



Front Range Passenger Rail Segment-Specific Stakeholder Meeting

Kick Off Meeting

Spring 2023

RideTheFrontRange.com

Segment-Specific Meetings

South Segment
Wednesday, May 31
9 – 11 a.m.

Central Segment
Thursday, June 1
2 – 4 p.m.

North Segment
Monday, June 5
2 – 4 p.m.

Introductions

CDOT

FRPR District

HNTB

Peak Consulting

Kearns & West



David
Singer



Andy
Karsian



Dominic
Spaethling



Mandy
Whorton



Angela Jo
Woolcott



Chrissy
Breit



Lisa
Sakata



Morgan
Lommele



Zach Barr



Caitlin
Sheridan

Agenda

Welcome Participants

Discuss Roles and Responsibilities

Provide FRPR Background

Preview the Preliminary SDP Purpose & Need

Public Engagement Update

Look Ahead and Adjourn

Meeting Purpose

Outline the role and composition of the group and ensure common understanding of tasks.

Explain the relationship between the District and CDOT.

Re-cap the history of FRPR, what led to the SDP process, and outcomes from the prior study.

Preview the Preliminary SDP Purpose & Need.

Report out themes from stakeholder one-on-one interviews.

Provide a look ahead to what's next in the SDP process.

Today's Discussion

Focused on:

- Service Development Plan
- Fostering community awareness and understanding
- How to communicate and engage with the public

Not focused on:

- Specific alignments
- Station selection
- Total cost
- Implementation timeline

Guidelines



Be respectful and value all perspectives.



Participate in an active and focused manner.



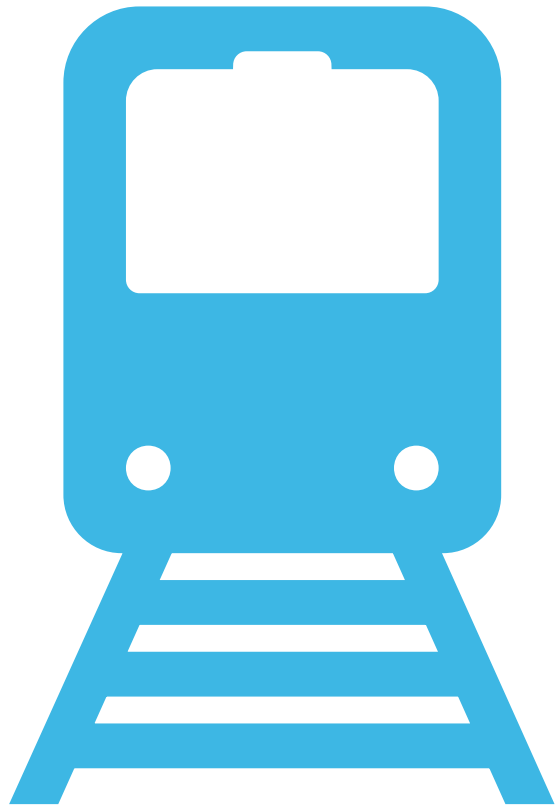
Communicate interests and values.



Integrate interests into creative solutions.



Commit to a good faith effort.



Stakeholder Roles

South Segment Roster

- Action22
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- City of Colorado Springs
- City of Colorado Springs/Fort Carson
- City of La Junta
- City of Pueblo
- City of Trinidad
- City of Walsenburg
- Colorado Competitive Council
- Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC
- Colorado State University – Pueblo
- Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs

- El Paso County
- Fort Carson
- Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Huerfano County
- Larkspur Chamber of Commerce
- Las Animas County
- Mountain Metro Transit
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
- Pueblo Chamber of Commerce
- Pueblo County
- Pueblo Memorial Airport
- Pueblo Transit

- Regional Transportation District
- Town of La Veta
- University of Colorado – Colorado Springs
- U.S. Air Force Academy

Central Segment Roster

- Amtrak
- Auraria Higher Education Center
- Bike JeffCo
- Boulder Chamber of Commerce
- Boulder County
- Broomfield Chamber of Commerce
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- CDOT Transportation Commission
- City & County of Broomfield
- City & County of Denver
- City of Boulder
- City of Castle Pines
- City of Centennial
- City of Lone Tree

- Clear Creek County
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs
- ColoRail
- Commuting Solutions
- University of Colorado - Boulder
- Denver International Airport
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Denver South EDP
- City & County of Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI)
- Douglas County
- Downtown Denver Partnership
- Denver Regional Council of Governments

- DSTMA
- Jefferson County
- Metro Denver
- NATA
- Regional Transportation District (RTD)
- Skytran
- South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce
- Town of Castle Rock
- Transportwriter.com
- Westminster Chamber of Commerce

North Segment Roster

- Association for Colorado County Administrators (ACCA)
- Carbon Valley Chamber of Commerce
- City of Fort Collins
- City of Greeley
- City of Longmont
- City of Loveland
- Colorado State University – Fort Collins
- Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce
- Larimer County

- Longmont Chamber of Commerce
- Mead Chamber of Commerce
- North Area Transportation Alliance
- North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO)
- Northern Colorado Regional Airport
- PRO 15
- Regional Transportation District (RTD)
- Town of Firestone
- Town of Johnstown

- Town of Mead
- Town of Windsor
- University of Northern Colorado
- Weld County

When We Saw You Last...

