Expanding Transit Accessibility & Affordability in the Era of Housing Displacement: Denver
We have been consistently adding people, in spite of the recession.

- 16% overall growth = 50 households/day

- We have fewer children under 5 (recessionary effect), and are aging rapidly.

- Households are getting smaller, and are less traditional family structures

- Becoming more diverse (racially and ethnically), but more diluted

- Overall mobility rates remain stable, but disparities exists between White alone and Black/African American or Hispanic
...we lack the inventory at the levels affordable to households working in a large share of the region’s occupations.

In 2019 the average home price in Denver spiked to $553,371 from $322,000 just 3 years ago. Families and individuals are moving further from job centers....
Setting the Stage:
Timeline of Events
Key Partners & Influencers

95 to COLORADO

United for a New Economy

Enterprise

Montbello Organizing Committee

Mi Casa Resource Center
**2013**

**ASKING THE QUESTION**

*Working to Understand Transit Needs*

- 9to5 Colorado works with residents along the West Corridor through canvassing, community meetings, and organizing efforts to advocate for a just transit system.

- United for a New Economy (formerly FRESC) surveys Denver International Airport employees on commuting costs & frequency of use.

**72%**

*Can't afford a monthly pass*

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**2014**

**LEFT AT THE STATION**

- 9to5 Colorado releases their report "Left at the Station", making a case that 2014 fares of $2.25 were too high for low-income riders, just as rents were increasing.

- Affordable Fares Task Force, a coalition of partners, is convened by Mile High Connects to lift up the issue of affordability in RTD's fare study.

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*I'm a single parent/single income family, and would truly benefit from an income-based bus pass. I hope this helps with the start of the light rail.*
### 2015

**Advocates Call for Action**

- **RTD Fare Study** proposes a **fare increase to $2.50 (local)**, and a **fare decrease from $15 to $10 for airport fares**.
- Task Force responds with continued call for income-based fare.
- **Fare increase to $2.60** on local fares is approved by Board.

### 2016

**Ticket to Thrive**

- **Colorado Fiscal Institute** economists Chris Stiffler & Thamanna Vasan release report “Ticket to Thrive” providing a plan and financing strategy to offer a half-priced fare.
- **50/150 Program**: Staff from MHC, 9to5, & Enterprise Community Partners brief officials, policy makers, and leaders on research & need.

**ORCA Lift**

- Learning opportunity is convened between King County executives and local Elected Officials & RTD staff.
- Affordable Fares Task Force continue to meet with board to introduce reduced fares.
2017

BEHIND THE SCENES

RTD board convenes the Pass Program Working Group (PPWG), a group comprised of 25+ advocates from government, business, nonprofit, public and private sectors.

PPWG recommends 40% discounted passes, giving folks earning less than $22,000 the opportunity to access transit without making hard choices. Affordable Fares is in the Press as a result of proposed changes.

PUBLIC WEIGHS IN

RTD shares three options with the public, opening the door for additional public comments. Advocates continue to push for Option 3 - a 40% discounted fare for adults & 70% for youth.

There's still time to comment on the recommendation! Visit RTD’s website to provide public comments or speak at an upcoming board meeting! The RTD board is expected to vote in October 2018.
LiVE Program

• RTD Program
• 40% discount for income eligible people
• Eligibility: >185% of Federal Poverty Level
What’s on the horizon?

• Influencing Public Investment
• Equity Lens to Public Investments & Planning Initiatives
• **Equitable** Transit Oriented Development
Thank you!

Deyanira Zavala
Mile High Connects
dzavala@milehighconnects.org