



Front Range Passenger Rail

*Corridor Stakeholder Coalition Meeting
December 12, 2019*



Agenda

- Welcome & Purpose
- Background & Future Vision
- Stakeholder Input
- Project Development & Evaluation Criteria
- FRPR Governance Structure
- Next Steps

Corridor Coalition Meeting Outcomes

- Introduce the Project and Process
- Confirm the Project Vision
- Discuss Evaluation Categories
- Provide Update on Governance Options

Introductions

- Commission Welcome
- Coalition Member Introductions

Corridor Coalition Roles and Expectations

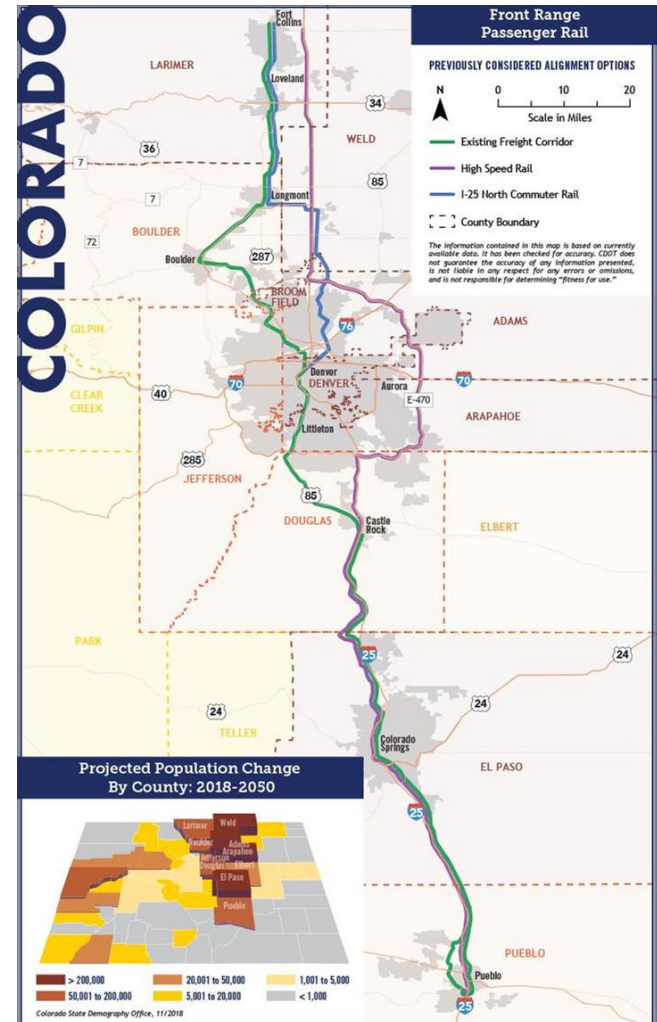
- Give input on key milestones
- Examine corridor as whole, while considering input from segments and respecting local contexts
- Communicate with segment representatives and other stakeholders

