



October 8, 2013

Director Barbara Deadwyler
Board of Directors
1600 Blake Street
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Board of Directors:

Last year at this time, the office of the Five Points Business District sent a letter to the RTD Board of Directors on behalf of business owners, property owners and community stakeholders who live and work in the Five Points Welton Corridor requesting that the Board seriously consider the harmful impact on the community if RTD permanently closes the 29th Street Light Rail station on Welton Street. (see attached)

The “test” that took place this past year on improving the on-time performance of the D line down the Welton Corridor did not improve the quality of the transit experience for our residents, businesses, and property owners. In fact, the one metric that was used by the service planning staff failed miserably for the passengers taking the D-line northbound mid-day to 30th /Downing with a 66% on time performance rate.

We hosted two meetings for RTD staff to get public comment on the permanent closure and the comments were not favorable. We are requesting that the RTD Board not approve the staff’s recommendation for permanently closing the 29st. Light Rail Station on Welton St. for the following reasons:

- A) The station should be re-opened until RTD and Denver Police Department can increase and execute long term security and safety measures for our passengers who board at 30th and Downing. A recent violent attack at the 30th and Downing station is one more example of a long list of complaints by the neighborhood requesting protection and increased safety protocols to protect the families that board at that station.

- B) Since the survey was taken on the number of boardings at this station, at least four new businesses have moved into the 29th Street location. The businesses signed agreements with the property developer prior to being notified by RTD that the station will be closing. Those businesses chose



this area over other locations based on the premise that they would be in front of a light rail station. The other existing businesses nearby such as the PBS TV Station and the NPR radio station have also complained about the impact of foot traffic to their doorstep. Given the plans by the city of Denver to spur economic development in this corridor it is a direct

contradiction to the city's plans and RTD's proposed plans for assisting communities

Transit Oriented Developments.

- C) The permanent closure of the 29th St. Station without any RTD Board recommendation for dismantling the station will leave blight in our neighborhood business district. This non-action will have a "chilling effect" on the economic development of our historic district. RTD has abandoned this station over the test period and to leave it in this condition until the Central Corridor Rail Extension Mobility Study is completed in the next 12 months is not acceptable for the standards of this community. We have not been given any conditional improvement to be made after the station is closed and this community deserves a "beautification treatment" given that we do not even benefit in an improvement in on-time performance

We request that the RTD Board give full consideration to our request and provide this community with alternative plans that will enhance the economic growth of this vital part of the city of Denver.

Sincerely,

Tracy J. Winchester
Executive Director

