



2024 RTD Director Candidate Questionnaire

Name Brett Paglieri

RTD District M

Why are you interested in serving on the RTD board of directors?

To improving safety, reliability, and accessibility. Together, these three things encompass the rider experience and can be measured by an increase in ridership. Setting RTD priorities to increase ridership and directing policy to change from a stagnant agency to one with a growth mindset will force it to improve these three things and improve the rider experience.

While many other transit agencies have restored service levels close to what they were before the COVID-19 pandemic, RTD has only restored service to 70% of pre-pandemic levels. Please share your thoughts about how the agency has approached restoring service post-pandemic and tell us about your vision for RTD's ridership, including how would you work to advance that if elected to the board.

RTD has been a stagnant agency, without the desire to pursue projects that would increase transit access or ridership. I will work with the board to set RTD's highest priority to increase ridership by improving the customer experience. I'll accomplish this through a policy that sets deadlines for the return of pre-pandemic ridership and makes RTD become an active pursuer of transit riders by improving the things that prevent riders from using it today. This can be accomplished by good policy reversing the brain-drain from the agency and hiring industry leaders in safety, maintenance, and planning departments to provide RTD with the staff it needs to grow.

RTD's service intersects with a number of other jurisdictions and agencies. Tell us about what role, if any, you think RTD board members should play in building partnerships and collaborating with other elected leaders, local governments, and agencies, like DRCOG and CDOT?

RTD must envision itself as a world class agency growing to become the number one provider of transportation in the region. Every agency, lawmaker and community will have to become a partner in order to achieve the ambition goals it should set for itself. This means board members have to be diplomats and become the go-to transit people in their district. They must make themselves known to lawmakers from state to local levels.

RTD recently conducted an organizational assessment which sheds light on a number of areas for improvement within the agency and recommendations for addressing those. What recommendations do you think should be prioritized, if any, and how would you work to address the key findings if elected to the board? What experience do you have with organizational management?

I agree with the findings and would push for restructuring RTD, as well as increase the priority of articulating a vision for the future. My experience in the private sector working with executive officers has shown me the value of hiring the right people for the right position.

Please share what equity means to you as a prospective RTD Board Director and what

responsibility, if any, you think RTD has in advancing transportation equity in the Denver region.

Equity to me in the context of RTD means providing world class transit to the people and communities who need and ride it most. Transit provides access to mobility and is a powerful tool to fight the human and environmental costs associated with car travel.

Do you ride RTD today? If so, tell us how often, what routes you frequent, and what your experience is like as a rider and how it informs your perspective as a prospective board member. If not, tell us why.

Yes, more than once a week. My favorite route is bus 28 because the travel time downtown is equal to driving or biking. My experience riding other routes, like the W line, has left me feeling uncomfortable and sometimes unsafe. Mine and other riders' safety is always at the top of my mind.