



# Front Range Passenger Rail District

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Jim Souby, Board Chair  
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# 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.

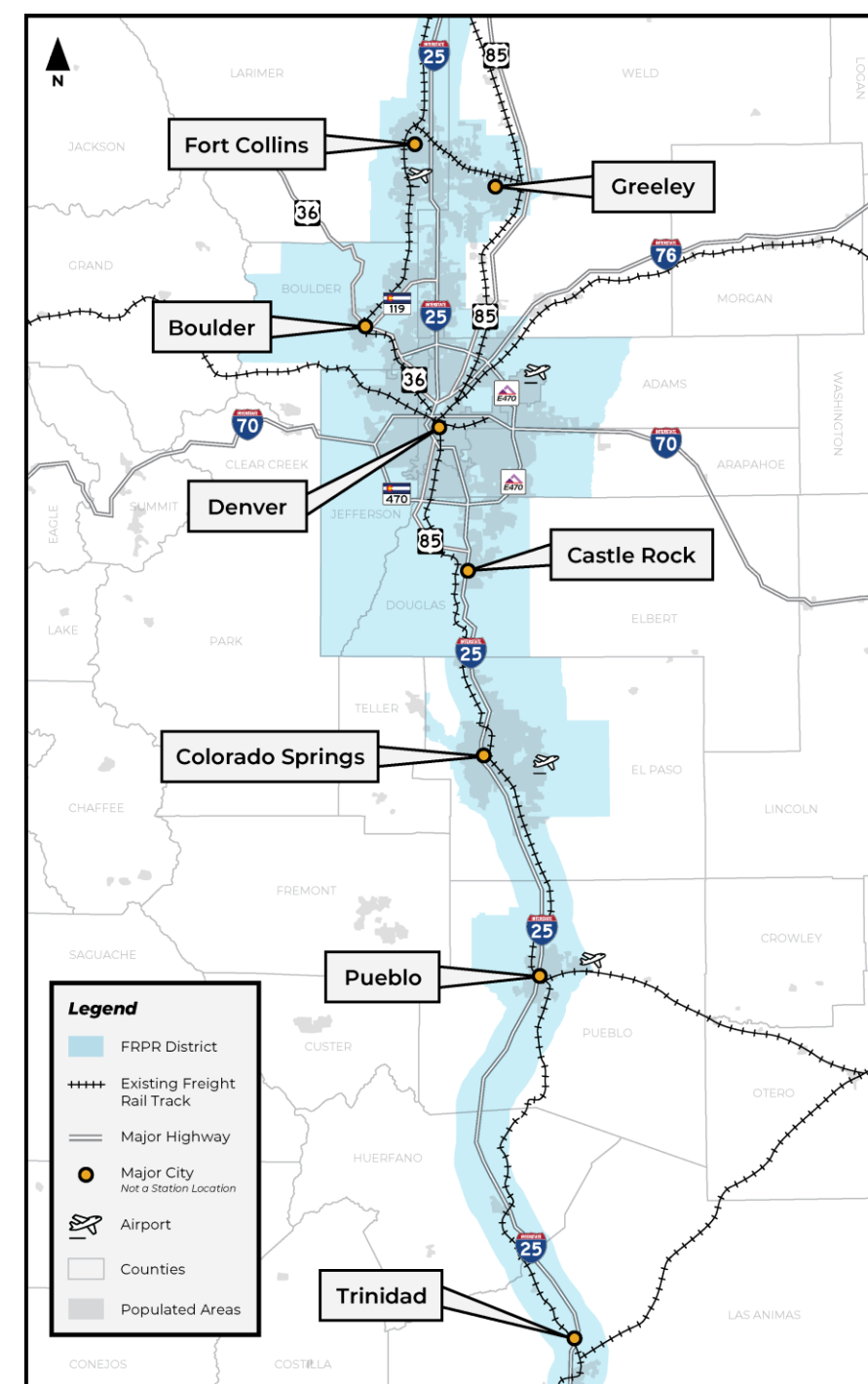


<b>2-4 Miles</b>	<b>STATION DISTANCE</b>	<b>20-30+ Miles</b>
<b>35-45 Miles Per Hour</b>	<b>AVERAGE SPEED</b>	<b>45-55+ Miles Per Hour*</b>
<b>20-75 Miles</b>	<b>SERVICE LENGTH</b>	<b>50-300+ Miles / &lt; 750 Miles</b>

*\*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



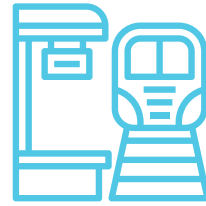
## Financial Support

- ▶ 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



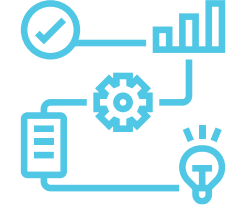
## Station Planning and Station Improvement Districts

- ▶ 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:**

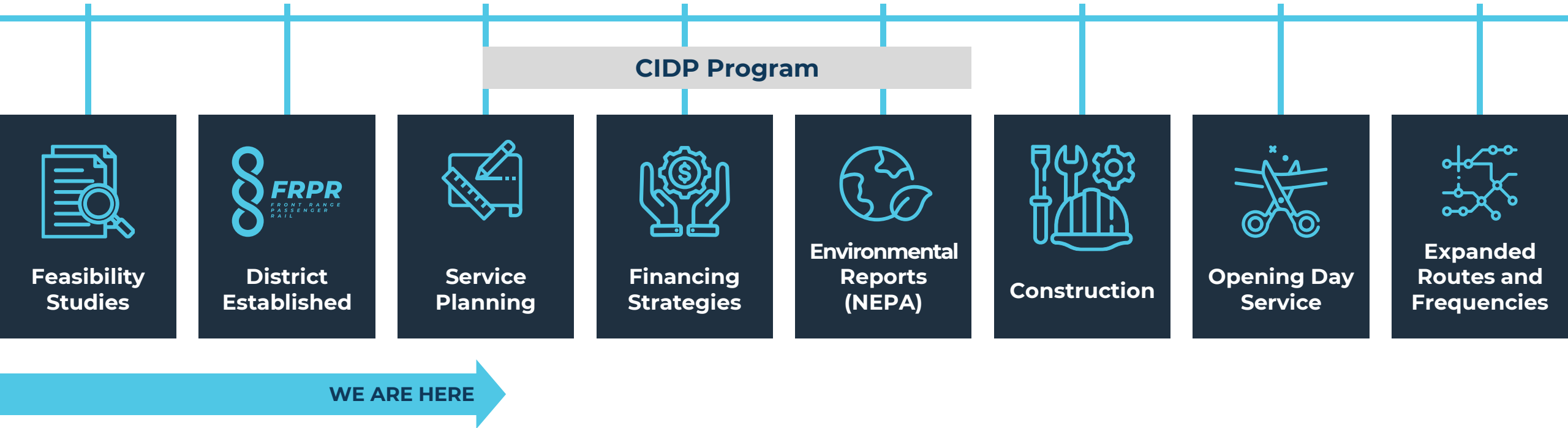
- Route
- Major Markets for Stations
- Service Frequency
- Onboard Amenities
- Fare Structure
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Costs and Financing Plan

# 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.



**FRPR**  
FRONT RANGE  
PASSENGER  
RAIL



# Thank You

**Andy Karsian**

General Manager

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