

Senate Transportation & Energy

02/27/2023 01:30 PM

HB23-1101 Ozone Season Transit Grant Program Flexibility

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Audrey DeBarros For Commuting Solutions</p>	<p>Commuting Solutions supports HB23-1101, Ozone Season Transit Grant Program Flexibility. Our mission as a nonprofit organization is to connect people to places in the northwest metro region today and for the future.</p> <p>As the Transportation Management Organization for the northwest metro region, we are stakeholders working to expand use of travel options to driving solo among employers, employees as well as the general public to mitigate traffic congestion, improve air quality and reduce transportation's impact on the climate.</p> <p>Through our work in the community, we know how valuable it is to have incentives to encourage people to use commuting options including riding transit. The RTD Zero Fare for Better Air was a successful incentive program that increased RTD ridership and overall awareness of transit. We are supportive of changes to the program to make it easier for Colorado transit agencies to implement the program.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Colorado.</p> <p>Sincerely, Audrey DeBarros Executive Director Commuting Solutions</p>



February 25, 2023

Senate Transportation & Energy Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB23-1101 Ozone Season Transit Grant Program Flexibility

Dear Members of the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee:

My name is Ann Sutton, living in Westminster CO. This testimony represents the position of the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) on the bill to enhance the Ozone Season Transit Grant program.

The League supports measures to reduce vehicular pollution and development of more energy-efficient transportation systems. In Colorado, we support efforts to reduce ozone and its precursors resulting from sunlight, heat, and traffic exhausts.

In August 2022, RTD and 14 transit agencies outside of Denver Metro Northern Front Range received grants for free public transit services to all riders through the Zero Fare for Better Air program. Reports to the Colorado Energy Office described impacts of the program and lessons-learned in the several jurisdictions including,

- Longer application period to facilitate organizing and promotion.
- Marketing strategies adapted for specific communities.
- Consideration of free fares in other time periods such as aligning with the academic year to expand populations served.
- Planning for public transportation sustainability.

We note that these and similar lessons-learned have been included in HB 1101 to allow grant money to be spent for marketing, expansion for alternate time periods, and community outreach regarding public transportation availability.

LWVCO is pleased to continue our support for strategies to reduce ozone and to inform the public about ways to reduce air pollution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Sutton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Ann Sutton Volunteer Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Colorado
1410 Grant Street, Suite B-204
Denver, CO 80203