



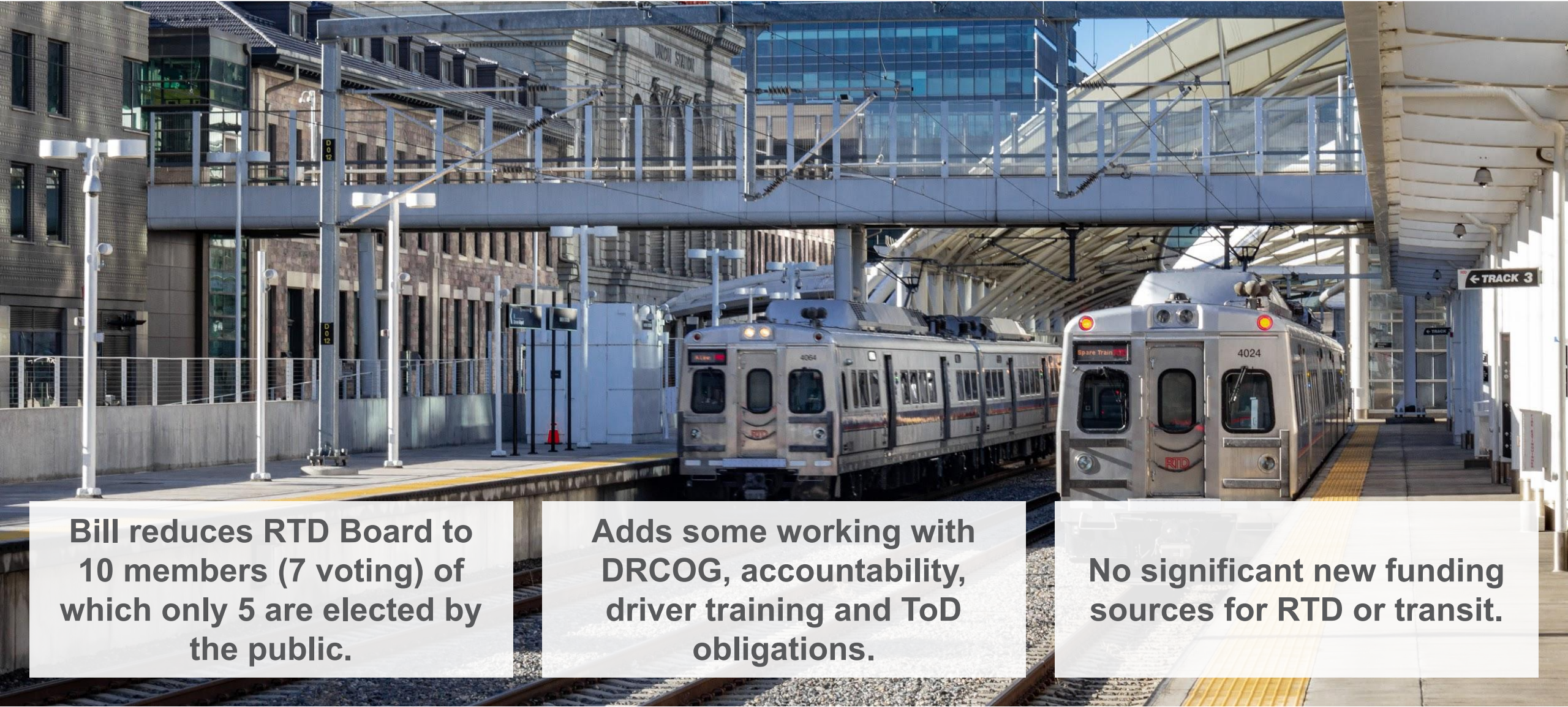
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Transit Reform Bill

HB24-1447 - April 2024

HB24-1447 Transit Reform Bill - Summary



Bill reduces RTD Board to 10 members (7 voting) of which only 5 are elected by the public.

