

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

To: David A. Genova, General Manager and CEO
From: Doug Tisdale, Director, District H
Date: March 28, 2019
Subject: Board Commitment to FasTracks Completion and Peak Service Plan

Date: March 28, 2019
GM
Board Meeting Date:

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended by the Chair of the Board of Directors, Doug Tisdale, by the Chair of the Planning/Capital Programs, & FasTracks Committee, Judy Lubow, and by Directors Buzek, Guissing, Lewis, and Whitmore that the Board of Directors approve the attached Resolution No. ____, Series of 2019, Regarding RTD Board Commitment for Finishing FasTracks and Supporting the Peak Service Plan for Northwest Rail, as presented to the Planning/Capital Programs & FasTracks Committee.

This recommendation is consistent with the General Manager's 2019 Goals as follows:

- Core Goal #2 – Strong & Ethical Leadership;
- Core Goal #3 – Strong Financial Management;
- Core Goal #5 – Effective Communications & Community Outreach;
- Task Goal #3 – Ensure Fiscal Sustainability; and
- Task Goal #4 – Address Future Transportation Needs and Methods.

BACKGROUND

In 2004, the voters of the Regional Transportation District approved the FasTracks ballot initiative to create a comprehensive rail and bus rapid transit project connecting Denver and its suburbs, with an expected completion date of 2017 for the entire project. For a number of substantial reasons, some of which are noted in the resolution, project completion did not occur in 2017. It is expected that by 2020, approximately 70% of the project's mileage will be completed. This will leave several sections of the project not yet funded nor finished.

DISCUSSION

The proposed resolution is appropriate and beneficial because it has been 15 years since the passage of the FasTracks initiative, several corridors remain unfunded and unfinished, and the voters and taxpayers deserve assurance that the project is not being forgotten. The resolution will express the Board's acknowledgement of RTD's legal responsibility to complete the unfinished FasTracks corridors and its intention to do so in as expeditious a manner as possible.

Addressing the financial challenges facing RTD in completing this task, the resolution expresses the Board's directives to staff to investigate reasonable cost saving measures and to propose funding mechanisms to construct and operate the unfinished FasTracks corridors, with a report of steps taken to appropriately move forward to be provided within two months. Further addressing financial challenges, the resolution also dictates that staff explore, fund, and facilitate construction and operation of a cost saving measure for the unfinished Northwest Rail that is presently being evaluated by staff and stakeholders – the Peak Service Plan. A report outlining proposed steps to appropriately move forward with this Plan will also be required and submitted within two months.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Aside from the staff time required to prepare the reports identified above, there is no additional fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this resolution.

ALTERNATIVES

1. To adopt the attached resolution
2. To amend and adopt the amended resolution.
3. To reject the resolution.

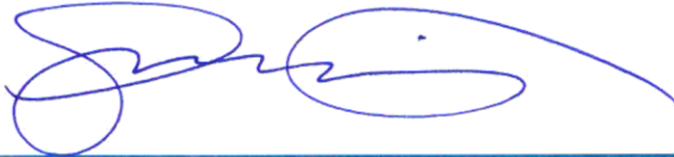
ATTACHMENTS:

- 2019 Resolution - 004 Board Commitment to FasTracks Completion and Peak Service Plan (PDF)
- Letter from Governor Polis (PDF)
- RTD Letter Peak Rail Resolution 4-5-19 (PDF)
- 2011 Resolution 004 - Concerning A 2011 FasTracks Election (PDF)

Prepared by:

Barbara McManus, Executive Manager, Board Office

Approved by:



Doug Tisdale, Director, District H

3/28/2019