- ▶ Feedback helped us:
 - Develop a vision for FRPR service.
 - Identify key destinations and travel patterns.
 - Articulate amenities and service requirements.
 - Consider benefits and tradeoffs among alignments.

Specific to the South Segment...

- Support for DUS over DEN as Denver destination.
- Interest in travel times and transfers/first and last mile.
- Concern about railroad agreements and viability.
- Interest in interregional travel between Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

Specific to the Central Segment...

- ▶ Interaction with RTD is important.
- ▶ Alignment considerations for primary destinations of DUS, DEN, and DTC.
- ▶ The need for reliable, competitive travel times.

Specific to the North Segment...

- Interaction with RTD North and Northwest Rail corridors is important.
- Alignment considerations for primary destinations of DUS, DEN, and DTC.
- The need for efficient intermodal connections.
- Concerns with too many transfers and stops.
- Considerations for changing demographics.
- The need to serve growing populations and “export” labor.

Stakeholder Roles

Act as a representative of your community.

Share the perspective of your organization or community, not your individual interest.

Act as a sounding board for the project team.

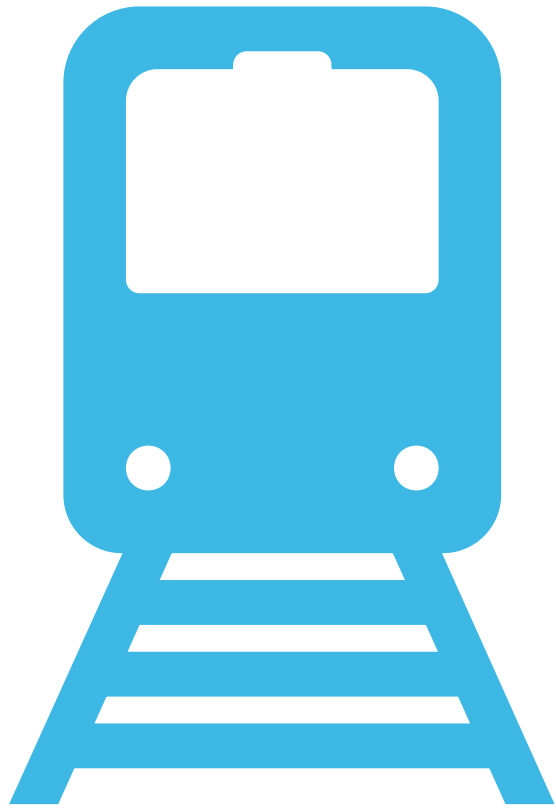
Vet information and deliverables.

Daylight issues and concerns.

