



**CITY OF BOULDER
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: July 21, 2022

AGENDA TITLE

Consideration of motion to adopt Resolution 1312 declaring the City of Boulder's support for the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) Zero Fare for Better Air transit initiative that waives passenger fares for all RTD and City of Boulder HOP transit and paratransit services during the month of August 2022 to encourage local and regional ridership and reduce ground level ozone and greenhouse gas emissions.

PRESENTER(S)

Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, City Manager
Natalie Stiffler, Interim Director of Transportation & Mobility
Valerie Watson, Transportation Planning Manager
Danny O'Connor, Principal Transportation Planner/Transit Program Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the entire month of August 2022, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) will offer zero fares across its regional bus and rail transit system as part of its [Zero Fare for Better Air initiative](#). The initiative, made possible by [Colorado Senate Bill 22-180](#) in partnership with the Colorado Energy Office, is designed to reduce ground level ozone and greenhouse gases by increasing use of public transit. Passenger fare revenues that pay a portion of RTD service costs will be offset by funding provided through this state bill. RTD customers will benefit from not needing to use or purchase fare products to access local and regional transit services throughout August. Zero fare in August will also apply to RTD paratransit services and city of Boulder HOP bus service, a city service supported by RTD annual partnership funding since 1996.

As context, the city's 2019 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) recommends zero fare for local and regional transit services as a strategy to enhance equity, promote access to opportunity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through modal shift and increased transit ridership. RTD's Zero Fare for Better Air initiative directly aligns with this city priority.

Many communities across the RTD service area are also expected to publicly support RTD's Zero Fare for Better Air initiative, and the initiative will likely prompt future considerations to expand zero fare availability at local and regional levels.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Motion Language:

Staff requests council consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motion:

Motion to adopt Resolution 1312 declaring the City of Boulder's support for the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) Zero Fare for Better Air transit initiative that waives passenger fares for all RTD and City of Boulder HOP transit and paratransit services during the month of August 2022 to encourage local and regional ridership and reduce ground level ozone and greenhouse gas emissions.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A – Resolution 1312

RESOLUTION 1312

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ZERO FARE FOR
BETTER AIR TRANSIT INITIATIVE IN AUGUST 2022**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO, HEREBY

FINDS AND RECITES THAT:

WHEREAS, good air quality is essential to quality of life and a vibrant economy; and

WHEREAS, the Denver region is on the precipice of designation as an area of “severe” non-attainment of health-based standards for ozone pollution with significant potential for federal intervention; and

WHEREAS, ground-level ozone triggers asthma attacks, worsens existing respiratory illnesses, and makes breathing difficult particularly for the very young, elderly and those exercising outdoors; and

WHEREAS, emissions from cars, trucks, vans, and motorcycles are some of the largest contributors to ground level ozone in the Denver Metro/North Front Range area; and

WHEREAS, using transit instead of a personal vehicle for trips is one effective way to reduce ground level ozone; and

WHEREAS, SB22-180 made funding available for free transit statewide during the summer ozone season; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation District “RTD”, which provided nearly 106 million passenger trips in 2019, plans to provide zero fare transit during the month of August all day, every day, on all buses and trains across the region, as part of the Zero Fare for Better Air initiative; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boulder is committed to supporting collaborative approaches to reducing air pollution and expanding mobility options for residents of the City of Boulder and our neighbors in the region regardless of their age, income, or abilities;

WHEREAS, the City of Boulder will complement RTD’s zero fare transit during the month of August by providing zero fare transit during the month of August within the City of Boulder on local HOP bus service to further encourage people living in, working in, and visiting the City of Boulder to ride transit;

WHEREAS, the City of Boulder 2019 Transportation Master Plan includes a recommended action to pursue implementation of a zero fare local and regional transit system to enhance equity access and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased ridership, and

the Zero Fare for Better Air Initiative supports this community priority and considerations for expanding zero fare options in the future;

**BASED ON THE FINDINGS MADE IN THIS RESOLUTION, ABOVE, BE IT
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO,
THAT:**

The City Council of the City of Boulder is pleased to adopt this resolution in support of Zero Fare Transit on RTD and local bus service in the City of Boulder in August 2022.

ADOPTED this 21st day of July, 2022

Aaron Brockett,
Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk