A Resolution in Support of Maintaining the RTD Express Denver-Boulder Stop at the CU Campus

Bill History

In early March, 2015, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) proposed a new rapid transit service between the Denver-metro area and Boulder called the Flatiron Flyer. This service is apparently the replacement for the current BX and BMX lines that run direct service between Boulder and Denver. The BX and BMX lines currently have stops at the University of Colorado but the new “Flatiron Flyer” has proposed eliminating the stops at the University of Colorado. The only two stops in Boulder in the current proposal are the Table Mesa Park and Ride and the Downtown Boulder Bus Station. Students who wish to access the University of Colorado campus will have to either walk from those stations (which is a fair distance) or transfer to a different bus (significantly adding to their commute time).

This change in service will negatively impact all University of Colorado students. It will also significantly and negatively affect students who chose to live in the Denver-metro region for various reasons. These students rely on the bus for efficient, cost-effective, and

1 http://www.rtd-denver.com/servicechanges-us36.shtml
environmentally-friendly transportation to and from school. For example, a significant number of law students, graduate students, administrative staff, and faculty do not live in Boulder and commute to Boulder when they have class or work. These individuals rely on the BX and BMX lines to stop on campus and the proposed change will eliminate that stop.

CU is an original signatory to the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment. As a result, CU formed the Carbon Neutrality Working Group, which devised a plan for reducing the campus carbon footprint. As one of the primary means of achieving this goal, CU requires all students, staff, and faculty to purchase an ECO pass, thereby reducing emissions from single-passenger commutes. By limiting bus access to the campus, RTD would severely impact this effort, and in effect decrease the value of the ECO pass to students.

**Bill Summary**

This resolution states the support that the University of Colorado Student Government (CUSG) has for the efforts and interests of the University of Colorado students who stand in opposition to the proposed change in the RTD Denver to Boulder express bus routes that currently service the university. CUSG encourages that RTD retain the two stops on the CU campus for its Denver to Boulder express route when it implements its new Denver to Boulder express transit service, the “Flatiron Flyer.”

**Whereas,** each University of Colorado student pays $85 per semester for an RTD bus pass.

**Whereas,** a large number of doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate students at the University of Colorado choose not to live in the city of Boulder for various reasons, both financial and personal.

**Whereas,** a significant number of students utilize the RTD services as their primary mode of transportation to the University of Colorado.

**Whereas,** students travelling between Boulder and the Denver-metro area rely heavily on the RTD stops at Broadway/16th Street and Broadway/Baseline.

**Whereas,** an elimination of the Broadway and 16th Street bus stop will adversely affect a large number of students, as their options for transportation not only to the university, but also internship, externship, volunteer, and other employment opportunities in the Denver-metro area will be strained.
**Whereas,** in the best interest of the students of the University of Colorado, CUSG should take action by advocating for the inclusion of the current University of Colorado stops in the proposed Flatiron Flyer express route.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the University of Colorado Student Government that:

**Section 1:** The University of Colorado Student Government calls on RTD to include the current stops at the University of Colorado as part of its new Flatiron Flyer express route.

**Section 2:** This resolution shall be presented at the RTD public comment meeting regarding the new “Flatiron Flyer” service on Monday, March 16, 2015 in Boulder as well as the following similar meetings in Broomfield (March 26), Louisville (April 1), Westminster (April 2), and Denver (April 13).

**Section 3:** Upon passage, this resolution shall be sent to relevant parties at RTD, the University of Colorado Environmental Center, the University of Colorado Boulder’s Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, as well as campus and local media.

**Section 4:** This resolution shall take effect upon passage by the Legislative Council and upon either obtaining the signature of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without action by the Tri-Executives.

**Vote Count**

____________________________  _______________________
Juedon Kebede               Rachel Leonard
President of Student Affairs  Legislative Council President

____________________________  _______________________
Lora Roberts                Chelsea Canada
President of Internal Affairs President of External Affairs