



# Front Range Passenger Rail District

Jim Souby, Board Chair

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October 21, 2023

# Major Issues Now

**Congestion,  
Safety,  
Reliability**



**Air Quality and  
GHG Emissions**



**Disconnected  
Communities**



# Compounded by Population Gain



**From 2020 to 2050, an  
additional 3 million people are  
expected to live and commute  
along the Front Range**



# What is Front Range Passenger Rail?

- **New inter-city train service.**
- **Initial service:** Pueblo through Denver and north to Fort Collins, with stops along the way.
- **Long-term vision:** connecting to New Mexico and Wyoming.
- **Using existing tracks** shared with freight railroads to minimize costs and accelerate the service start date.



# Commuter Rail

Serves one metropolitan area connecting suburbs to an urban core.



VS

# Inter-City Rail

Connects cities across the state.

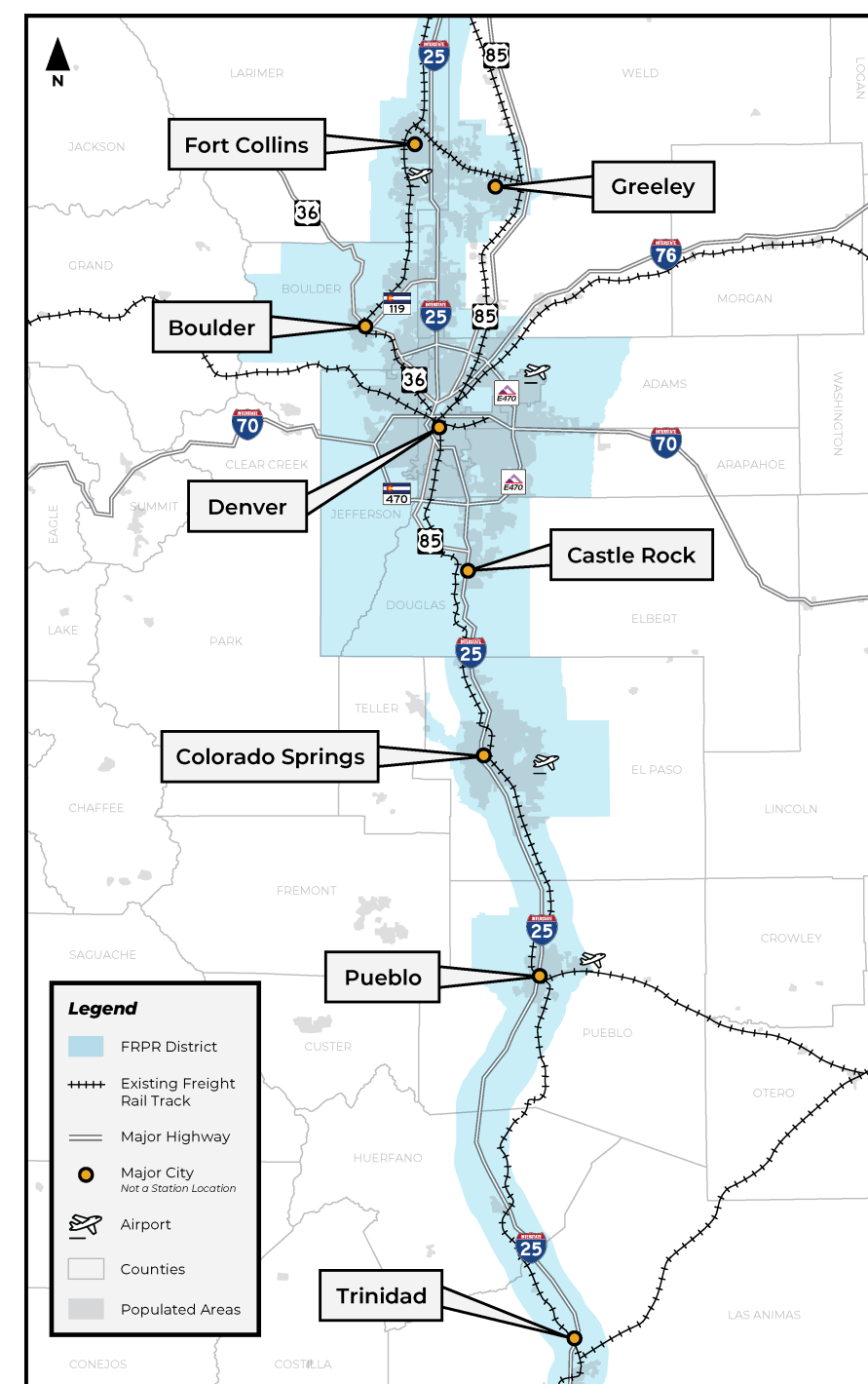


2-4 Miles	STATION DISTANCE	20-30+ Miles
35-45 Miles Per Hour	AVERAGE SPEED	45-55+ Miles Per Hour*
20-75 Miles	SERVICE LENGTH	50-300+ Miles / < 750 Miles

*\*Average running speed between stops is 65-90 Miles Per Hour*

# What is the FRPR District?

- Created by Colorado Legislature in 2021.
- New local government with the mission to finance, design, construct, operate a passenger rail service along the Front Range.
- Following voter approval, can levy taxes to fund the rail system.
- Working with local communities to support station development, including station improvement districts.



