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COLORADO
Department of Transportation

Segment Coalition Meeting

South Segment

Pueblo, Colorado - January 23, 2020



Welcome

FRPR FRONT RANGE
PASSENGER RAIL

Agenda



- Welcome and introduction
- Agenda review and meeting purpose
- Project status
- Evaluation process
- Context
- Exercise
- Next steps, thank you, and close

Meeting Purpose



The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Update segment coalition members regarding Front Range Passenger Rail team action for 2020
- Gather coalition members' input on corridor options

Project Status

Project Status

- Governance
- Second round of stakeholder engagement
- Project development



Evaluation Process

Revised Vision Statement

Developing passenger rail service for communities along the I-25 corridor is a critical component of Colorado's future.

Front Range Passenger Rail will provide a safe, efficient, and reliable transportation option for travel between major population centers along the Front Range and create a backbone for expanding rail and transit options in the state.



Process

STEP 1

PROJECT INITIATION AND SCOPING

What do we want
Front Range
Passenger Rail to
be?

STEP 2

LEVEL 1 EVALUATION

What are the
possibilities for
corridors and
operations?

STEP 3

LEVEL 2 EVALUATION

How do
alternatives
compare?

STEP 4

ADVANCE TO NEPA

Federally required
process to
advance major
infrastructure
projects

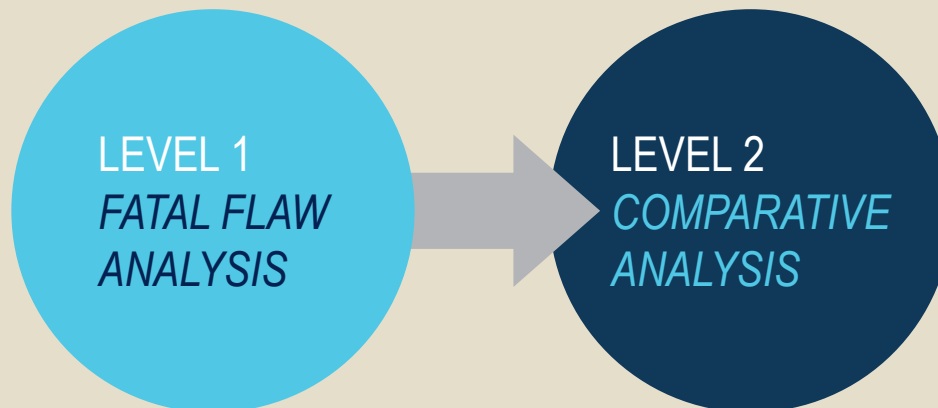
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE



Evaluation Criteria Categories

Evaluation Criteria Categories:

- Operational characteristics
- Community and environmental impact
- Financial and economic
- Feasibility and implementation