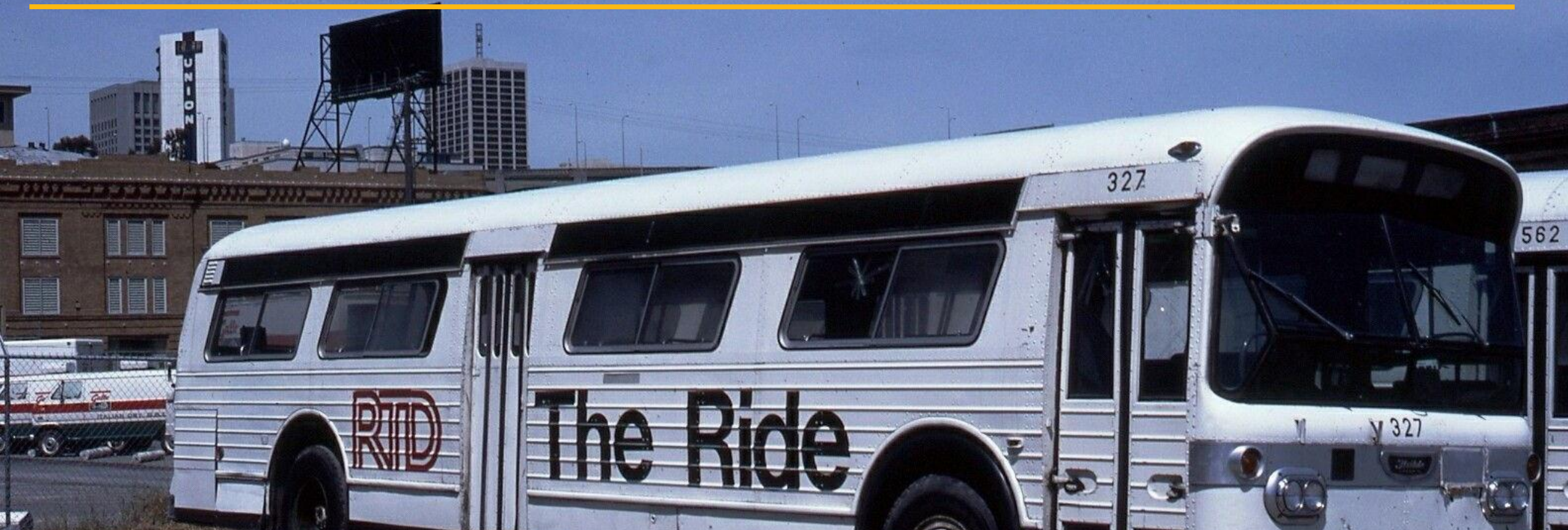
Adds some working with DRCOG, accountability, driver training and ToD obligations.

No significant new funding sources for RTD or transit.

Should we keep the current board structure?



RTD's History



RTD was created in 1969 and acquired the assets of the bankrupt Denver Metro Transit in 1974.

Measure passed in 1980 to transition from an appointed board to an elected one.

Current elected board with district representation started work on Jan 1st 1983.

The RTD Appointed Board - Incompetent



In the 1970s, peer cities were planning and constructing subways, metros and light rail.

RTD chose to pursue an untested personal rapid transit (PRT) system that was ultimately scrapped.

It took the elected board to build fixed-guideway (rail) transit with the opening of the light rail in 1994!

The RTD Appointed Board - Unaccountable



The appointed board refused to include wheelchair lifts in an order for 83 new buses.

The “Gang of 19” protested by chaining wheelchairs to buses and lying down in the street.

One of the main reasons why the appointed board was replaced one elected by the public!

The RTD Appointed Board - Corrupt



Directors leased a private jet to attend a national transit meeting!

Approved the gift of a Winnebago RV to the board chairman from the 16th Street Mall contractor!



The Current Elected RTD Board



15 directors each represent a district of approx. 220,000 residents.

Directors serve 4-year terms, and can only be re-elected once. Elections are staggered.

Part time role pays \$12,000 / year. Most directors have “professional” full time jobs.

Current Elected RTD Board - Size



Is a 15 member Board really too big?

Transit Agency	Board Size
MTA (New York City)	23
Sound Transit (Seattle)	18
SEPTA (Philadelphia)	17
Metro Transit (Minneapolis)	17
WMATA (Washington DC)	15
San Diego Metro	15
DART (Dallas)	15
Santa Clara VTA	15
RTD (Denver)	15
HART (Honolulu)	14
MARTA (Atlanta)	13
LA Metro	12

Current Elected RTD Board - Accountability



RTD accountability reforms are needed - the board can and should take the lead.

As well as financial info, RTD should publish budget, cap. project, safety and headcount metrics.

Accountability reforms should be codified in the RTD Act, for the Board and staff to follow.

Current Elected RTD Board - Policy Making



RTD Board needs to move beyond being simply a “rubber stamping” device for staff’s initiatives.

Directors should be expected to devise, consult on and discuss policies to improve RTD.

If public doesn’t like the policies and governance efforts of the board, they can vote directors out!

Current Elected RTD Board - Representative



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RTD

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As part of their duties, RTD Directors perform a key transit liaison role within their communities.

Easier for candidates from minority neighborhoods to stand and win election to the Board for their district.

The current system minimizes community disenfranchisement and promotes representation.



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