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MEMORANDUM

TO: Colorado General Assembly – Senate Transportation and Energy Committee

FM: Doug Tisdale, RTD Board Director, District H

DT: 2024 05 04

RE: Written Submission by RTD Director Doug Tisdale in
OPPOSITION to HB24-1447

Please note: The views and opinions expressed by me are my own and do not necessarily represent those of the Regional Transportation District or any of its Board Directors or employees.

Introduction.

May It Please the Committee.

My name is Doug Tisdale and I thank you for the opportunity to present to you today.

I am the elected Director for RTD District H, which encompasses all of Cherry Hills Village and parts of Greenwood Village, Centennial, Littleton, and all of Highlands Ranch. Rep. Meg Froelich and Sen. Jeff Bridges are my constituents.

I am here today to **oppose** HB24-1447.

Personal Background and Credentials.

I was first elected to the RTD Board in 2016 and then re-elected in 2020. I served two terms as RTD Board Chair (2018 and 2019) and two terms as Chair of the RTD Finance and Planning Committee (2023 and 2024).

I am on the Board of Directors of the American Public Transportation Association, which we refer to as APTA. I am also on the Executive Committee of APTA and on APTA’s Finance Committee and on the Legislative Committee.

In addition, I am the Chair of the Transit Board Members Committee at APTA. APTA’s Transit Board Members Committee consists of all the transit board members at the almost five hundred transit agencies that are members of APTA. I am responsible for working with and speaking on behalf of the thousands of transit board members in the United States of America and Canada.

Prior to my election to the RTD Board, I was the duly elected Mayor of Cherry Hills Village. Before serving as Mayor, I was twice elected to the Cherry Hills Village City Council. During my municipal service, I was selected as an officer of the Metro Mayors Caucus, as Vice Chair of DRCOG, as Chair of the Colorado Municipal League Policy Committee, and numerous other positions in Colorado and nationally.

Over the past 24 years I have run in seven general elections ... five of which were rightly decided.

Opposition to the Bill.

Concerning HB24-1447, I testified last month before the House Committee considering this bill. At that time, I made the following point regarding **Board Size**.

There is an undercurrent in HB24-1447 that the RTD Board is simply too large. “Fifteen members are too many.” Let me share some data.

Of the 20 largest transit agencies in the United States, of which RTD is one, their Board membership is as follows: one Board has 23 members; two Boards have 18 members; another two have 17 members; five of those Boards have 15 members, just like the RTD; one Board has 14; one Board has 13, two Boards have 12; two have 11, one has 10; one has 9; and one has 7.

The names of the various agencies are shown at the end of this Memorandum and were shared by me personally with the Sponsors of 1447 months ago.

In sum, if there is a concern that RTD – with 15 Board members – is an outlier, that is simply not factual.

In light of the overwhelming opposition to the bill, it was amended, in particular by removing the deconstruction of the RTD Board and replacing those provisions with a study to be conducted.

Speaking for myself alone, and not on behalf of the RTD Board, I appreciate these efforts.

Opposition to the Proposed “Legislative Declaration.”

I must express, however, a deep disappointment with the carrying forward of a demonstrably inaccurate and misleading statement in the proposed “Legislative Declaration” contained in the bill. I refer specifically to the following language (Reengrossed Bill, page 16, lines 12 through 15):

(III) ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION, THE MAJORITY OF TRANSIT BOARD SIZES RANGE FROM SEVEN TO TEN, AND ONLY THREE PERCENT OF TRANSIT BOARD MEMBERS ARE ELECTED TO THAT OFFICE

As the Chair of the Transit Board Members Committee at the American Public Transportation Association, where I am charged with speaking on behalf of almost 500 public transit agencies in the

United States, I can say with authority that the statement above is inaccurate, incorrect, misleading, and wrong.

Including this statement as a formal “Declaration” by the Colorado General Assembly – attempting to provide a patina of legitimacy to the argument – is an embarrassment. And as the same was pointed out to the sponsors repeatedly over a period of three months, it evidences a most unfortunate inattention – or worse -- on the part of those involved. I am reminded of the words of Cervantes: “Facts are the enemy of truth.”

And therefore, I must, reluctantly, and still appreciative of the efforts of the sponsors to address the overwhelming public opposition to the bill, continue in my opposition to the bill, which finds further support in the legal maxim, *falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus*.

Thank you.

--Doug Tisdale

LIST OF LARGEST TRANSIT AGENCIES AND BOARD SIZE

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Board Size</u>
MTA (NYC)	23
LA Metro	12
WMATA (D.C.)	15
SEPTA (Philadelphia)	17
NJ Transit	11
BART (SFO)	9
MARTA (Atlanta)	13
San Diego Metro	15
HART (Honolulu)	14

Doug Tisdale Written Testimony in Opposition to HB24-1447

AC Transit (Oakland)	7
Metro Transit (Mpls)	17
Orange Co Transit	18
VIA Metro Transit	11
Santa Clara VTA	15
Sacramento RTD	12
Greater Cleveland RTA	10
Sound Transit	18
DART (Dallas)	15