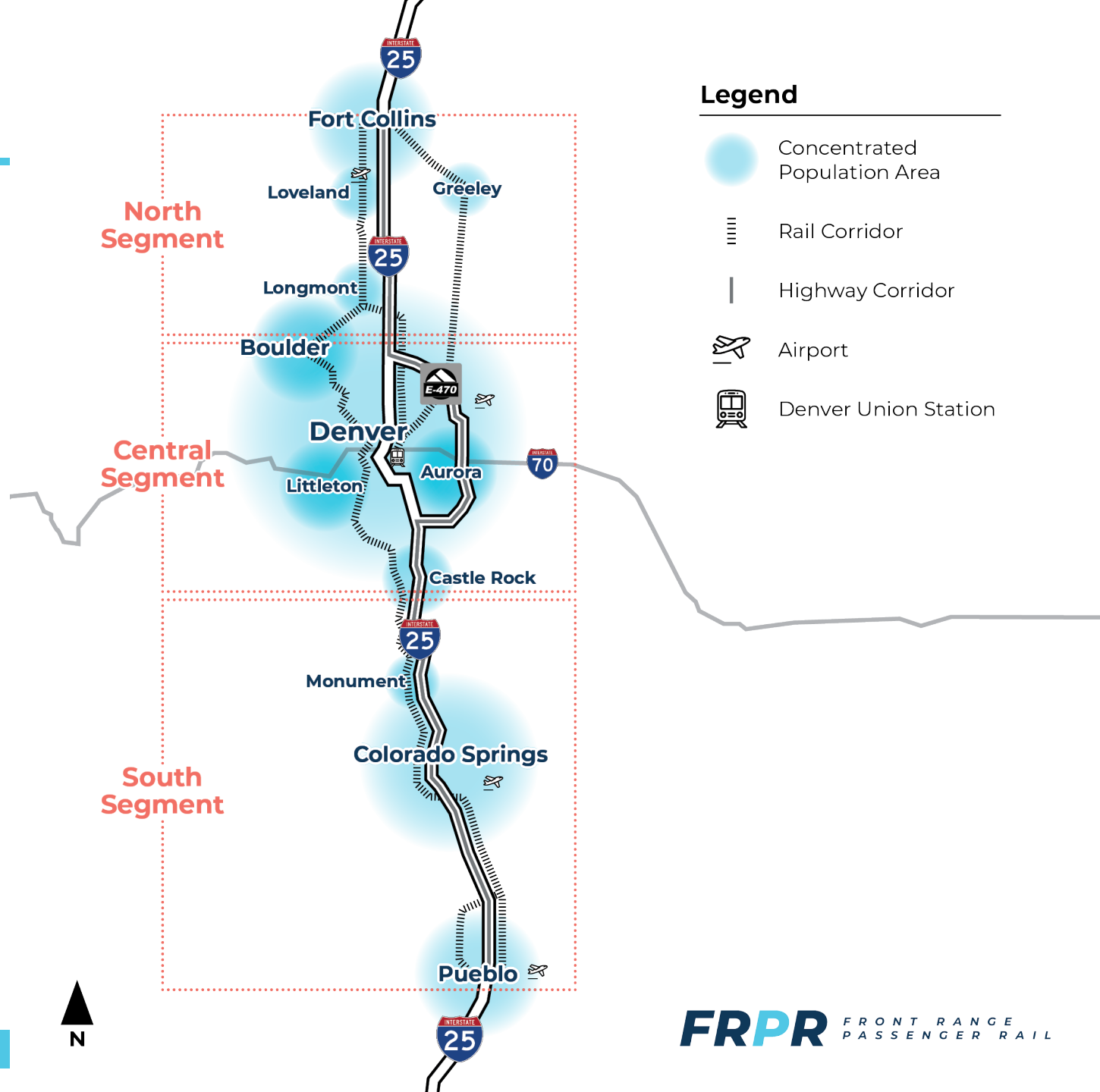


Context

Context

POSSIBLE PASSENGER RAIL CORRIDORS

- Highway corridors
- Freight rail corridors
- Greenfield (new)
- Hybrid corridors



Corridors – Opportunities and Challenges

HIGHWAY CORRIDORS

I-25, supplemented by C-470/E-470 and corridors adjacent to rail (US 85)

Opportunities

Better horizontal geometry
Fewer environmental and community impacts
Potential for reduced right-of-way acquisition

Challenges

Right-of-way constrained
I-25 expansion limited
Rural corridors have less impact, but serve less people
Some vertical curve challenges (grades)