# District Board of Directors

## MPO/COG

### Representatives (10)

- Denver Regional Council of Governments
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Council
- Pueblo Area Council of Governments
- South Central Council of Governments

## Governor Appointments (6)

### CDOT (1)

### Ex Officio (7)

- BNSF Railway
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Amtrak
- RTD
- I-70 Mountain Corridor Coalition
- State of New Mexico
- State of Wyoming

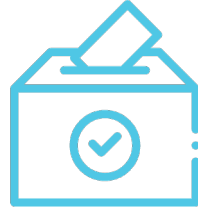


# Partnerships and Local Coordination



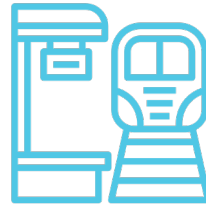
## Financial Support

- Local governments
- State legislature
- Governor's office
- Colorado DC delegation
- USDOT and FRA



## Generating Public Support for Ballot Measure

- Chambers of commerce
- Environmental, Accessibility, Active Transportation, and Equity Orgs
- Local governments
- State legislature
- Governor's office



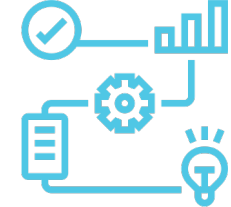
## Station Planning and Station Improvement Districts

- Local governments
- Downtown business organizations
- Landowners
- Developers



## Multimodal Connectivity

- Local governments
- MPOs/COGs
- CDOT
- Transit agencies



## Planning, Design, Engineering, Implementation

- Freight railroads
- FRA
- CDOT
- RTD

**Where We Are Today**



# Service Development Plan



**Began Late 2022 and  
Concludes Mid/Late 2024**



**Pueblo to Fort Collins**



**Implementation Plan  
for Initial FRPR Service**

## **The SDP process defines:**

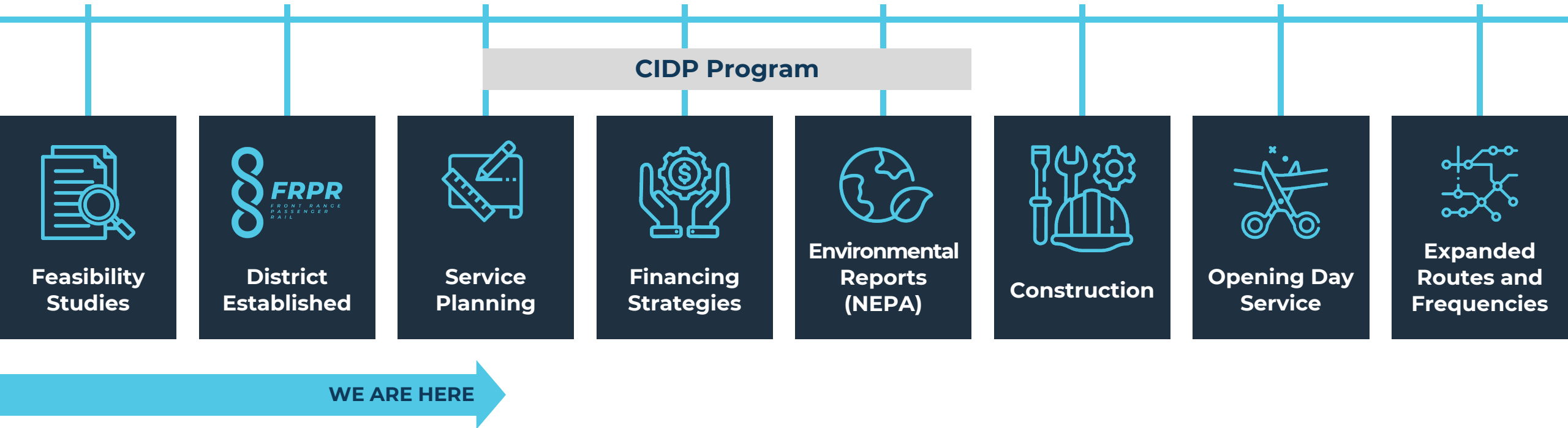
- Route
- Major Markets for Stations
- Service Frequency
- Onboard Amenities
- Fare Structure
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Costs and Financing Plan

# Corridor Identification and Development Program (FRA)

- Comprehensive inter-city passenger rail planning program.
  - Creates a pipeline of projects ready for implementation.
  - Opens up millions of dollars in new funding – 90/10 federal match.
- Application Submitted: March 2023.
  - Anticipated Acceptance: Fall 2023.
  - If accepted into the Program, District receives initial \$500,000.



# Route to Front Range Passenger Rail



# SB23-283

## Mechanisms For Federal Infrastructure Funding

- \$2M for FRPR District.
- District operating expenses.
- Salaries and benefits for two current employees and two new employees.
- Local government outreach and coalition-building consultants.
- District branding and multi-channel communications launch.
- Capacity and expertise to pursue IIJA programs.
- Key for securing unprecedented federal funding and keeping Colorado leading the nation.



# TLRC Bill: Front Range Passenger Rail District Efficiency

- Administrative clean-up bill.
  - ✓ Clarifies quorum language.
  - ✓ Removes Senate confirmation requirement for MPO/TPR Board appointees.
  - ✓ Streamlines agency briefing updates.
  - ✓ Enables General Manager to sign small contracts, in accordance with FRPR District's Procurement and Purchasing Policy.
- Advances FRPR District efficiency and transparency.

# Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity

- ➔ Foundation of 15 years of advocacy and planning.
- ➔ District established.
- ➔ Strong state support.
- ➔ New passenger rail programs and funding established through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



# THANKS!

QUESTIONS?