

JOINT STATEMENT

WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT AREA AND PRIORITY SEATING POLICY

On February 19, 2014, the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (“CCDC”) and the Regional Transportation District (“RTD”) entered into an agreement that both believe will greatly enhance fixed route bus service for passengers who use mobility devices, including wheelchairs.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) requires that buses have a priority seating area for the elderly and people with disabilities who need closer seating, which are usually the seats closest to the door. The ADA also requires buses to have securement areas -- locations large enough to fit a wheelchair on the bus. RTD has these on all of its buses. Passengers who use mobility aids do not have seating options like everyone else. Below is a picture of the securement location on a bus with the seats folded up:



If there are fold-down seats in the securement areas, the ADA requires RTD to take certain steps to ensure passengers who use mobility aids have access. Bus operators must ask passengers to move from those seats to allow boarding of passengers who use mobility aids. RTD policies required bus operators to do so; however, passengers often bring large objects on the bus that don't easily fit anywhere except the securement locations. There is no place to move the large items when a passenger using a mobility device boards. This agreement is designed to prevent this problem. The agreement resulted in a policy that tells bus operators the following:

Articles, baggage or packages are not permitted on buses if they are dangerous or restrict free movement of passengers. Articles permitted on the bus must not interfere with the vehicle operation or any other

passenger. Grocery carts must be folded or positioned so that they do not block the aisle of the bus. Whatever a passenger brings on the bus must be readily movable. When a passenger with a stroller boards the bus, require the passenger to collapse the stroller prior to boarding. Passengers will not be allowed to board with large strollers or other items that cannot be collapsed and/or stored in the seats behind the Securement Areas and Priority Seating.

You must advise the passenger upon boarding to use seats behind the Securement Areas and Priority Seating for themselves and their objects because if they do sit in the Securement Area, they will be required to move if needed by an Individual with a Disability using a Mobility Aid. Do not permit a passenger to fold up the seat to make room for items brought on board the bus, other than a Mobility Aid.

This procedure will prevent confusion regarding use of the wheelchair securement areas and ensure passengers who use mobility aid have access to the bus. This procedure is also consistent with what other transit agencies that prohibit or limit strollers and other large items. RTD has always had signs required by the ADA that explain procedures for the securement area. These signs are being upgraded and will help in alerting passengers to the need to make the securement areas available when someone needs them.

For the priority seating area:

**PRIORITY SEATS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND ELDERLY.
MAKE SEATS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH PASSENGERS OR UPON
REQUEST.**

For the wheelchair securement area:

**FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES THIS AREA MUST BE VACATED WHEN A
PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO IS USING A WHEELCHAIR FOR
MOBILITY NEEDS THIS SPACE.**

RTD also intends to engage an expert to review RTD's implementation of this policy. This expert will help ensure that individuals with disabilities who use mobility aids have equal access to fixed-route buses.

"Having clear rules makes it much easier for all passengers to ride RTD's buses," said CCDC Executive Director Julie Reiskin, who uses a wheelchair and rides RTD almost daily. "We are pleased that RTD continues to work to improve upon its access policies and believe these procedures will make everybody aware so that passengers who use wheelchairs can get to those two spaces."

Bruce Abel, RTD Assistant General Manager for Bus Operations said, "We appreciate our on-going partnership with CCDC to help address the transit needs of our passengers with disabilities while continuing to serve all of our

passengers. It is crucial that we continue to upgrade our policies and procedures to make certain that we remain current and effective.”

RTD and CCDC will collaborate on training procedures, reviewing reports regarding operation of the policy, and conducting public outreach.