no later than June 30, 2027. LRV's that already had such cameras installed were to immediately begin using them to record activity at all times when the light rail vehicle power was on. These recordings are to be used by RTD to assist in the management of safe light rail operations and are to be used in all accident investigations whether performed by the Commission Staff or RTD.

5. The lead light rail vehicle in this derailment did have an in-cab and forward-facing camera. However, the camera had been turned off at some point and not turned back on. In-cab and forward-facing footage was provided from the second LRV but was not helpful to the investigation.

6. The Commission added the in-cab camera requirement to better assist us with conducting accident investigations and to be able to see, from the operator's perspective, exactly what happened during the accident.

B. Analysis

7. The Commission enacted specific rules at 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-7-7349(b) requiring installation and use of in-cab and forward-facing cameras in all light rail vehicles. The Commission also required that any of these cameras that were already installed be recording activity at all times when the light rail vehicle power is on. Rule 7349(d)(III)(J) requires that in-cab and forward-facing camera footage is required as part of an accident investigation. Conclusion

8. We will require RTD to develop a CAP in this proceeding to investigate why the camera had been turned off, to review procedures to ensure that if the camera is turned off that it is turned on again for the LRV starts operating again, and to investigation and report to the Commission any issues that RTD is having with the use of the in-cab and forward-facing cameras. We will require RTD to provide this CAP for Commission review and approval within 20 days of the mailed date of this decision to outline the steps RTD will take in this CAP to investigate and make any necessary changes in operating rules, policies, or whatever is necessary for RTD to comply with Commission Rule 7349(b) regarding the use of in-cab cameras.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Regional Transportation District (RTD) to develop a Corrective Action Plan in this proceeding to investigate why the camera had been turned off, to review procedures to ensure that if the camera is turned off that it is turned on again for the LRV starts operating again, and to investigation and report to the Commission any issues that RTD is having with the use of the in-cab and forward-facing cameras. We will require RTD to provide this CAP for Commission review and approval within 20 days of the mailed date of this decision to outline the steps RTD will take in this CAP to investigate and make any necessary changes in operating rules, policies, or whatever is necessary for RTD to comply with Commission Rule 7349(b) regarding the use of in-cab cameras.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

(S E A L)

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO



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JOHN GAVAN

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Commissioners

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'G. Harris Adams'.

G. Harris Adams.,
Interim Director