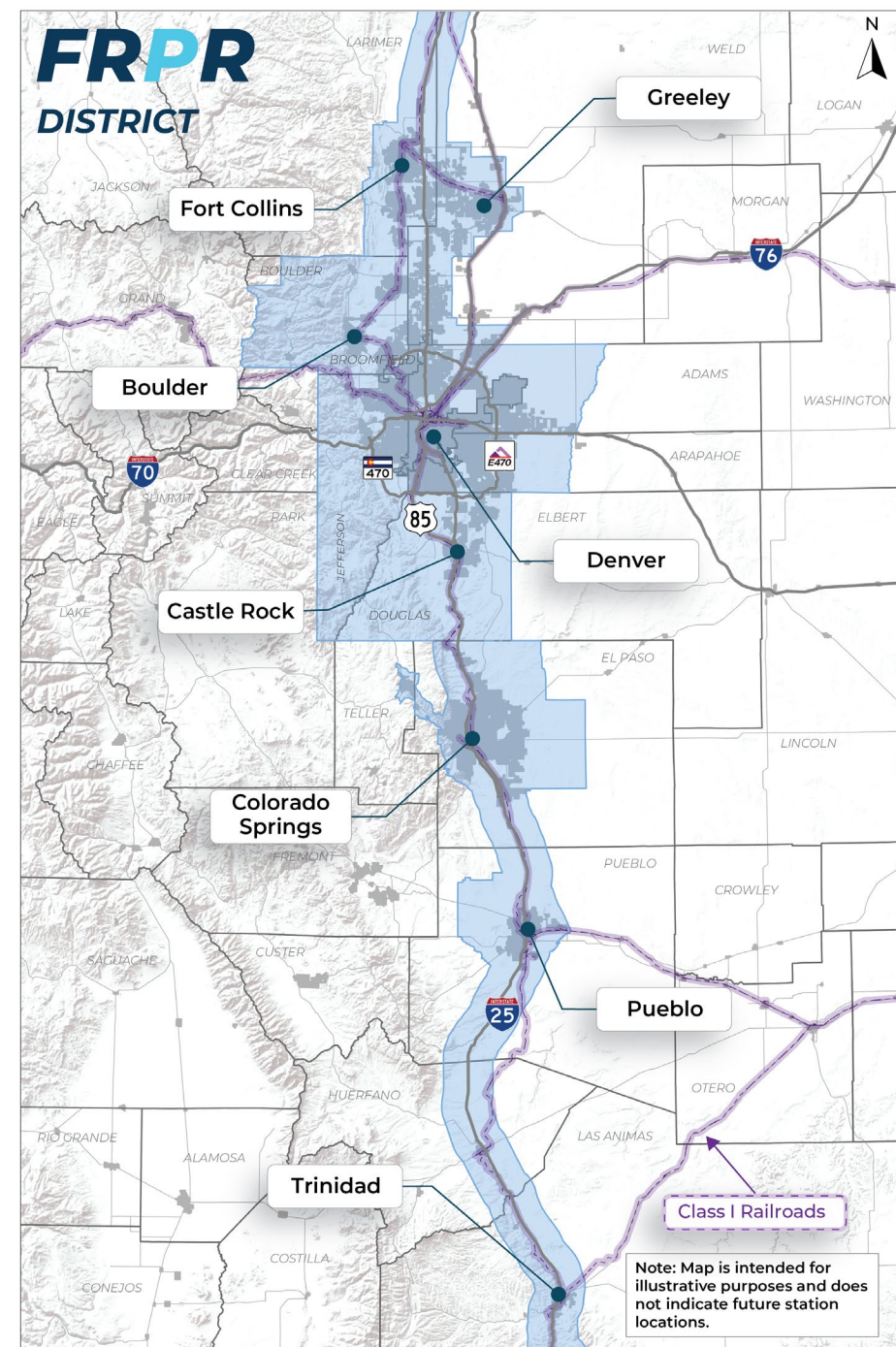
Bring concerns back to the group.

Commit to the success of the project.

Participate in the group throughout the process.



