

January 16th, 2024

Mike Johnston, Mayor of Denver  
City of Denver  
437 Bannock Street, Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202

### Greater Denver Transit Statement on RTD District A Board of Directors Appointment

Dear Mayor Mike Johnston,

In light of the vacancy on the RTD Board of Directors for District A, Greater Denver Transit (GDT) firmly believes that representation for District A should be continued by someone who (a) rides RTD and (b) is passionate about improving the transit service and the rider experience. We believe the RTD board should continue to be publicly elected so that it is fully accountable to voters.

We were saddened to hear that Director Kate Williams has had to step down from her position due to serious health issues. Director Williams is a true transit champ, and we believe her experience as a bus and train rider has been essential to informing changes in favor of the rider experience. It is vital that District A residents continue to be represented by a fellow rider over the next 11 months. This will help ensure that riders' experiences and priorities are being shared with sufficient urgency to RTD management and Board of Directors.

Last year, and well before this vacancy, GDT passionately endorsed [Chris Nicholson](#) for the upcoming election for the District A position. We voted to endorse Chris because we are strongly convinced that he will be the most effective voice to champion much-needed reforms at RTD and support operational improvements that will benefit the rider experience. We supported Chris then, we support him today, and we will continue to support him for the upcoming election.

If, however, your office is prioritizing a short-term appointment for a candidate that will not seek the election in order to further public trust and election integrity, we have seen [Jaime Lewis](#) from the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition put himself forward for such an appointment. Jaime is an essential voice in transit advocacy, and while he has committed not to seek election come November, he has raised the importance of continued representation over the next 11 months for District A. If this short-term appointment is preferred, we would be delighted to continue to work with Jaime, and will continue to support Chris Nicholson for the election this year.

Best Regards,



James Flattum  
Greater Denver Transit



Richard Bamber  
Greater Denver Transit



CC: RTD Board of Directors  
Debra Johnson, RTD General Manager & CEO.