Meetings: 2 hours; quarterly

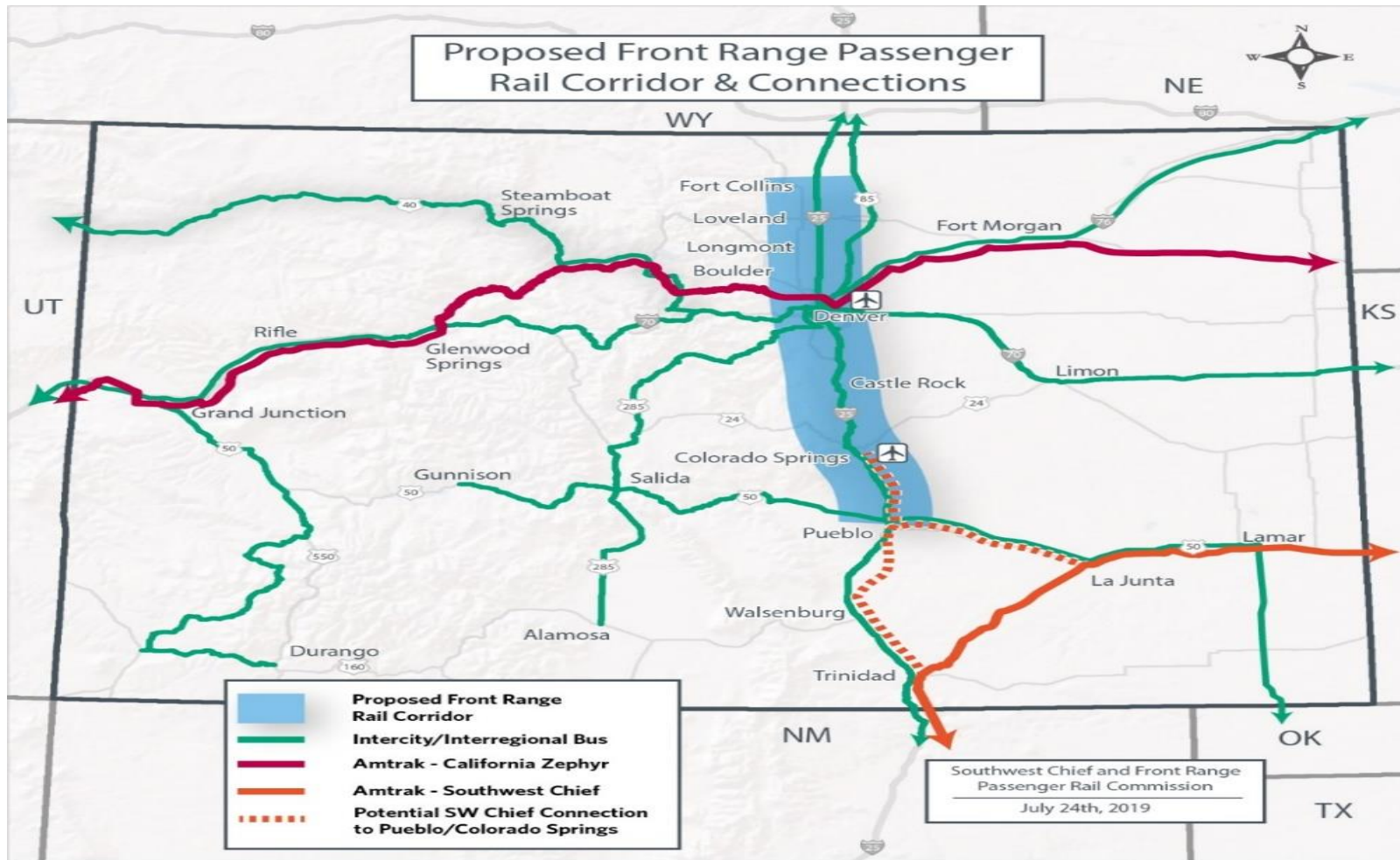
Background

History and Status of FRPR

- Legislative charge
- Past studies & key results
- Why past studies matter
- How FRPR is different



Corridor / Study Area



FRPR Vision

Developing passenger rail service for communities along the I-25 corridor is a critical component of Colorado's future. Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) 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.

FRPR Study Goals

- Increased mobility choices for safe and reliable travel along the Front Range - limited intercity transit options today
- Connect corridor destinations and communities - jobs, recreation, health care, leisure, entertainment
- Address increasing intercity and regional travel demands - effects of population growth and increasing congestion on major highways
- Provide a mode choice for our changing demographics and corresponding transportation demands
- Provide an inter-city transportation alternative for low-income and underserved communities - connect affordable housing to jobs

Stakeholder Engagement

Overview of Engagement Approach

- FRPR Presentations
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Rail Commission Surveys
- Social and Political Risk Assessment
- Online Engagement
- Community Meetings
- Stakeholder Coalitions

Stakeholder Engagement

Past Studies Public Input Themes

- Thinking about the state's future transportation system differently is wise
 - Need alternative modes of transportation
 - Traffic congestion is getting worse, and paving more lanes is not the answer
- Need for more expansive local transit systems to provide connectivity to Front Range system
- Preference for scenarios with fastest travel times
- Phasing smaller segments will be hard to garner broad support or public enthusiasm
- Concerns about
 - Construction and operation costs and how to pay for them (concerns about tax increases)
 - Appropriateness of passenger rail for Colorado given lower population densities and car culture

Stakeholder Engagement

What have we heard?

Issues

- Connect to Local Network
- Be “Future Flexible”
- Speedy and Efficient Service
- Support Future Development

Concerns

- Cost Prohibitive (to build/operate)
- Cannot Compete with Cars (Time, Ease, Cost, Culture)
- Distrust / Historical Problems
- Low ridership

Stakeholder Engagement

MetroQuest Online Survey

- 6,965 respondents
- 95% believe passenger rail could help address transportation needs along the Front Range