RAIL CORRIDORS

Union Pacific Railroad and BNSF Railway

Opportunities

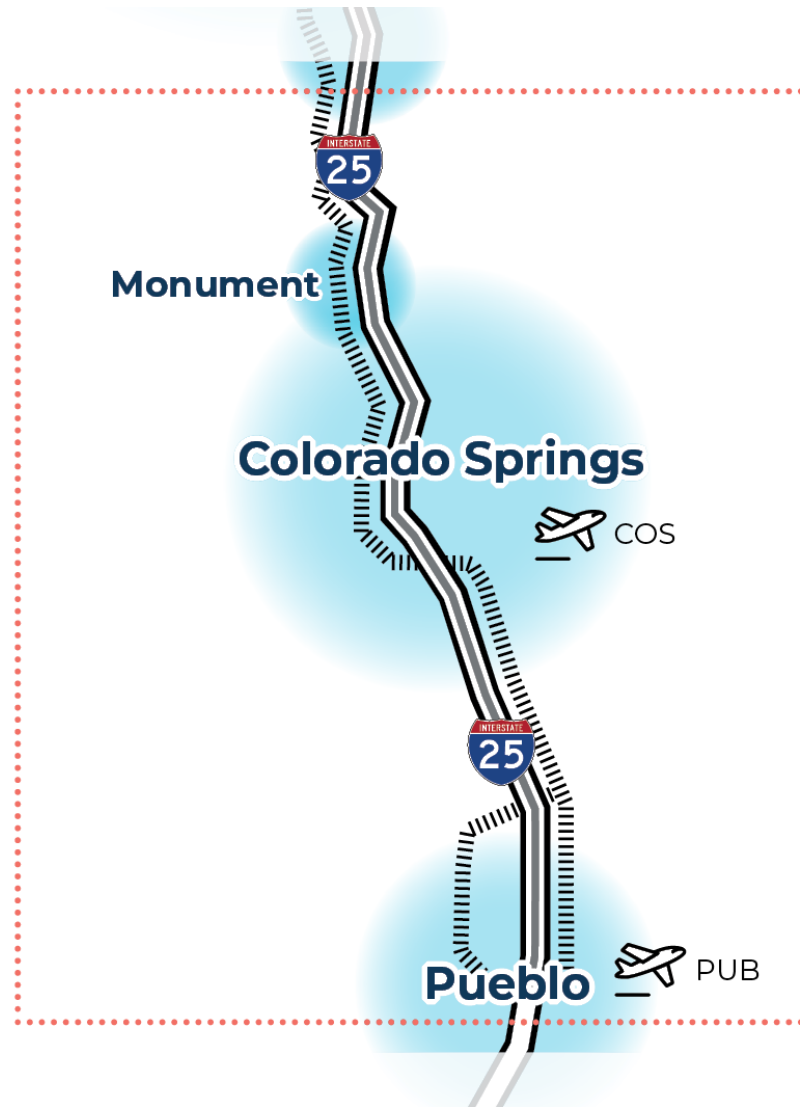
Interest from railroads and Amtrak
Burnham Yard
Corridors align with population centers
Potential to add quiet zones, grade separated crossings, etc.

Challenges

Agreements with railroads
Horizontal geometry for high speeds
Proximity of corridors to communities
Property acquisition
Need for multiple grade separated crossings

South Segment-Specific Considerations

- Topography and greenfield corridors
- Interactions with local transit and airports (COS and PUB)
- Directness of connections to downtown Denver and DEN
- Access to major employment centers



- I-25 vs US 85/BNSF access at Castle Rock
- Access to Front Range destinations
- Access to downtown Colorado Springs

Exercise



Exercise Instructions

20 minutes on your own

- Step 1:
 - Review the context graphics (opportunities and challenges) posted around the room
- Step 2:
 - Note any missing challenges or opportunities
 - Prioritize your top 5 challenges and opportunities
 - Provide your ideas for solutions, for example to:
 - RTD's corridor extensions (B Line, N Line)
 - North I-25 Commuter Rail
 - Connection to Denver Union Station
 - Note any additional information you think is needed to support your solutions
- Step 3:
 - Complete your notes/questionnaire and be prepared to discuss your ideas with the group
 - Return your completed questionnaire

Coalition Discussion

Facilitated discussion of your solution ideas:

- Missing challenges or opportunities?
- Top challenges and opportunities?
- Your ideas for solutions?
- Additional information you think is needed to support your solutions?



Closing

Next Steps



Summarize:

- Key meeting points
- Action items
- Next meeting

Thank You!