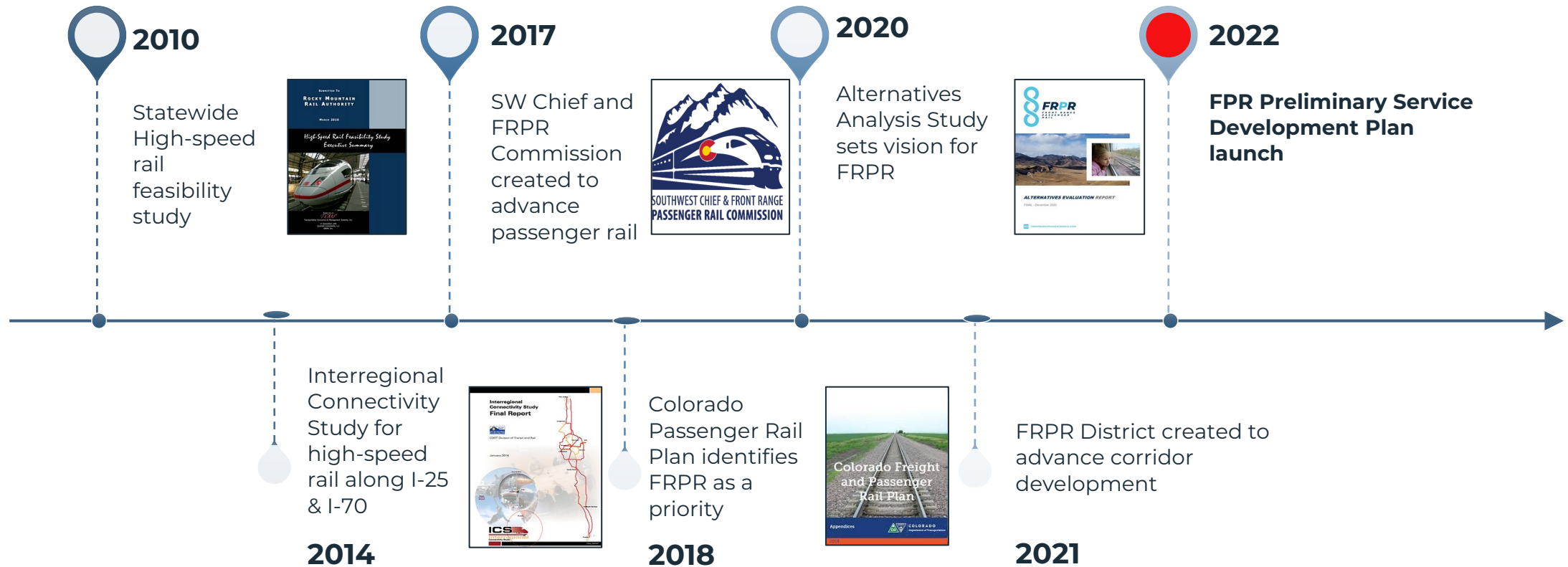
Front Range Passenger Rail Background



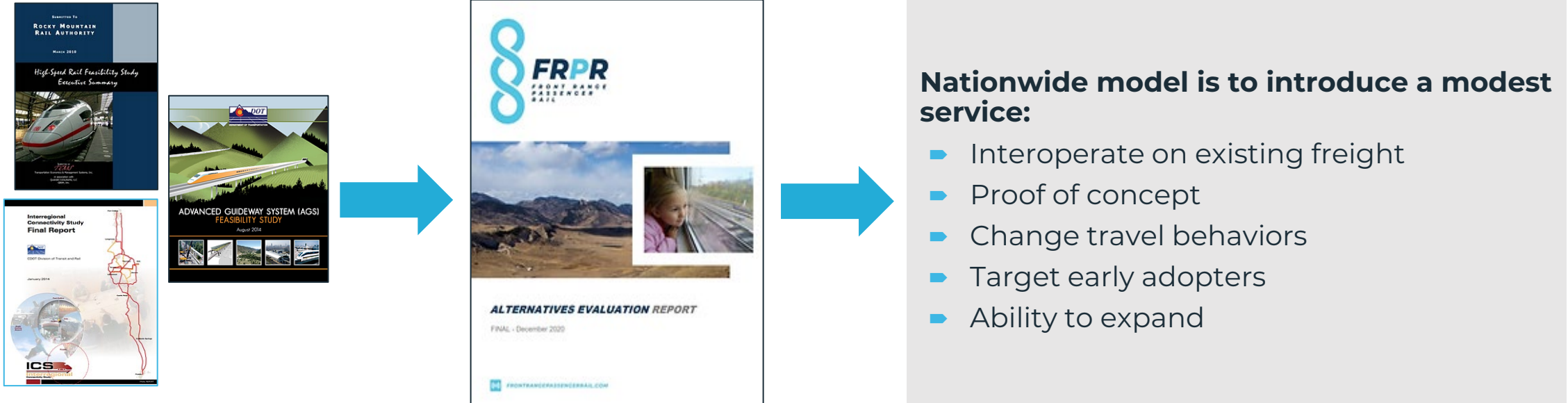
Front Range Passenger Rail District

- Established by the Colorado Legislature in 2021.
- Finance, design, construct, operate a passenger rail service along the Front Range.
- Following voter approval, can collect taxes to finance the rail system.
- Supporting local communities in developing train stations.
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

History



Pragmatic Model for Implementation



What is Front Range Passenger Rail?

- New intercity passenger train service.
- Initial service: Pueblo to Fort Collins, with stops along the way.
- Using existing tracks shared with freight railroads to minimize costs and start train service sooner than later.



Commuter vs. Intercity Rail



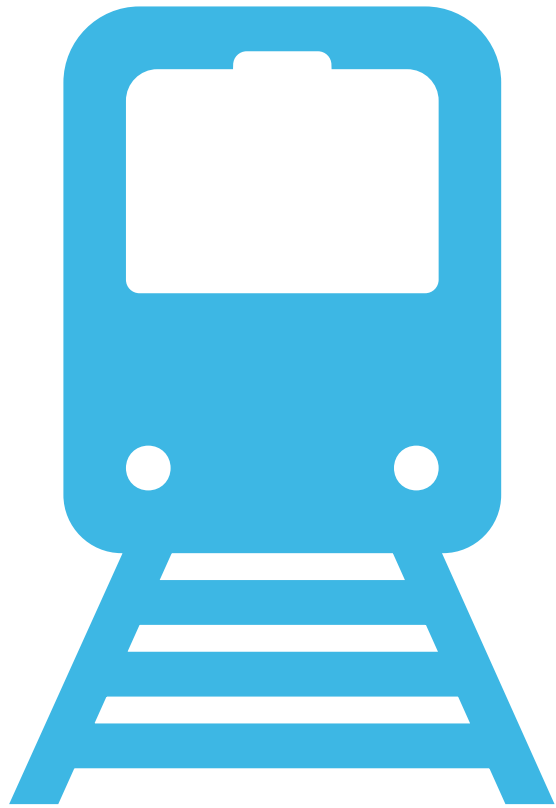
Serves one metropolitan area connecting suburbs to an urban core.



Connects cities across the state.

