

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD BLASTS FTA OVER \$75 MILLION WASTE OF TRANSIT FUNDS SAYS MONEY WASTED WOULD FULLY FUND CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST YEAR OF DENVER'S SOUTHEAST LIGHT RAIL LINE

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today blasted the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) over wasting \$75 million over the next three years, by approving a contract with Amtrak to provide commuter rail service to Boston.

Allard, who is Chairman of the Senate Housing and Transportation Subcommittee, said the money wasted would more than fully fund the first year of construction on RTD's proposed southeast corridor light rail line along the heavily congested I-25 corridor from the south suburbs of the metro area to downtown Denver.

"This waste of taxpayers money by the Federal Transit Authority is simply outrageous," Allard said. "How can I explain to the citizens of Colorado that the federal government has chosen to waste \$75 million in transit funds? In fact, this \$75 million would more than fund Colorado's first year request to begin construction its new southeast light rail line."

During Tuesday's hearing Allard questioned FTA Acting Administrator Nuria Fernandez and Amtrak President George Warrington on why Amtrak was awarded a three year contract by FTA to provide service to Boston commuters when they submitted the highest bid with the lowest quality ranking during the bidding process.

"When we have so many communities working on new mass transit projects to help address their transportation needs, it is imperative the Federal Transit Authority spends its funding on mass transit projects and not waste taxpayers money on contracts like this one," added Allard. "The American people are being taken for a ride, and it's not on Amtrak."

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