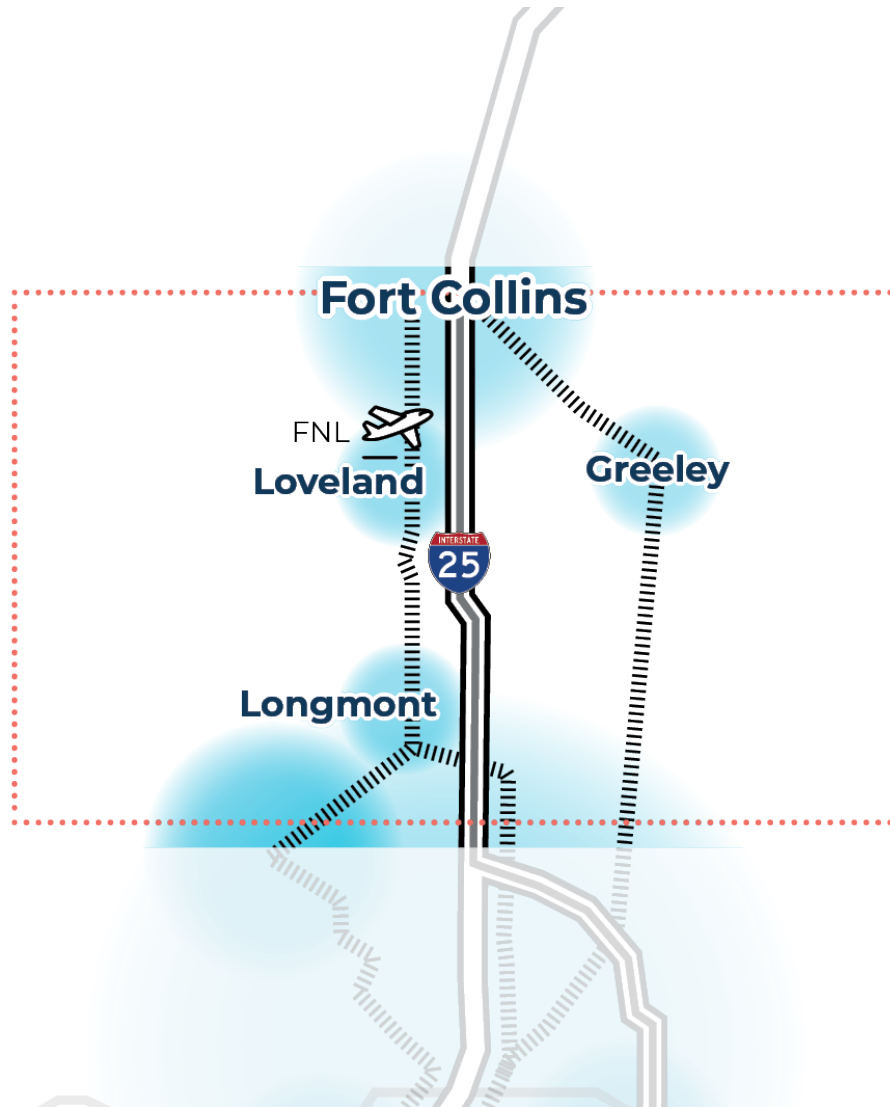
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Additional Slides

North Segment – Specific Considerations

- Interaction with MAX BRT (Fort Collins)
- Opportunities to support economic development
- Shorter distances between communities
- Interaction with Bustang



- Relationship to I-25 North EIS Commuter Rail
- Serving populations vs. managing impacts
- Perceived inequity of transportation investments

Central Segment-Specific Considerations

- Relationship to RTD planned corridors (N Line and B Line)
- Constrained right-of-way and community impacts
- Interaction with RTD
- Access to major employment centers



- Serve major destinations (Downtown Denver, Airport)
- Access to major events
- I-25 vs. US85/BNSF access from south to central Denver
- Burnham Yard opportunities and risks

Corridor-Wide System Considerations

DRAFT CRITERIA

Operational Considerations:

- Travel Time
- Ridership
- Operating Speed
- Reduction in VMT
- Ability to Interconnect with Other Modes (Existing or Planned Transit)
- 2040 Population Served

Community & Environment Impact:

- Community Disruption
- Utilities & Energy
- Air Quality
- Natural Environment
- Historic
- Hazardous Materials
- Recreational Resources
- Noise & Vibration

Financial & Economic:

- Capital Cost
- Operating Cost
- Revenue Potential
- Cost Effectiveness

Feasibility & Implementation:

- Interaction with Freight Railroad Operations /
- Customer Access
- Ease of Implementation
- Constructability
- System Flexibility
- Public Support