2 - 4 miles	STATION DISTANCE	20 - 30+ miles
35 - 45 MPH	AVERAGE SPEED	45 - 55+ MPH
20 - 75 miles	SERVICE LENGTH	50 - 300+ miles; less than 750 miles

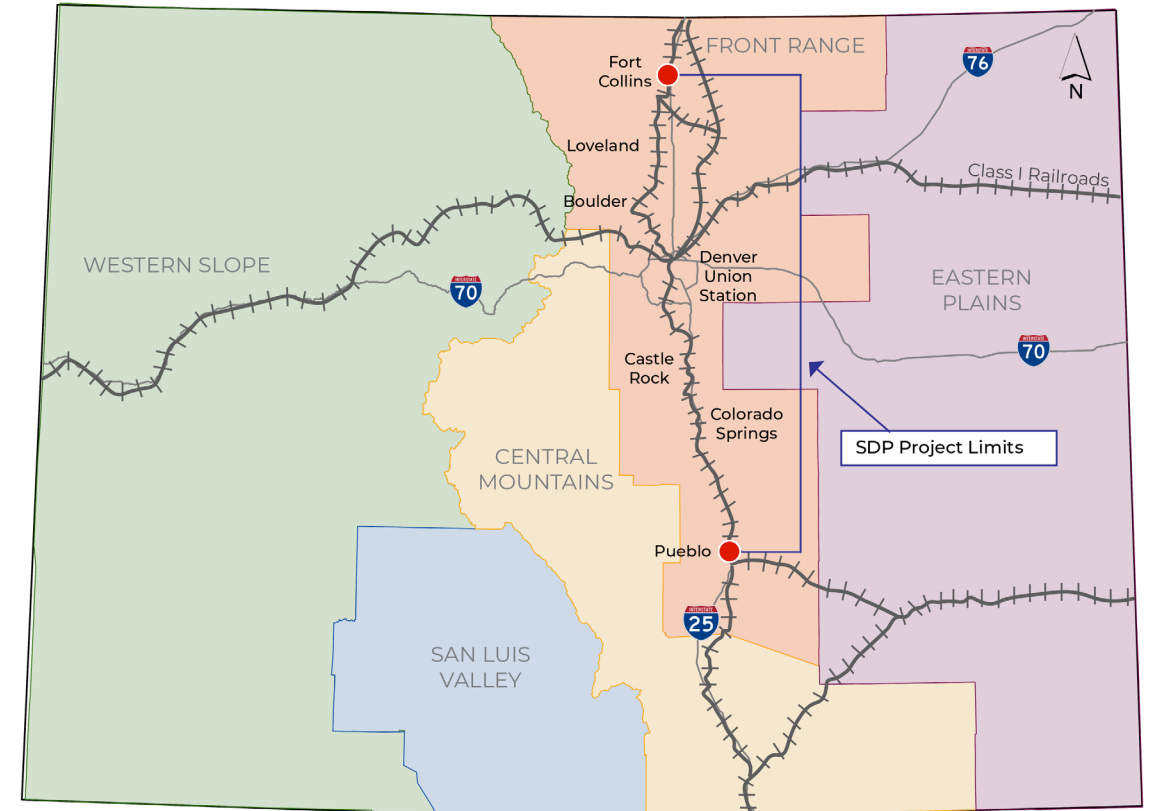
*Average running speed between stops is 65-90 mph



Service Development Plan

Service Development Plan Scope

- ▶ Pueblo to Fort Collins
- ▶ Developed with the Federal Railroad Administration
- ▶ Funded through a 2020 Federal Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program grant



*Colorado Regions are shown as defined by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and created through combination of county boundaries

0 50 Miles

What is the Service Development Plan?

Customer-driven, data-focused plan to determine how passenger rail will be delivered.



Evaluates route, service, stations, operations, infrastructure improvements, and financing.



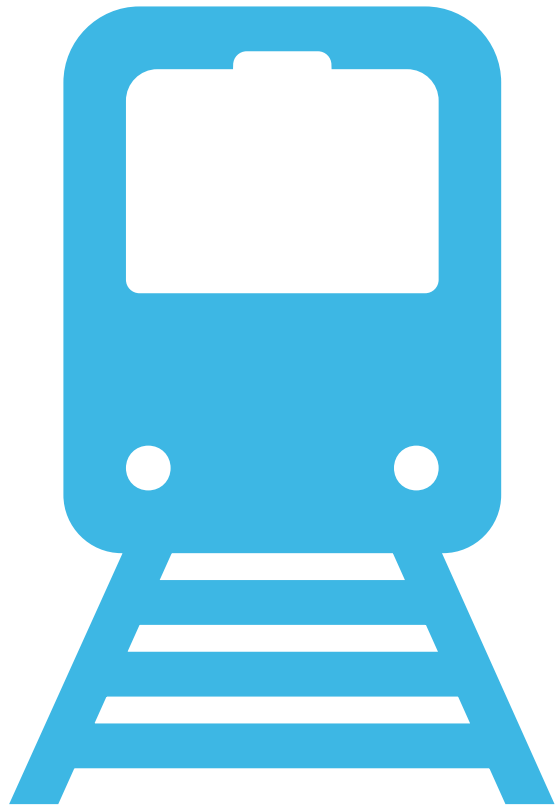
Considers railroad and community partnerships and multimodal connections.



