



TOWN COUNCIL STUDY SESSION AGENDA
February 12, 2024
4:00 PM

I. Study Session Items

1. Legislative Update - Hogan - 45 minutes
2. RTD Update - Debra Johnson - 60 minutes
3. Community Development Update - Fussa - 45 minutes

II. Staff Updates

III. Town Council Updates/Items



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Emily Hogan, Assistant Town Manager
DATE: February 12, 2024
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

ISSUE:

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

At the January 2, 2024 Council meeting, Council adopted the 2024 Legislative Agenda. The purpose of the agenda is to establish positions taken by the Council on major policy issues under consideration at the federal, state and local levels that may impact the Town and its residents and businesses. The agenda builds on the Town's existing values, priorities and objectives identified in its Strategic Plan.

The Town supports legislation that is consistent and furthers advancement of the priorities and objectives found in the Strategic Plan. Conversely, the Town opposes legislation that inhibits achievements of the Strategic Plan and its objectives. The agenda states the Town's positions on a number of topics that may be the subject of proposed legislation in the coming legislative session. The agenda is meant to serve as a single, authoritative source of information that can be easily shared with legislators and promoted by elected officials.

The Council serves as the Town's legislative review body and is apprised of legislation throughout the session by staff and receives regular updates during Council meetings. Advocacy positions to be taken by the Town include:

- **Support** – The Town supports the proposed bill as written. The bill directly relates to Town priorities and/or is considered crucial to Town operations.
- **Oppose** – The Town opposes the proposed bill as written. The bill directly conflicts with Town priorities, forces an unfunded mandate on the Town, interferes with local control and/or conflicts with crucial Town operations.
- **Amend** – The Town deems the bill to directly relate to Town priorities or be considered crucial to Town operations. However, the Town would like to see the bill amended before taking a support or oppose position. The Town will take advocate to amend the bill prior to passage.
- **Monitor** – The Town deems the bill of interest but no position is to be taken at this time. Staff will track progress of the bill and report back to the Council. The Council may take a support or oppose position on the bill at a later time based on changes to the legislation.
- **None** – The Town does not take a position on the legislation. The Town may take a support or

oppose position of the bill at a later time.

Additionally, Council directed staff to contract with a lobbyist for 2024 to provide legislative advocacy services to the Town. In addition to maintaining a daily presence at the State Capitol, the lobbyist acts as a policy advisor, strategic consultant, coalition organizer and legislative advocate on behalf of the Town.

The lobbyist provides a weekly bill report, which can be accessed at <https://statebillinfo.com/SBI/index.cfm?fuseaction=Public.Dossier&id=34188&pk=414&style=pinstripe>.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests a consensus of the Town Council to identify any bills to track or take action on.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

Staff requests a consensus of the Town Council to identify any bills to track or take action on.

ATTACHMENT:

None



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: John Fussa, Community Development Director
Bryce Matthews, Assistant Director - Planning
Mary Munekata, Senior Planner

DATE: February 12, 2024

SUBJECT: RTD Update

ISSUE:

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) provides transit service within the Town of Parker. The Town has invited Debra A. Johnson, RTD General Manager and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to attend the February 12th Town Council Study Session. Ms. Johnson will provide a brief update about RTD and be available for discussion and questions from the Town Council.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None

BACKGROUND:

RTD provides the following transit services and facilities within the Town boundaries:

- **Route 483:** Local fixed route bus service providing weekday service every hour through Parker connecting the Town to the Lincoln train station in Lone Tree and the Nine Mile train station in Aurora. This route provides Parker residents with transit service through the Town and access to connecting light rail and bus service at the train stations. RTD operates this service Monday to Friday from 4:36AM to 8:12PM. *RTD suspended the service during the COVID-19 pandemic and reinstated it on June 14, 2021.*
- **FlexRide:** On-demand shuttle bus service that provides door-to-door first and last mile service in most of the RTD service area within Parker. RTD operates this service Monday to Friday from 6AM to 6PM. *RTD maintained the service during the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- **Route P:** Commuter fixed route bus service connecting Parker to the Civic Center Station in downtown Denver with bus stations at the Parker Park-n-Ride and the Lincoln & Jordan Park-n-Ride. RTD operates this service Monday to Friday from 5:56AM to 6:28PM. *RTD suspended the service during the COVID-19 pandemic and reinstated it on September 5, 2021.*
- **Access-a-Ride:** Paratransit service compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for transit riders who cannot use regular fixed-route bus or light rail service due to a disability. RTD operates this service Monday to Friday on a reservation basis. The service operates within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of fixed route transit service such as the Route 483 bus.
- **Parker Park-n-Ride:** Downtown Parker north of the Parker Senior Center on Longs Way.
- **Lincoln & Jordan Park-n-Ride:** Northwest corner of the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Jordan Road (west of McDonald's).

