

RTD: A Fork in the Railroad

Author: Kelly Brough, Urban Development Fellow

To maximize the considerable public investment placed in it, RTD should focus on increasing ridership by addressing crime and its perception on trains, buses, and terminals.

By the Numbers

BUDGET

The operating budget rose from **\$477 million in 2014 to \$856 million** by 2023, with a proposed \$1 billion budget for 2024.



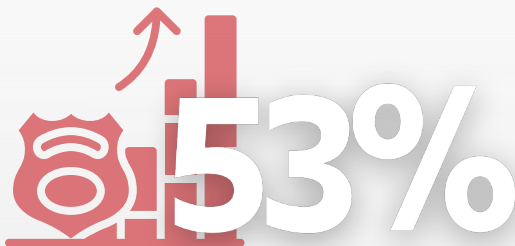
RIDERSHIP

To **recover 30% of operating costs** through fares, RTD would need to **nearly triple its ridership**.



CRIME

Violent crime increased by **53%**, with murder up 300%, aggravated assault up 86%, non-consensual sex assault up 32%, and robbery up 32%.



NATIONAL CONTEXT

Among **23 U.S. public transportation systems** in 2022, RTD ranked **17th** in overall spending, **15th** in unlinked trips, **10th** in operational expense per trip, **19th** in use rate per service area population, **17th** in miles transported, and **17th** in spending per mile of rider travel.