Results in an implementation plan for initial train service.

Overview of FRPR SDP Process





SDP Preliminary Purpose & Need

Federal Regulatory and Funding Criteria

 Business	 Policy	 Customer (or proxy)	 Benefits
➤ Projected ridership, revenues, capital investment, and operating funding requirements. ➤ Anticipated non-Federal funding. ➤ Passenger rail operator support for the corridor.	➤ Is the route identified by regional or interregional planning studies? ➤ Is the corridor in the State rail plan? ➤ Does the corridor serve historically unserved or underserved and low-income communities or areas of persistent poverty?	➤ Are projected trip times competitive with other transportation modes? ➤ Is there improved connectivity with existing or planned multimodal transportation services? ➤ Does the corridor connect at least two of the 100 largest metropolitan areas?	➤ Environmental, congestion mitigation, and other public benefits. ➤ Economic and employment impacts. ➤ Rural communities. ➤ Enhance the regional equity of passenger rail service. ➤ Integration into the national passenger rail system.

Preliminary SDP Purpose & Need

Purpose

Introduce intercity passenger rail service along Colorado's Front Range urban corridor between Pueblo and Fort Collins, operating within freight railroad corridors and predominately utilizing shared track with the BNSF and UP railroads.

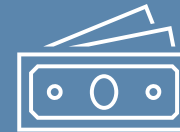
Needs



Improve mobility and multimodal travel options



Connect communities



Foster economic vitality and improve transportation equity



Support environmental sustainability goals

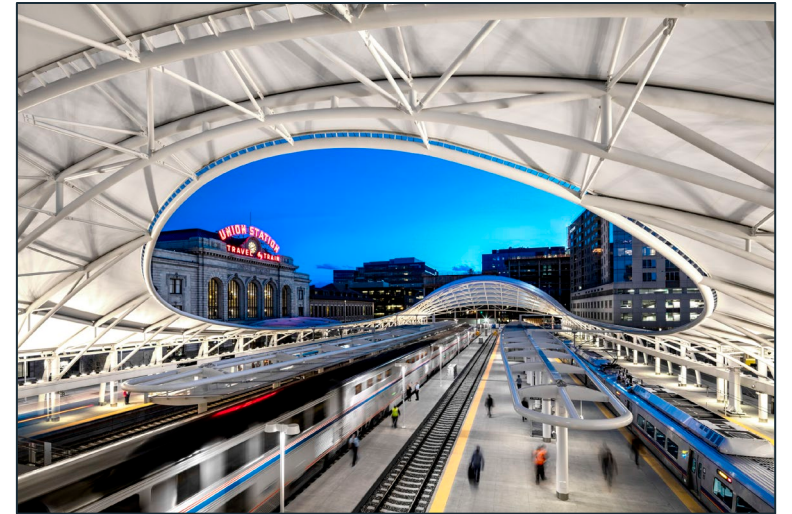
Improve Mobility and Multimodal Travel Options

- Lack of reliable and time-competitive travel options.
- No easy options to expand highway capacity.
- Significant population and employment growth will intensify travel challenges.



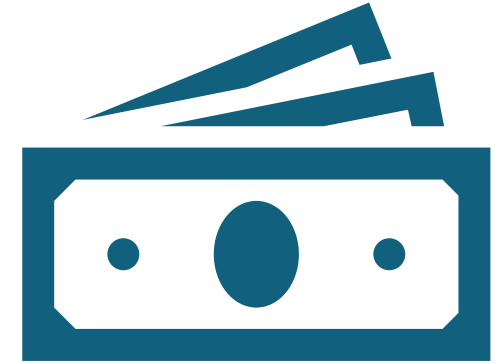
Connect Communities

- Need for integrated, multimodal transportation network.
- Connect Front Range population centers and key destinations.
- Support rural access to urban economics and amenities.



