

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-07
OF THE FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT
AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A
CONTRACT WITH ASCEND BEYOND CONSULTING, LLC**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 32-22-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S. (the “Act”), the Front Range Passenger Rail District (the “District” or “FRPRD”) was established as a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the state to research, develop, construct, operate, and maintain an interconnected passenger rail system within the front range that is competitive in terms of travel time for comparable trips with other modes of surface transportation; and

WHEREAS, except as otherwise specifically provided, the Board of Directors of the District (the “Board”) exercises and performs all powers, privileges, and duties vested in or imposed upon the District in the Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 32-22-105(2)(g)-(h), C.R.S., authorizes the Board to appoint, hire, and retain engineers and other professional consultants, and to prescribe methods for the performance or furnishing of labor, materials, or supplies that may be required to carry out the purposes of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the District is engaged in comprehensive planning, outreach, and readiness work in advance of a potential 2026 ballot referral, requiring coordination of multiple consultants and implementation of strategic priorities to support the District’s efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires for the District to enter a contract with AB Consulting LLC, doing business as Ascend Beyond (“Ascend”), to provide coordination, communication, and strategic guidance services to support the District as described in the scope of services attached as **Exhibit A**; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the District’s *Procurement and Purchasing Policy for Goods and Services* the Board’s Finance Committee must authorize a District contract of more than \$20,000 and refer it to the Board for approval at a following Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section V of the District’s *Procurement and Purchasing Policy for Goods and Services*, procurement by non-competitive proposal may be used for contracts of \$20,000 or more when procurement by competitive proposal is not practical because the Board has determined that it is in the District’s best interests to procure by non-competitive proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby determines that it is in the District’s best interests to procure the coordination, communication, and strategic guidance services referred to herein by non-competitive proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed scope and cost and recommends authorizing the General Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Ascend; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Ascend pursuant to the proposed scope, price, and payment schedule provided in **Exhibit A**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the District that:

1. Authorization to Negotiate and Execute.
The Board hereby authorizes the General Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Ascend in a form approved by the District's general counsel and consistent with the scope and payment structure outlined in **Exhibit A**.
2. Contract Amount.
The negotiated contract shall not exceed \$56,000 in total compensation as described in **Exhibit A** without further Board approval.

APPROVED this 27th day of February 2026.



Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Peck

Secretary

**EXHIBIT A
Ascend Beyond Scope of Services**

[See attached]



Front Range Passenger Rail District Strategic Advising Services SOW

Scope of Services

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Front Range Passenger Rail District (FRPRD) is advancing a comprehensive ballot access plan requiring coordination of multiple consultants and implementation of strategic priorities identified during the January 2026 board retreat. Ascend Beyond will provide strategic advisory services focused on systems design, process development, and strategic guidance to equip FRPRD leadership with the tools, frameworks, and counsel needed to successfully execute this critical initiative.

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Design systems and processes for FRPRD leadership to effectively coordinate multiple consultants
- Develop communication tools, templates, and protocols for information flow
- Create a project timeline and implementation framework for board retreat priorities
- Provide strategic guidance and coaching to project leadership on people management and coordination
- Support meeting effectiveness through agenda design and facilitation support

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. Systems Design and Framework Development

- Design project management systems and coordination frameworks for consultant team

B. Communication Tools and Protocols

- Design communication protocols consultant team
- Create meeting cadence structure, agenda templates
- Develop information-sharing frameworks and documentation repository structure

C. Strategic Guidance on Consultant Coordination

- Advise project leadership on consultant coordination strategies and best practices
- Provide coaching/advising on role clarity, deliverable alignment, and performance management
- Guide decision-making on cross-functional dependencies and coordination challenges
- Offer strategic counsel on people management, conflict resolution, and team dynamics
- Support leadership in establishing clear expectations and accountability with consultant team

D. Board Retreat Implementation Planning

- Develop process timeline for board retreat action items
- Create implementation roadmap template with milestones, owners, and success metrics

E. Meeting Design and Facilitation Support

- Facilitate or co-facilitate 90-minute town hall workshop on February 20th for stakeholder alignment
- Advise leadership on effective facilitation and decision-making processes
- Review and advise on meeting effectiveness and refinements

F. Strategic Advisory and Thought Partnership

- Provide weekly strategic counsel to project leadership (1-hour standing call or as-needed)
- Offer perspective on ballot measure best practices and implementation strategies
- Serve as thought partner on organizational capacity, resource allocation, and risk management

4. PROJECT TIMELINE

Engagement Period: 16 weeks from start date

Start Date: February 9, 2026

End Date: May 31, 2026 (Out of the country March 16-20)

6. WORKING RELATIONSHIP

- Time Commitment:
 - 5-8 hours per week for 16 weeks
 - Up to one weekly 1-hour strategic advisory call with Sal (as needed)
 - Town hall workshop facilitation (estimated 2-3 hours including prep)
 - Remaining hours for framework development, template creation, and async support

- Communication:
 - Primary contact: Sal Pace
 - Urgent matters: Text/call for time-sensitive issues requiring immediate input

- Client Responsibilities:
 - Implement systems, tools, and processes designed by Ascend Beyond
 - Lead day-to-day coordination of multiple consultants using provided frameworks
 - Provide timely access to project documentation and strategic context
 - Share strategic priorities
 - Review deliverables and provide feedback within agreed timeframes

7. INVESTMENT

Total Project Fee: \$56,000

Payment Schedule:

- \$16,000 upon execution of agreement
- \$10,000 March 1
- \$10,000 April 1
- \$10,000 May 1
- \$10,000 June 1

Not Included (if required):

- Day-to-day consultant coordination (designed by Ascend Beyond, executed by FRPRD)
- Facilitation of all weekly standing meetings (tools and templates provided)
- Work extending beyond 16-week engagement period
- Travel expenses (billed at cost with pre-approval)
- Additional consulting hours beyond scope (negotiated separately)
- Additional Facilitation will be a separate scope (negotiated separately)