Parker is located in RTD District G and is represented by Julien Bouquet on the Board of Directors. Town residents living within District G may park for free at all RTD Park-n-Ride facilities such as the Parker Park-n-Ride bus station and Ridgeway Parkway train station. On July 25, 2023, the RTD Board of Directors approved a revised, systemwide fare structure for transit services to implement the major recommendation of their Fare Study and Equity Analysis project. According to RTD, the new fare structure lowers fares for all customers and simplifies the fare structure by combining Local and Regional fares (<https://www.farefeedback.rtd-denver.com>). The reduced, simplified fares became effective on January 1, 2024.

The creation, funding and operation of a transit system is a complex undertaking and Parker has relied upon RTD to provide local transit service since joining the District. RTD transit service connects residents to major employment destinations such as downtown Denver, helps local businesses attract employees from other communities, supports the development of a multi-modal transportation system and provides alternatives to driving for residents who lack access to a vehicle or are unable to drive such as young people and senior citizens. The results have been mixed over the years.

According to RTD, in 2023 they received \$15,347,403 in sales tax remittance from Parker through November, 2023. RTD has advised staff that sales tax remittance information for December, 2023 will be available in mid-February. Staff also requested information from RTD about the expense or operating costs of the transit service that they provide in the Town but this information is not available at this time.

Finally, staff forwarded the following questions from the Mayor and Town Council to RTD in preparation for the February 12th Study Session:

1. Is there an option for us to essentially “pay out” to get out of our contract? Example: If we cancel a phone contract, they have a termination penalty amount but then we are no longer held to the contract. Does RTD have that option, or could we negotiate that option?
2. Subregional Service Councils:
 - Provide a brief explanation on what they are, how they were formed and how RTD utilizes/engages these advisory boards
 - Are there similar advisory boards utilized throughout the country? If so, does RTD use this board in a similar fashion?
3. RTD Grant Pool:
 - In the last year (or so), RTD made available ~\$4 million dollars so subregional service councils could compete for this additional funding. I believe the City of Lone Tree was awarded a grant.
 - What was the intent of this grant opportunity?
 - What did RTD learn from this?
 - What data point or performance measures is RTD looking at in order to evaluate?
 - What results can RTD share at this time?
 - Can we expect more grant opportunities with more dollars allocated grant funding in the future?
4. RTD/Municipality Funding:
 - Does RTD know how much (% or \$) it takes to sustain the regional RTD network relative to the Parker annual revenue?
 - If so, please share the definition of "regional RTD network"?
 - Can RTD provide how much a bus route (P or 483 for example) costs?
5. Specific Services:
 - What can be done about the RTD medical transportation for people unable to drive

themselves to and from doctor's appointments? How can we get more of these services in Parker since we are paying into RTD?

There are several other major transit related programs and projects that are currently active which may be of interest to the Town Council such as the planned Front Range Passenger Rail project connecting Fort Collins to Pueblo through Douglas County; CDOT Mobility Hubs for Bustang regional bus service in design for Lone Tree and Castle Rock; and the Douglas County Transit and Multi-Modal Study/Plan funded by DRCOG that will commence in 2024. The Town and RTD will participate in the County Study/Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

None

ATTACHMENT:

None



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: John Fussa, Community Development Director
Bryce Matthews, Assistant Director - Planning
Randy Sale, Assistant Director - Building

DATE: February 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development Update

ISSUE:

The Community Development Department will provide a general update to the Town Council.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Development Department will provide a general update to the Town Council. Community Development staff will discuss 2023 highlights, 2024 activities, auto-oriented uses that may be of concern, and the status of water efficiency early action items.

RECOMMENDATION:

For discussion only.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

None. This is for discussion only.

ATTACHMENT:

None