



Colorado
Cross-Disability
Coalition

CREEC
CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION
AND ENFORCEMENT CENTER



newsrelease



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RTD enhancing use of wheelchair securement area and mobility access on light rail vehicles

Denver, April 26, 2017 – The Regional Transportation District (RTD), Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC), and Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center (CREEC) are collaborating to ensure that passengers with mobility impairments requiring devices specifically to assist with ambulation, including manual and motorized wheelchairs, scooters, and walkers, are able to easily board and maneuver inside light rail vehicles.

As a part of this effort, RTD will be altering the seating design of current and new light rail vehicles. The retrofit includes removing a set of seats next to the current wheelchair areas, which will open up the designated area for easier access. This will also provide additional standing room for passengers in light rail vehicles when not being used for mobility devices.

Within the next five years, RTD will be retrofitting all existing light rail vehicles. In addition, all new vehicles will be substantially similar in design to the retrofitted vehicles.

“We are committed to ensuring that our services are as accessible and safe as possible for all riders,” said RTD General Manager and CEO David Genova. “We continue to partner with organizations that represent the ADA community to look for ways that we can improve our facilities, vehicles and services.”

RTD directs light rail operators not to discriminate against disabled riders and trains operators to ensure they are aware of their obligation not to discriminate.

In addition, Plaintiffs and CCDC, and class members working with them, have agreed to notify RTD prior to filing future litigation against RTD concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act or similar laws.

"This settlement requires that the parties meet and discuss issues before taking any adverse action," said Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition Executive Director and Plaintiff Julie Reiskin. "I am proud that we were all able to come together to find an agreeable solution for all parties that helps improve light rail services throughout the region." CCDC worked in conjunction with CREEC on the resolution of this matter.

About RTD

RTD's mission is to provide safe, clean, reliable, courteous, accessible and cost-effective bus and rail services in the eight-county district, and fulfills 100 million passenger trips annually. The public transit agency is creating a larger, better and more accessible system through innovation, public-private partnerships and transit-oriented communities.

About CCDC

CCDC advocates for Social Justice for people with all types of disabilities. CCDC envisions that Colorado will be the most accessible state in the nation in terms of public transportation, public accommodations and state and local government. CCDC believes that input provided by the disability community must be respected and used by state agencies.

About CREEC

CREEC is a nonprofit membership organization whose goal is to ensure that everyone can fully and independently participate in our nation's civic life without discrimination.

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