Foster Economic Vitality and Equity

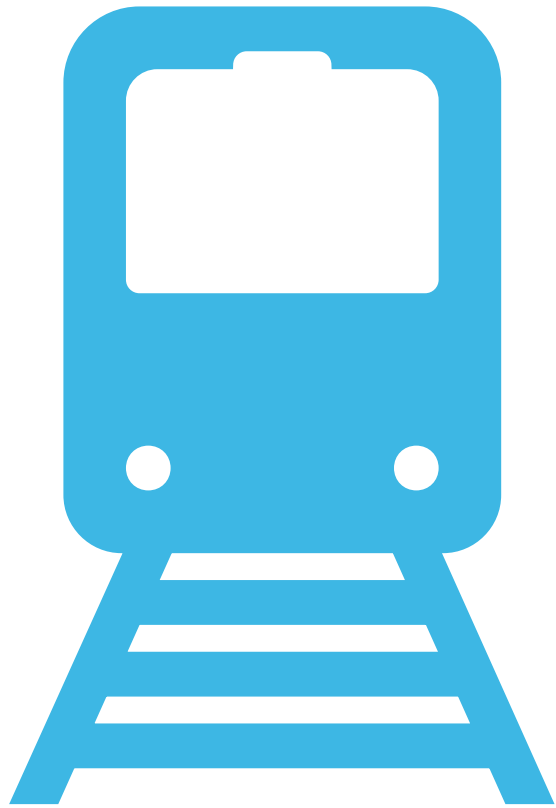
- Colorado is a top economy nationally, rank in the top six states on economic indicators.
- There is an unequal distribution of economic opportunities in the state.
- Many Colorado communities are hampered by disconnected and inefficient travel options.



Support Environmental Sustainability Goals

- Attractive alternative to SOV travel reduces vehicle miles traveled and emissions.
- Implementing FRPR is a near-term action to meet greenhouse gas and climate goals (included in the state's GHG Reduction Roadmap).





Public Engagement

Front Range Passenger Rail

A new transportation option for
Colorado's Front Range.

See What's New



Conducted 15 stakeholder
interviews



Began outreach to
stakeholders, community
members, and the public



Launched
RideTheFrontRange.com

Stakeholder Interview Purpose



Update stakeholders on recent progress and help stakeholders understand the SDP.



Identify challenges or concerns.



Gather recommendations for effective and inclusive engagement.



Understand an organization's interest in continued engagement.

Stakeholder Interview Themes



Messaging

Explain the ROI of rail and why a new tax is necessary.

Explain when it will happen and what kind of trains will be used.

Explain who we are trying to move and why.

Clarify when alignments can be discussed.



Connections

Prioritize connecting to residential and employment areas and transit.

Last mile connections are critical.

Rail should connect subregions in the state.



Partnerships

Engage the business, conservation, and tourism communities.

Local champions and businesses need to support CDOT and the District in messaging.



Vision

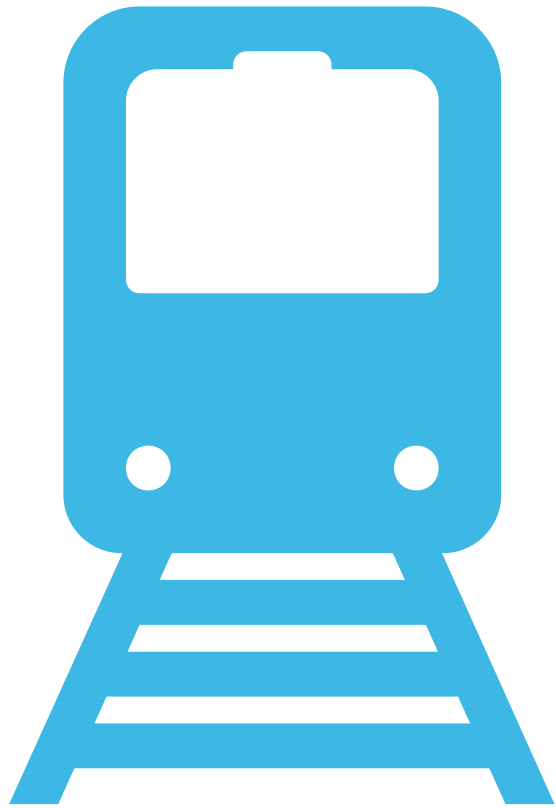
The transportation system in place won't work in the long term.

Personal freedom and control over schedule, are public priorities.

Build upon incremental change and increasing ridership.