RBI/Magellan Public Opinion Survey

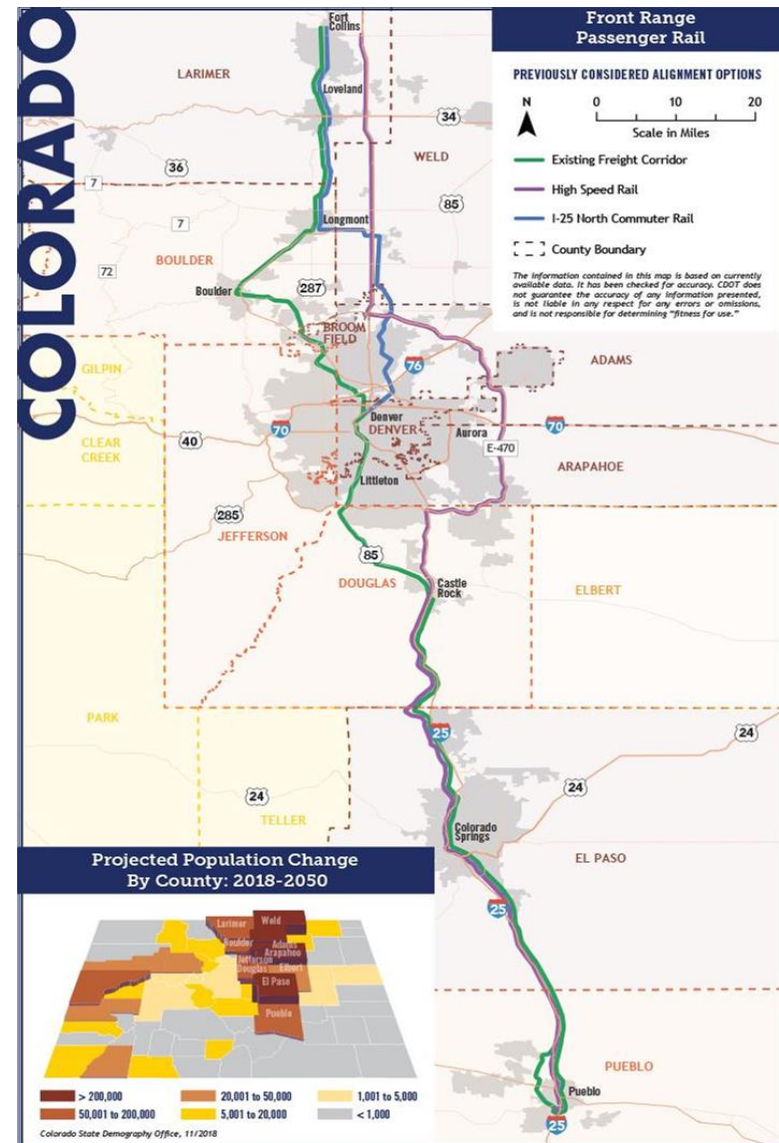
- 600 responses

85% support / 10% oppose	passenger rail service as a mode of transportation for residents and communities along the Front Range
81% support / 12% oppose	a Front Range Passenger Rail service project that would have regularly scheduled train service to major population centers from Fort Collins to Pueblo
61% support / 27% oppose	a sales tax increase to fund a Front Range Passenger Rail Service project that would have regularly scheduled train service to major population centers from Fort Collins to Pueblo with an estimated cost of \$5 billion

Previous Planning

Studies and Implementation of Passenger Rail in Colorado

- 2004-2018 FasTracks Implementation
- 2010 Rocky Mountain Rail Authority, High Speed Rail Feasibility Study
- 2014 Interregional Connectivity Study
- 2014 Northwest Area Mobility Study
- 2015 North I-25 Environmental Impact Statement Commuter Rail Update
- 2017 Interregional Connectivity Study Interoperability Report
- 2018 State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan



Project Development Evaluation Screening

Level 1 Evaluation: Adopting Previous Studies' Recommendations

- Considering changed conditions throughout the Denver Metro Area
- Calibration and refinement of statewide travel model



Evaluation Categories

- Travel Time
- Ridership
- Cost
- Impacts (Community and Environment)
- Feasibility/Implementation

Project Development

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Alternatives Development & Evaluation



Governance

Public Rail Authority: Establishes a statutory tool for local entities to create an authority over time as planning and funding options arise. This tool is similar to PHA and RTA enabling statutes but for rail. (Preferred by SW Chief and FRPRail Commission)

Front Range Rail District: Creates a defined district along the I-25 corridor and provides a specific governance structure; powers and financing authority would be detailed in statute.

Rail Enterprise: Could leverage HPTE structure, focused more on fees for funding; powers and financing authority would depend on statute.

Expand SW Chief/FRPRail Commission: Provide additional scope and authority to existing Commission to further evaluate above options, along with appropriation.

Next Steps

- Segment Coalition Meetings
- Request for Information
- Next Corridor Meeting
- Level 1 Alternatives

Thank you for joining us!



