

Decision No. C25-0649

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

PROCEEDING NO. 22I-0471R

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IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN REGARDING THE SABLE BOULEVARD AND EXPOSITION AVENUE DERAILMENT, RULE 4 CCR 723-7-7347.

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**COMMISSION DECISION APPROVING UPDATED  
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS PLAN FOR CAP01-09212022,  
AND REQUIRING RTD TO FILE CORRECTIVE ACTION  
UPDATE FOR CAP01-09212022**

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Issued Date: September 5, 2025

Adopted Date: September 3, 2025

**I. BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Statement**

1. On September 21, 2022, a Regional Transportation District's ("RTD") light-rail vehicle derailed at the intersection/crossing of Sable Boulevard and Exposition Avenue in the City of Aurora resulting in the decoupling of the two light-rail vehicles and three injuries requiring transport.

2. Today's discussion includes review and action on the new Corrective Action Plan ("CAP") CAP01-09212022 filed by RTD on July 31, 2025, in response to the Commission reopening CAP01-09212022 by Decision No. C25-0542 issued July 24, 2025.

3. Now being fully advised in this matter, we will approve RTD's alternative Automatic Train Stop ("ATS") design and construction and approve CAP01-09212022.

**B. Finding of Fact**

4. On July 24, 2025, the Commission issued Decision No. C25-0542 approving corrective actions for CAP3-09212022, reopening CAP01-09212022, and requiring RTD to file a Corrective Action Plan update for CAP01-09212022 within 10 days of the issued date of that decision. This decision discusses the issues RTD is facing and the reason that RTD wants to update how the Automatic Train Stop (“ATS”) will be installed.

5. On July 31, 2025, RTD made the required filing including an updated ATS implementation plan.

6. The proposed revised ATS design will use existing equipment already in stock and use of RTD Maintenance of Way personnel to install the equipment. The details of the ATS implementation plan are included as Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 to the compliance filing.

7. The installation of the ATS on the southbound track approaching the Sable and Exposition intersection has two distinct advantages. It requires operator intervention in order to proceed through the intersection/crossing alerting the operator they are entering that particular portion of the alignment. It also will stop the train automatically should the operator fail to follow the normal operation for any reason. “ATS ENDS” signs will be installed to alert operators where in the territory the ATS signal will drop.

8. RTD used very conservative estimates making calculations for the design including the maximum LRV acceleration rate, the LRV minimum traction deceleration rate (found on wet rail), and generous reaction time. With this design, the ATS will bring the train automatically to a stop at least 30 feet before entering any portion of the Sable and Exposition curve.

9. RTD states that it can install this ATS system within 60 days of Commission approval, complete initial testing, final testing and safety certification of the ATS system, train and familiarize operators and maintainers with the new ATS system and have the ATS system go live within 120 days of Commission approval. The new system can be operational around December 31, 2025.

10. RTD estimates the cost of installation of this ATS system at \$150,000 including parts and labor.

**C. Conclusion**

11. We have reviewed RTD's alternative ATS design, construction schedule, and estimated cost. We will approve the alternative ATS implementation plan for the Sable and Exposition southbound track and curve and approve CAP01-09212022.

**II. ORDER**

**A. The Commission Orders That:**

1. The alternative ATS design and associated CAP01-09212022 are approved.

2. This Decision is effective on its Issued Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING  
September 3, 2025.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,  
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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Commissioners

COMMISSIONER TOM PLANT,  
ABSENT