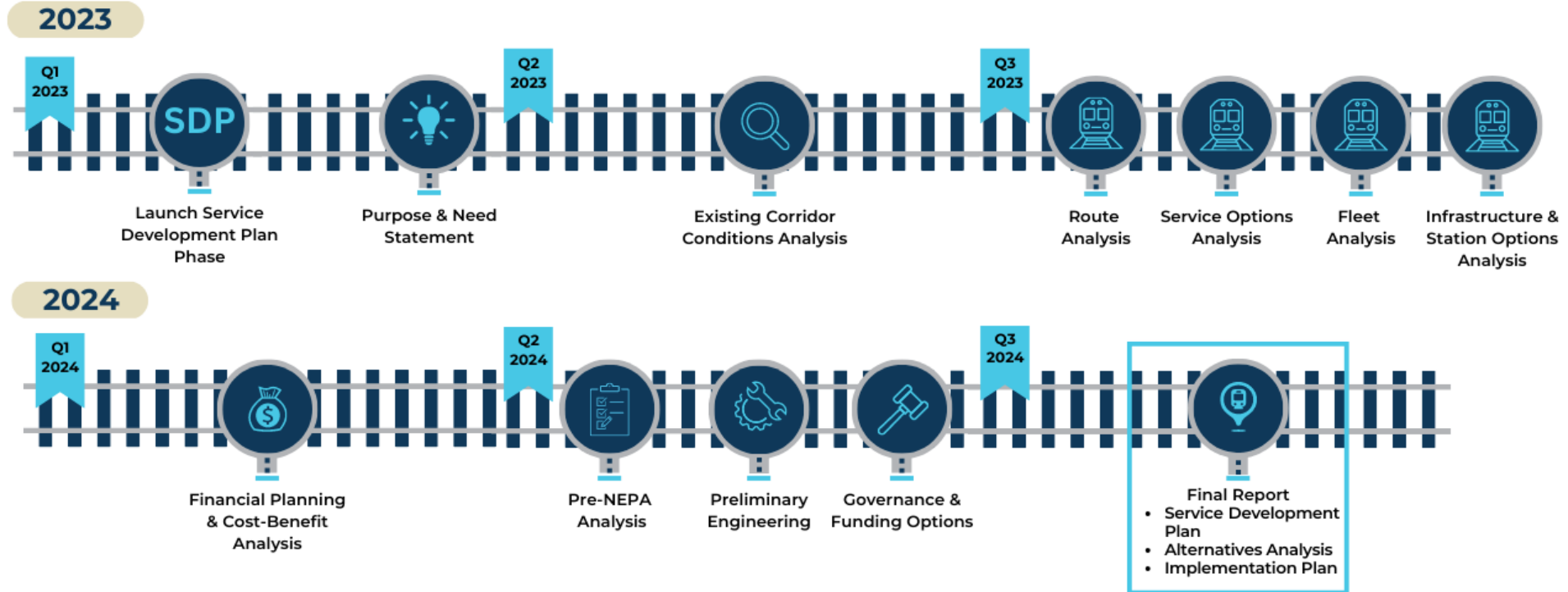
Upcoming Engagement Milestones

Spring 2023	Summer/Fall 2023	Winter/Spring 2023 - 2024
- Segment-specific stakeholder meetings - Corridor-wide stakeholder meeting - Recorded presentation on website <i>Preview the Preliminary Purpose & Need, convey key elements in the SDP</i>	- Segment-specific stakeholder meetings - Corridor-wide stakeholder meeting - Public meeting webinar #1 - Agency coordination workshops - Community events <i>Preview technical components of the SDP, potential ridership, existing conditions</i>	- Segment-specific stakeholder meetings - Corridor-wide stakeholder meeting - Public meeting webinar #2 - Agency coordination workshops - Community events <i>Preview scenarios, results of ongoing analyses, draft SDP</i>



Look Ahead & Adjourn

FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS



ONGOING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TACTICS



Community Events



Interactive Digital Engagement



Stakeholder Coalition Meetings



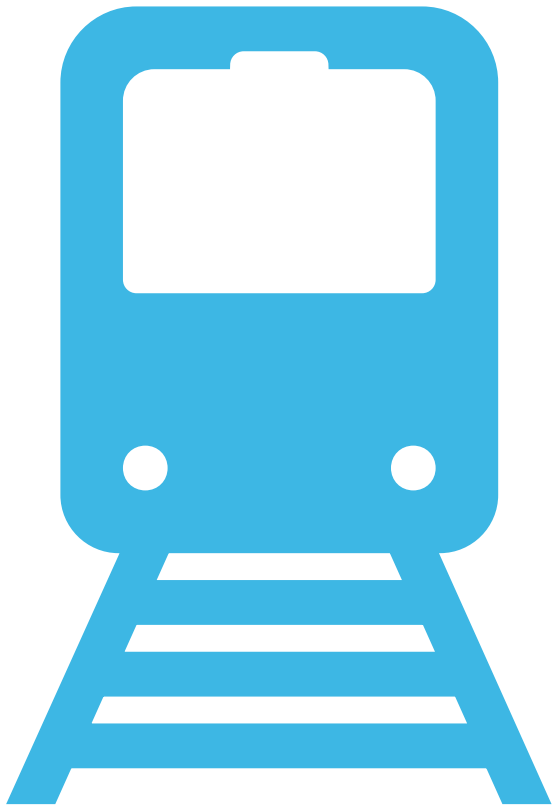
Coordination with FRPR Board of Directors



Public Meetings



Webinars



Thank you!

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